



An Eagle's View!

In this second issue of An Eagle's View we will continue to look at the topic of prophetic intercession. We saw in issue 1 that the ministry of the prophet Elijah, as it is described in the New Testament book of James, is recorded as an account of intercessory prayer. In order to understand the full revelation of this New Testament description of the ministry of intercession, we are going to have to look at the Old Testament account of this story of Elijah.

In 1Kings chapter 16 we find that Ahab had become the king of Israel. He was a wicked king. He had allowed Jezebel to become his wife and sit in the seat of the queen mother of Israel. Jezebel, as the queen, had taken over the religious worship of Israel. She, as her name implies, had operated as a non-submissive, uncovered woman. She had propagated Baal worship and had set up the wooden Asherah poles in the kingdom of Israel. It was during that time that God sent Elijah to speak the prophetic word of the Lord to the kingdom of Israel. 1Kings 17:1:

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

Let's extract some principles from this chapter concerning prophetic ministry and the function of prophetic intercession. Understand that first of all Elijah was a prophet, even as we are called by God to be a prophetic people. As Elijah is described in the New Testament, in regard

to 1Kings chapter 17, he is not described as a prophet, but rather an intercessor. So in order to accomplish the prophetic work he was sent to do, Elijah functioned in the role of an intercessor. We should be very interested in knowing what the actions were that made Elijah an intercessor. What caused the work of the Lord to be accomplished was not the fact that Elijah had a word. It wasn't the fact that Elijah heard right knowledge and then spoke a word according to the knowledge which he had received. The first thing that I see in 1Kings 17:1 is that Elijah was found as one who stood "before the Lord".



We saw in the book of James that the prayer Elijah prayed was one of going toward God, coming before His face, and making his heart known. He stood there and refused to leave that place. The reason that God could send Elijah to deal with Ahab and the situation in Israel was because Elijah was standing before God. If we are going to be key prophetic ministers, key prayer warriors, the first requirement is going to be that we "**Stand Before The Lord!**"



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In verse 1 the Hebrew word “before” has to do with “the face”. We are not to reluctantly back into God’s presence. We are to boldly enter into His presence looking to find His face.



Elijah spoke that there would be no dew or rain. In the Bible dew and rain speak of heaven’s blessing upon the earth. The Scripture that says the rain falls on the just and the unjust is not talking about curses. It is talking about blessing (Mt. 5:45). The Bible says that when the righteous flourish the city rejoices (Prov. 11:10). It is a blessing for rain to fall. Rain and dew bring forth the fruit of the earth. It is not Biblical to say that curses fall on the just and the unjust alike. God has not intended curses for His people. It is God’s desire to bless all men. Blessings fall on the just and the unjust alike. You can know that when God blesses His people the result will be blessing in the city.

In this Scripture we see Elijah cutting off the blessing of God on the earth. By

the word of the Lord he spoke. It is in the ministry of a prophetic intercessor that Elijah cut off the blessing of God on the earth. The word which he spoke, and the action that he took, cut off the abundant blessing from the Lord. This didn’t take away the covenant protection of God’s people however. But it did cut off the abundant blessing. 1Kings 17:2-4:

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. ” And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

The second thing that we need to learn concerning the area of prophetic intercession is that **“The First Step Will Lead To The Next Step”**. Elijah didn’t have a clear word from God as to what was going to happen. He only knew to speak that there would be no rain or dew. He was simply standing before the Lord and he received an unction, a stirring of the Lord, to go and stop rain and dew.

As we step out in faith to function as prophetic intercessors we are not to try and figure out what comes next. We must simply obey step one. When we obey step one we will receive the next step. We won’t get the next step unless we obey the first step.

God didn’t sit down with Elijah and say: “Elijah, because you’re my servant, because you’re a righteous man and stand before me, here is what’s going to happen; You’re going to go and speak that there won’t be any rain



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or dew. Then I'm going to take you into a place of hiding. It won't rain for 3 1/2 years. When I take you into hiding I'll take you to the Brook Cherith until it runs dry. Ravens will feed you. After that you'll go to a widow's house and she'll take care of you. I'm eventually going to bring you out of hiding and you will challenge the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. Baal's prophets will call out to their gods but they won't answer. Then you will set up an altar and call on Me. I'll answer with fire! You'll kill the prophets of Baal and begin to intercede on the top of the hill. A rain cloud will appear and you'll out run Ahab's chariot as rain returns to the land."

It didn't happen that way and it doesn't happen that way for us either. How many times do we want God to be that detailed before we even think about being obedient to step one? We want to know what's going to happen if we obey step one before we consider taking it. We must remember a simple principle - **Until We Obey The First Step We Won't Get The Next Step!**

Faith requires us to respond by taking steps in a forward direction when we cannot see (2Cor. 5:7). The issue is one of simple obedience. As prophetic intercessors, we must first of all stand before God. God will then tell us what to do and then we are to be obedient even if it doesn't make sense. Once we are obedient to the first step, God will give us the next step.

God told Elijah to get away from there. He was to go to the Brook Cherith. Cherith means "to cut" or "has to do with covenant".

God was telling Elijah to go to the "covenant brook". God was saying; "although the blessing has been cut off from the earth, I am with you Elijah." "I will take care of you!" A third principle that we can extract from this is that **Directions From God Will Remain In Covenant.**



God is a covenant God and He will not violate His own covenant nature. Let's look at this in a practical way. Let's say that we believe that God has spoken to us as an intercessor or a prophet.

We take step one and we receive a word that we believe is the next step. We must always ask ourselves these questions: Will taking this next step be a covenant response? Will it allow us to keep our covenants or will it violate them? If it isn't a covenant response it wasn't the voice of the Lord. God keeps His covenants and He expects us to keep ours as well. God will not tell us to do something that will break covenant or is not a covenant requirement or response. 1Kings 17:5:

So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

Elijah was in a place of hiding but he was not without the presence of the Lord. Although the earth was bound to dryness, Elijah was not in a dry season. He was by the Brook Cherith, which flowed to the river Jordan. The name Jordan means "descender" and it speaks of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life. Just as Jesus came up out of the



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water in the River Jordan full of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:29-34) at His baptism by John, Elijah was not without the presence of the Holy Spirit while waiting to receive further instructions from God. The instruction of the Lord can come when we are in a place of receiving the life of the Holy Spirit. As intercessors it is as important to get into the presence of the Lord after we speak the word of God as it is to get into His presence before we speak His word. Once we speak the word of the Lord it is important that we get back into the presence of the Lord to brood over the word that we have spoken in order to see the work for which the word was sent accomplished. **We Must Remain In The Presence Of The Holy Spirit.**

Let's look farther into this story of Elijah.
1Kings 17:8 - 9:

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

Once the brook had dried up in the place where Elijah was, once the covenant reason for him being in that place had been fulfilled, Elijah received a word of where to go next. He received the next step.

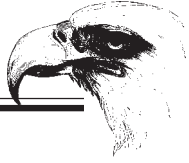
Here's the deal. Elijah had been in hiding. Ahab had been searching for him with the intent of taking his life. By the instruction of



the queen mother Jezebel, Ahab had been executing all of the prophets of God in the land. There was no open worship of God allowed. Any open worship of God resulted in an execution of death at the order of Jezebel. They were killing the prophets because they were looking for Elijah. The hideous vengeance of blood upon the heads of the prophets was a direct assault on the one man, Elijah, who had spoken the word of the Lord to bind up the blessing of God upon the earth.

Picture this; The reason that Elijah was in hiding was because the king of Israel was hunting for him with the sole purpose of killing Him. The word of the Lord came to Elijah saying - "go to Zerephath". Zerephath means "ambush of the month". "Go to the "ambush of the month" which belongs to Sidon (Sidon means "hunting"). This is like saying; "Elijah, they've been hunting for you, so hear's the word of the Lord; Go to the place called hunting - to the ambush of the month.

We can learn another point of instruction concerning the ministry of prophetic intercession from this portion of Scripture. As we are laboring before the Lord to see His work accomplished, the wisdom of the Lord that comes to us (the things that God tells us to do) will not make natural sense nor will it protect our life (identity). God's wisdom doesn't make natural sense. God's wisdom is not for our identity. **Wisdom From Above Will Test Our Natural Understanding.**



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The wisdom of the Lord will give the appearance of costing us our reputation, our identity. People might not even know that we are interceding. It's one thing to die a martyr, but what about when people don't even know that we've died? What if no one knows?

We can give someone a word and we can still keep our identity. But if we want to move into the next level of doing a work it could cost us our identity. It will at least appear to us that we're losing our identity. We really won't lose our identity because the Bible says if we lose our life we'll save it, if we lay it down it will be found. We must find our identity in Him! By natural appearances however, our mind may say of the wisdom of the Lord - "This is not for my good." Intercession doesn't necessarily gain us popularity. Anyone involved in intercession will lose their identity for a season. Almost always the work is not accomplished instantly with the word. There is a process and in that process we lose our identity and we see the identity of Christ rise to the situation.

Not only did God tell Elijah to go to the place of "hunting" and the "ambush of the month", He also told him to "dwell there". God even went a step beyond the sensible when He told Elijah that a widow woman would provide for Him. That's about as bad as it can get in the kingdom of Israel! They were in the midst of a drought. There was a famine. And God wanted Elijah to go to the ambush of the month, where they were hunting for him, and a widow was going to take care of him! 1Kings 17:10:

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."

As we follow the progression of this story of Elijah we find another point that all prophetic intercessors must come to know. **God Will Always Bring You Into The Provision Legally.** We don't have to get anxious. We don't have to try and take shortcuts if we are walking in obedience to the will of the Lord. He will bring us to "the gate of the city" where the provision is. We won't have to compromise our integrity at any cost. God will bring us into His perfect will through the legal door of life!



1Kings 17:11-13:

And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." Then she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

Another principle can be found in Elijah's insistence that the widow not only gave Him



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water, but she also made him a cake with all that she had. The word of the Lord is not limited to human compassion. Often the word and the action of the Lord is very difficult for the human compassion minded individual to understand. Elijah had come to a widow's house in a time of famine and drought and he asked her to give him water and food. God sent Elijah there not for Elijah's sake only. God sent Elijah there for the widow's sake as well. When Elijah commanded the woman, he had to know in his spirit that God was there as a provider for the widow and that her provision was not in Elijah, but in the God of Elijah. So therefore Elijah needed to move in obedience, not trying to protect what he could see naturally. Most of us would not have delivered the word if we knew it would require a widow and her son's last meal. We would go before God and say surely there is another way. We don't have the revelation that Elijah did as to how big his God was and we don't have an understanding of how faithful God is to the responsible. There is a lack of the fear of the Lord in the house of the Lord. Elijah was operating here according to the fear of the Lord. **We Must Walk According To The Fear Of The Lord.**

Don't try to figure out how God is going to work out the final end of the situation. He will send us to do His work but we don't have to do the work for Him. He's probably going to tell us to do some things that won't make sense in the natural and won't make sense to human compassion. Our human

compassion will say let's see the answer now. God has a plan, a process, and a procurement that is much greater than we can reasonably understand.

By Ted J. Hanson



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