

Rain is Coming - March 24, 2022

In 2017, "There is a Cloud" was written by Chris Brown, Mack Brock, and Steven Furtick of Elevation Church in Charlotte, NC. Our Centerpoint family sang this contemporary hymn on Sunday, the lyrics lifted as a prayer to God:

"We await, the Promise to come
Everything, that You have spoken
Will come to pass, let it be done
(Oh, it shall be done)
(Every dream, every word, every promise)

We receive Your rain..."

Then, Pastor Zack encouraged us with 1 Kings 17 & 18. Elijah, a man chosen by God to be a prophet to Israel, listened to and obeyed God, even when it led him into life-threatening and impoverished circumstances. We have not seen scarcity like this. Yet God's provision came in unexpected ways. Elijah never lacked protection, sustenance, or purpose. During a time of Israel's correction for following false gods, the prophet Elijah experienced miracles from the One True God:

- Ravens brought him food and the brook water. (1Kings 17:4-7)
- He instructed a widow to share her food. She and her son were provided for. (1 Kings 17:9-16)
- Elijah meets with Obediah, King Ahab's palace coordinator who secretly hid 100 prophets of God from Jezabel. (1Kings 18:7-24)
- Lord triumphs over His enemies in a public confrontation with the prophets of Baal. (1 Kings 18:16-40)
- Physically exhausted, Elijah climbs Mount Carmel, waits for rain, then runs 20 miles to Jezreel. (1Kings 18:41-46)

What held Elijah? Could it be faith that God would not fail to fulfill His promise? God gave Elijah what he needed.

Dear family, have you been thinking about the question Pastor Zack asked us? "What has God promised me?"

The Word of God is so packed with promises that PZ had seven pages full, too many to read during our gathering time. How exciting that we do not have to wait to find out what God has promised to us! We can dig deep into the Word of God and find out what they are! Let's roll up our sleeves and spend time studying

scripture in context. Remember the 20/20 rule: read 20 verses before and after the key verses to get a whole view of what the scripture is referring to.

Like Elijah, we must dig the trench around the sacrifice, wet it with the water of God's Word, and trust that God will send His power. Whatever is burdening us must be laid on that alter in faith that our God will handle it however He chooses to. What is burdening you now? Are you ready to lay it down? The water in the trench will contain beads of sweat and thousands of tears. Trust God and His ability to fulfill His Word. Spend time with Him in praise and prayer. He desires a personal relationship with each of us. Keep believing that God is bigger than your burden and that He has plans for you. How we handle this life with Jesus leading us is our personal testimony filled with hope and peace. Elijah's God is our God! The rain of refreshing and will come in God's timing!

And while we wait for God to fulfill His promises, He has a purpose for each of us. There is work for each of us to do. And we don't have to walk through these challenging times alone! God puts us in a community of believers where we are charged to love, encourage, pray for, and help each other daily. It will not always be comfortable. It will not always make sense. God will send the rain. Everything He has spoken will come to pass.

Your Sister in Jesus,
Liz