

Opening: God desires to restore this nation back to Himself, it will only happen when the Church prays and leads the charge. No other grouping of people can restore this nation but God's people. We alone have been given the spiritual authority through our connection to Jesus Christ. We must return to intercession until we see lasting victory.

1. Prelude to the revival of 1st Kings 18:41-46: Elijah is commissioned to help the nation of Israel return to the Lord. God raises Him up to deal with the corrupt leaders, to call a people to repentance, to pronounce God's judgements and to pray for God's restoration upon the people and the land.

a. Key Point: Before vs 41 can occur, Elijah is called to deal with the false prophets of Baal on the mountain called Carmel.

b. Mt. Carmel is called a beautiful place and it means vineyard, garden, or orchard. On the top of Mt. Carmel Jezebel had Ahab erect an idol to Baal. Baal is known as the God of rain and vegetation in the Old Testament. Elijah confronts 850 Baal prophets to convince the people of 3 things.

- 1.** God is God over all creation and the only one who controls the powers of the earth. ** Satan gets too much credit for things; He also keeps you focused on himself instead of on our need to simply trust and obey God.
- 2.** The prophets of Baal and anyone who worships an idol are powerless to do anything of eternal significance against the God of Israel.
- 3.** God is gracious and willing to restore the nation of Israel if they will return to the Lord. God is willing and able to restore our nation.

c. Prophetic Point: God's judgements usually attack the idol or false god that the people are worshipping in vain. Consider the plagues of Egypt. Each of these plagues attacked a false idol god that the Egyptians worshipped.

3. Key Question: What Idols strongholds are in America that must be torn down through intercession?

- a. Sexual perversion: The United States of America exports the most pornography to the world.
- b. human abortion: The United States legalized abortion in the 1960's and is responsible for the deaths of 60 million humans. That is more humans than the total deaths during WWII.
- c. The Love of Money and excessive comforts.

4. What is really happening at Mt. Carmel? Elijah casts out Baal through the power of God almighty.

a. The nation was brought into corruption because of the idolatry of Jezebel and the weakness of King Ahab. Ahab married a phoenician pagan worshipper who caused him to raise altars to foreign gods in the nation. As Baal moved in God went on defense and judgement was placed over the nation until they should repent.

b. Key Question: Is God able to reveal Himself as the real God to humanity? Yes! He is looking for His people to be bold enough to take a stand and to believe Him until He is revealed through their life. God is waiting for us!

5. God now sends the rain since Baal has been revealed as a trinket god.

Key Scripture: 1st Kings 18:41 - 46 41And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." 42So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the summit of Carmel, bent down on the ground, and **put his face between his knees.** 43"Go and look toward the sea," he said to his servant. So, the servant went and looked, and he said, "There is nothing there. **"Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."** 44On the seventh time the servant reported, **"There is a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea.** "And Elijah replied, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.' " 45Meanwhile, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain began to fall. So, Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. 46And the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah, and he tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

a. Elijah "heard" the sound of rain: The prophet could hear God's will before it ever manifested. What has God told you about your future that you need to intercede for? Can you hear God's will for our nation?

b. Elijah humbled Himself: He bowed down low to God, never underestimate the power of reverence for a Holy God.

c. Elijah prayed earnestly for rain: The block was gone and now was the time to restore the rain and end the “spiritual drought.” What happens in the spiritual manifests in the natural? The pattern is spiritual first and then the natural. The nation was in a bad place spiritually because it had turned its back on God. Once the people humbled themselves God was able to restore the nation back to Himself and end the physical drought.

d. Elijah interceded 7 times: Elijah prays until completion. He could have given up on prayer 4. He could have reasoned that He was confused about God’s intentions. Elijah could have settled for the drought to persist. Elijah could have been content with killing the Baal prophets and the victory on Mt. Carmel. Instead, He persisted until full restoration came to the nation.

e. Elijah recognized that small beginnings could lead to massive impact: Amazing that the cloud barely the size of a man’s hand was evidence enough to Elijah that God had heard His prayer and was restoring the land of Israel. Imagine how severe the drought was that the appearance of just one tiny cloud was evidence of a shifting situation.

f. Life Lesson: What “clouds” has God began to produce in your life that are evidence that your situation is turning around. Do not overlook them. Elijah did not keep praying, He got up and let God do the rest. He walked in the reality that God heard Him.

6. God is sending America Cloud moments; we are going to have the opportunity to bring revival to our shores again. We must do the following things.

a. Refuse to backdown to our enemy: Remember this nation is blessed because of God almighty. Satan and the false gods he propped up are imposters, thieves, and liars. The church must resolve to see things from the Biblical world view and not the corrupted looking glass of the world.

b. Get your house in order: Confront the areas of apathy, sin and indifference in our own lives and families. Where we are disobedient, we will not be able to stand. Tidy up our own spiritual houses so that God’s favor and power will rest on us and work through us.

c. We cannot fail to pray: Jesus lamented that the disciples fell asleep in the most critical hour of His ministry the night before His crucifixion. The battle for the cross was won the night Jesus prayed in Gethsemane. We must remove spiritual drowsiness, kick off the heavy eyes and resolve that the victory is going to come through a church committed to praying on its knees.

d. Grow in your gifts and activate them: Some of you are idle in your service to the King. This church is not a cruise vessel serving up endless buffets to feed upon. This is a warship built for battle to seek God and follow our Commander and Chief. Find your place in service to Jesus, all hands-on deck, this isn't a drill anymore. Your gifts are powerful and necessary for the advancement of the Kingdom. We need you as much as you need us.

e. Give financially to the work of the Lord: We are going to need increased financial resources to do what God has called us to accomplish in this region of our country. Every successful move of God has been financed through the generous and sacrificial gifts of disciples who believed in and gave to the cause without hesitation.

f. Intercession takes heart: We must develop the ability to empathize with God and Man. The intercessor stands between God and man and works to bring reconciliation. We are collaborating with God to bring reconciliation through prayer. It takes a heart of mature love to pray through the obstacles.

g. Consider the end without Christ: Look 50 years into the future, the church is in transition in the world today. Only a present revival today can ensure that the church stands strong for the next generation to receive the gospel.

Conclusion/Altar: Awaken the Intercessor inside of you. Develop your prayer muscles. Do not settle for a weak and powerless prayer life anymore.