

I KINGS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Kings chapter 18 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we saw last time, the Northern Kingdom of Israel is moving farther and farther away from God with each new king. And now we see king Ahab and his wife Jezebel and they are leading the people farther into idolatry, farther away from God than any previous king. Spiritual darkness permeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel and just when you thought that this darkness could not be expelled from the land, God raises up a prophet by the name of Elijah to shine for Him.

And Elijah comes before Ahab with words of judgment; no rain would fall upon the land until Elijah says it will. Now keep in mind that the fervent prayer of Elijah was in accordance to God's will. The heart of God for this situation was now manifested in the heart of Elijah, his servant! And keep in mind that Ahab and his wife Jezebel were leading the people in the worship of Baal, who they believed controlled the rain and really the weather. And for 3½ years the rain ceased to fall upon the land!

And it was during this time that God was also working in Elijah, pruning and refining him, preparing him for the work that he was to do. And as we will see tonight, Elijah is going to confront king Ahab and the Northern Kingdom of Israel once again and as we will see, Elijah will also confront the prophets of Baal. So with that said, let's begin reading in I Kings chapter 18, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

I KINGS 18**VERSES 1-2**

1. For 3½ years Elijah was waiting upon God, learning from God and now God tells him to go to Ahab and speak to him that He will send rain upon the land once again. Now keep in mind that things were not going well in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, there was a famine in the land because of this drought. And for Elijah to show his face, it could have been dangerous. In fact, Ahab has his men out looking for him, as we will see. And yet, he takes those steps of faith as the Lord instructed him to do, even if it was dangerous, and he heads to Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

2. How often we have the wrong idea of prayer. We see prayer as a monologue with God, where we do all the talking. We rattle off our list of things and then move on. That is wrong! Prayer is a dialogue where we talk with God, and He talks with us. And it is these words here that Elijah will hold onto later on. Elijah was a man of God that believed what God had spoken and then stepped out in faith that God would come through with what He has said. Remember, Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. So, as God speaks to us, we too must step out in faith believing that what God has promised He is more than able to bring to pass just as Elijah has done! His life is an example to us on how to live out our faith and it will also be an example of how we are not to live out our faith, as we will see as we continue on in I Kings.

VERSES 3-4

1. Now in the midst of this idolatry, here stands a man who loved the Lord, Obadiah. His name means, “Worshipper of Yahweh” or “Servant of Yahweh” and his life was a witness to his name! In a nation that did not fear the Lord, Obadiah did and he served the wicked king, Ahab! Now I realize that some would say we shouldn’t serve unbelievers, but that is foolish. We are to be out in the world, being a witness of Jesus Christ! Think of Daniel in the midst of a pagan nation, Babylon and yet he served king Nebuchadnezzar faithfully and was a witness to him and I believe that it was through the witness of Daniel that this pagan king got saved!

2. And look at how tough it was to live in this nation and yet, we see Obadiah serving! The king’s wife, Jezebel is killing the prophets of God, Jezebel was putting those who loved the Lord and were speaking of Him, praying to Him, and praising Him to death. And Obadiah takes a big chance and he is hiding 100 prophets of God from Jezebel, he is protecting them and providing for them. In doing so, his life is on the line for if Jezebel caught wind of what he was doing, he would be put to death!

3. Now finding caves in the area of Mount Carmel was easy, they have uncovered over 2,000 of these caves in the limestone rock so far, and I am sure there is more. Obadiah only needed a few to hide these prophets!

VERSES 5-6

1. The drought has affected the water supply and thus, grasses and vegetation needed for the animals to survive, was also scarce or in short supply. So Ahab and Obadiah go searching for an area in which they could gather food for their livestock, to keep them alive. And these two men split, and go in opposite directions looking for this vegetation. And again, the king commanded Obadiah to do this, but this is exactly what God wanted, as we will see!

2. What I also find interesting is that Ahab is more concerned about his livestock than he is about repenting and getting right with God. He is trying to rectify this judgment by finding some food and sparing his livestock, but he could have stopped the drought by getting right with God. How often people today do that and it doesn't work, not in the long run!

VERSES 7-14

1. As Obadiah happens to meet Elijah, it is a God ordained meeting, Elijah wants him to go back and tell Ahab that he is back in town. Now Obadiah is not sure about that. You see, Ahab has been trying to find Elijah to put him to death because he believes it is Elijah who has brought this drought upon the land. But understand that it is not Elijah that brought this drought, but Ahab and his idolatrous ways that have brought this upon the land. But again, Ahab doesn't see it that way and he has men out looking for Elijah and when they come to a city, they have the people take an oath that they don't know where Elijah is!

And yes, Obadiah has hid 100 prophets of God from the king and queen, but this is going too far. And Obadiah is fearful. You see, if he goes and tells the king that Elijah is in town, then when the king comes looking for him he won't find him because God will carry Elijah away to safety and then the king will kill Obadiah, at least that is what Obadiah thought. If he doesn't go and tell Ahab, then he is transgressing what this prophet of God has told him to do and faces the judgment of God! What a mess he seems to be in but it is only a mess because he has taken his eyes off of the Lord and because of that he is fearful! The same is true in our lives as we face various situations in our life.

VERSE 15

1. As Elijah sees the fear building in Obadiah, he tells this man that he does not have to fear, he does not have to lose any sleep over this situation because he will be there when king Ahab comes calling. You see, he was not going to flee, God is not going to take him away, and thus, Obadiah can rest assured that if he tells king Ahab that Elijah is in town, he will meet him face to face!

VERSES 16-17

1. As Ahab confronted Elijah, he blames this prophet of God for all the trouble he is in. He says, "**Is that you, O trouble of Israel?**" Was Elijah to blame for this judgment? Not at all but in Ahab's mind, that is what he believed. Now why did he think like that?

You have to understand that his government, you might say, supported and promoted Baal worship. They even persecuted those who worshiped the true and living God, Yahweh! So in Ahab's mind, Elijah has made the god Baal mad and thus, this weather god or god of rain was holding back from providing rain for the land these last 3½ years! Thus, to rectify this problem, Ahab has been out looking for Elijah to catch him and put him to death to make Baal happy and bring rain upon the land once again! It sounds crazy, but that is what he believed!

The reality was that king Ahab was living in sin, living in rebellion against God, and when the judgment of God comes upon him, he is blaming everyone else except himself. He needed to repent of his sins. But he is not interested in that, just looking to blame someone else for this judgment. If Ahab had turned to the Word of God he would have found out why the rain had stopped. In Deuteronomy chapter 28 we are told, **“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you . . . And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The Lord will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.”** Deuteronomy 28:15, 23-24. The same is true today. We have God's judgment that is coming and we can blame everyone else, but the reality is that our own sin has separated us from God and His Word not only tells us that, but the solution to that sin, Jesus Christ who bore the sins of the world and all who come to Him will be saved!

2. I like what J. Vernon McGee had to say regarding people passing the blame. He wrote,

Before we go any further, I want to say that the liberal is always blaming the fundamentalist for causing division in the church. But who *really* caused it? The church held very fundamental beliefs at one time. Who brought bifurcation into the church? Who was it that led the church away from its foundation? The liberal did. I have been accused of leaving my former denomination, but I did not—my denomination left me. I still have the same beliefs that I had at the beginning. Unfortunately, my denomination has departed from these historic beliefs.

It has always been the custom of the liberal to blame any trouble in the church on the fundamentalist. The liberal is never to blame.

In the same way Ahab blames Elijah for the problem in the land. He accuses Elijah of stirring things up. The Word of God will always stir up things. The interesting thing is that rats will always scurry to a dark corner when the light is turned on.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible Vol. II, pp. 286-287

VERSE 18

1. Elijah does not hold back, he just tells it like it is and he lets Ahab know that he only has himself to blame for what has come upon this land, this drought and the consequences that have come because of it, famine! Elijah tells Ahab that this was a judgment from God, not Baal and this judgment has come because you are worshipping these false gods, you are worshipping Baal! Now Elijah is not just speaking empty words, he is going to show Ahab and the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel who the true God is by backing his words with action, as we will see.

VERSE 19

1. Elijah tells Ahab to gather the leaders of Israel together so that they can be a witness of what God is going to do. Thus, what we see here is a confrontation between the prophet of God and the prophets of Baal and Asherah. And as you look at these verses, you see three groups of people that are going to be gathered on Mount Carmel, which at its highest elevation is 1,742 feet and is just south of modern day Haifa.

The first group is not really a group, but just one man, Elijah, the prophet of God! We next see the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, 850 false prophets gathered against one man. But remember what Martin Luther said, "One plus God is a majority!" Also, Asherah was a fertility god who was supposedly married to Baal, a male god. But the largest group that gathered on Mount Carmel were the children of Israel. We don't know how large, but I'm sure no one wanted to miss this event for a moment. And for those that could not make it, the leaders of these people were there and would share with them what they saw!

2. I also want you to notice here that these false prophets were fed at the table of Jezebel, at the queen's table and thus, supported by not only Jezebel, but also the king, Ahab.

VERSES 20-21

1. As the children of Israel gathered on Mount Carmel, Elijah asks them, basically, "How long are you going to be crippled in your walk with the LORD?" The word, "**falter**" means, "to limp, halt, hop, dance or leap." Another way to look at this is like this, "How long are you going to dance between two opinions?" Elijah gets right down to business. You see, they were wavering; they were dancing between the true and living God and the false gods, Baal and Asherah. And the reality is, they were not worshipping the true and living God. You can't serve two masters. But they, in a sense, were playing church and that does not work. They were lukewarm you might say in their faith and that is not good! And the challenge is, "**How long?**" Why are you continuing down this path, turn back to God or if you don't want to, don't pretend to, just worship Baal and Asherah!

And the response is even worse. The people were silent. They did not say one thing to this question, which was very simple. Maybe they wanted to wait to see the outcome of this confrontation, but they still waxed back and forth in whom they should serve. You see, the pagan god's fed their flesh, they had a sexual worship, and so it was a tough decision in who they wanted to serve. The spirit may have been willing, but the flesh was truly weak! Spurgeon put their response like this, "I know you are not decided in opinion, because you are not decided in practice. If God be God, follow him; if Baal, follow him. You are not decided in practice."

2. And folk's, God is asking us the same question, "How long are we going to sit on the fence in our relationship with Him?" You see, as I have said, you can't serve God and the world. You have to choose who you will serve, who you will be loyal to. May we not falter in our response, but boldly stand up for the Lord and walk in all His ways.

Spurgeon put it like this and he too lays it all out for us and we must choose. He wrote, "How many more sermons do you want? How many more Sundays must roll away wasted? How many warnings, how many sicknesses, how many toilings of the bell to warn you that you must die? How many graves must be dug for your family before you will be impressed? How many plagues and pestilences must ravage this city before you will turn to God in truth? How long halt ye between two opinions?" Thus, don't go dancing around, make a decision and may it be the Lord!

VERSES 22-24

1. Here we see the challenge that Elijah makes to these prophets of Baal, and don't forget that the prophets of Asherah were there also. And Elijah's challenge is this. The prophets of Baal can offer a sacrifice to their god. Also, Elijah will offer his sacrifice to the true and living God, and whoever's sacrifice is consumed by fire, not by human efforts, will show who the true and living God is. And the people could not wait to see this event take place. "Let the show begin!"

2. Now we also have to remember that this was a chance for these false prophets to have their god vindicate himself. You see, it hadn't rained for 3½ years, and Baal, who brought rain was silenced, leaving these prophets embarrassed. But Baal also was the god of fire or lightening, and thus, by consuming the sacrifice with fire, he could re-establish himself before the people. So this was a big deal and these false prophets were put on the spot, but I am sure they felt they would win this battle or they would not have accepted it in the first place. Imagine, fighting against God and thinking they could win, as foolish as that is, people do it every day!

3. Now we need to look at these words of Elijah in verse 22, “**I alone am left a prophet of the Lord.**” Was that true? Absolutely not, for we were told that Obadiah had hid 100 prophets of God in caves, protecting them from Jezebel who was massacring the prophets of God! In fact, we will see God tell Elijah that there are 7,000 hiding out who have not bowed a knee to Baal. So he was wrong and we are seeing a hint of a little pity party for Elijah that will continue to grow, as we will see as we read on in I Kings.

4. The prophets of Baal will go first and lets see how they do.

VERSES 25-27

1. I hate to admit this, but I get a kick out of what Elijah is doing. These false prophets are dancing and screaming to their god, trying to get his attention, they are jumping up and down and they are expecting any second that Baal will consume this sacrifice with fire. Can you imagine the noise that was coming forth from these prophets, trying to reach the ears of their god? But no one answered their cries. I wonder why?

Now they have been going at this for about three hours, and finally Elijah has to say something, and he begins to mock them. Maybe your god is in a deep thought and didn't hear you? Or maybe he is just too busy to come right now? Maybe he is on a journey, or vacation, traveling somewhere? Maybe he was answering the call of nature? In other words, maybe he is going to the bathroom! We all have to do that from time to time. Or maybe he was tired and needed to sleep? How sad to worship a god that can't hear or respond to your cry! Again, he is mocking them and the god they are worshiping. Remember what we are told in Psalm 115:1-8, **“Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. Why should the Gentiles say, ‘So where is their God?’ But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.”**

In other words, the gods they worship are empty and they can't respond to the cries of the people. But our God can and does hear our cries, He does respond to us because He is living and powerful and He does as He pleases and when we are walking with Him, we love what He is doing! Notice what Psalm 121:1-4 says regarding the God we serve. It reads "**I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from where comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made the heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**" May we not forget that and as we will see, our God will respond!

VERSES 28-29

1. Notice the frenzy they are in. They heard the mocking and that just made them cry out louder. Not only did they cry out louder, but now they are cutting themselves, bleeding all over the place. Why in the world did they cut themselves like that? Because they thought by doing this they would get the attention of their god. And keep in mind they not only cut themselves until they were bleeding, but many times they spread this blood all over themselves! Were they devoted to their god? You bet they were! Were they zealous about their god? You bet they were! Were they sincere about their god? Absolutely, but they were sincerely wrong!

2. Not only that but it also says that they “**prophesied**” and please understand what that means. All that is saying is that they were saying, yelling out that their god was going to answer them any minute! Would you believe two? How about three? Well, maybe 6 hours! This was going on for 6 hours now, all this screaming, yelling, jumping up and down to wake up their god so he would consume the sacrifice, but nothing happened. I don’t know how many of you remember that cult leader that was in Oregon, Rajanessh, but he got his followers to work themselves up into an altered state of consciousness by doing this very thing, just jumping up and down for hours! It is amazing what people will do.

And after all of this, notice what happened, ***NOTHING!*** We are told in verse 29, “**But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.**” When you worship an imaginary god, I guess you have to imagine that he is responding to you! And even today people pray to all kinds of idols, all kinds of gods expecting to get some kind of response and these are not gods!

VERSE 30

1. Now it is time for Elijah to call upon the true and living God, but before he does, he wants the people to gather around. He does not want them to miss what is going to happen, like that would be possible. But he did get their attention and they gathered around him.

2. Also, notice what had happened to the altar of God, it was broken down; it was in need of repair. Why was that? Because the people neglected the things of God and did their own thing, they worshiped Baal and the things of God were falling apart around them. Thus, Elijah repairs the altar that was broken and the people have gathered around it.

3. How does this even relate to us today? Think about the altar of sacrifice that has been taken down today and I am speaking of the cross of Calvary. It has been broken down by leaders, by teachers, by pastors who negate the work that Christ has done for us on Calvary and folk's, last time I looked, it was Jesus who alone could pay in full the penalty for our sins and He alone has conquered death! Let me give you one example of this and then we will move on.

“Liberal theologian and pastor Harry Emerson Fosdick said the doctrine of the blood atonement was a slaughterhouse religion, and he said it was ‘precivilized barbarity.’ In his 1922 sermon *Shall the Fundamentalists Win?*, he stated:

It is interesting to note where the Fundamentalists are driving in their stakes to mark out the deadline of doctrine around the church, across which no one is to pass except on terms of agreement. They insist that we must all believe in the historicity of certain special miracles, preeminently the virgin birth of our Lord; that we must believe in a special theory of inspiration that the original documents of the Scripture, which of course we no longer possess, were inerrantly dictated to men a good deal as a man might dictate to a stenographer; that we must believe in a special theory of the Atonement that the blood of our Lord, shed in a substitutionary death, placates an alienated Deity and makes possible welcome for the returning sinner; and that we must believe in the second coming of our Lord upon the clouds of heaven to set up a millennium here, as the only way in which God can bring history to a worthy denouement. Such are some of the stakes which are being driven to mark a deadline of doctrine around the church.

What this line of thinking is saying is that while Jesus' going to the Cross should be looked at as an example of perfect servanthood and sacrifice, the idea that God would send His Son to a violent death on the Cross is barbaric and would never happen. Thus, Fosdick (and those who adhere to this reasoning) rejects Christ as a substitute for our penalty (the wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23)."

And we see this same thinking today in the Emerging Church, where the altar of sacrifice has been removed, the cross of Calvary!

I truly believe, like Elijah, we must revive something that once was, and that is the cross of Christ, His death and resurrection as He paid in full the penalty for our sins. You see, apart from that we are still dead in our trespass and sins!

VERSES 31-35

1. Elijah takes 12 stones, representing the 12 tribes of Israel united together. And then has the sacrifice drenched in water, even the trench around the sacrifice was covered with water. Now you might be wondering how in the world they were able to get all this water in a drought? Simple, Mount Carmel was located next to the Mediterranean Sea, and so they had an abundant supply of salt water. Why did Elijah do this? So there can be no doubt that this was of God, that no man did this. This was not some kind of trick, but it was God who ignited the fire and consumed the sacrifice, as we will see!

VERSES 36-37

1. The morning and evening sacrifices were to be offered for the sins of the nation, but this was not being done, of course, in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and keep in mind that the temple was in Jerusalem. But notice the simple prayer of Elijah, as opposed to the screaming and yelling done by the prophets of Baal for 6 hours. And I want you to notice that Elijah approaches God as the God of Israel, so that the people will remember that He is the one that birthed them. Not only that, but all that Elijah had done was according to the Word of God! That is so important for us to understand, that when we do something for the Lord, it is according to His Word and not according to our feelings, and what we do, in a sense, is birthed from God!

2. There is one point that Spurgeon brings out that I also think is important as we apply this to our own lives. Spurgeon wrote in regards to our prayers, “Go you to the mercy-seat with this as one of your arguments, ‘Lord, I have done according to thy word. Now let it be seen that it is even so. I have preached thy word, and thou hast said, “It shall not return unto me void.” I have prayed for these people, and thou hast said, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”’; let it be seen that this is according to thy word.’”

VERSES 38-40

1. I wonder if this was of God or just a freak accident? Come on, what more do you need! First of all this fire came from above and came downward, not from below and rising upward. Also, the burnt sacrifice was consumed, the wood was consumed, the stones and the dust were consumed, and all the water was gone, instantaneously! Yes, this was God accepting the prayer of Elijah, accepting the sacrifice. What is interesting is that the false prophets were crying out for 6 hours, Elijah does this 15 to 20 second prayer and this fire from God comes down and consumes the sacrifice. Guys, in our prayers, we don't need to speak in the King James English. Our prayers don't have to go on for hours, telling God what needs to be done. Just speak to Him and let Him speak to you and see the fire He will bring in your life!

2. As this takes place, Elijah calls for these false prophets to be gathered together and put to death! And these people who were sitting on the fence, who were wavering in whom they were going to serve, grab these false prophets and they brought them down to the Brook Kishon and put them to death! We see this spoken of in Deuteronomy 17:2-5, “**If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the Lord your God, in transgressing His covenant, who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.**” (Also see Deuteronomy 13:5, 13:13-18, 18:19-22).

And you may think that this is great, but it wasn't. Yes, what a powerful experience the people had witnessed, and yet it did not change their heart. It was just an emotional response to a miracle, and nothing more. There is no repentance of sin. The nation is still moving away from God and yet, they had an opportunity to repent and get right with God, they just chose not to!

VERSES 41-44

1. How did Elijah know that the rain was coming, that the drought was over? Because he understood that as the worship of Baal was over, at least for the moment, God would bring forth the rains once again. Thus, Elijah tells Ahab, that now, after 3½ years of drought, that it is going to rain. And again, the reason Elijah could be so sure is because Elijah stood upon the Word of God. Remember that back in I Kings 18:1 God said to Elijah, **“Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”** Thus, God said it; Elijah believed it, and that is that! Again, we see the faith of Elijah as He looked to the Lord.

2. Now rain would normally come from the west, off the Mediterranean Sea, and so Elijah sends his servant to look for a sign that rain is approaching. He prayed six times, and yet he did not give up. He believed that God was faithful and would bring the rain, and so he sends his servant out a seventh time to see what was out there. It is as Matthew Poole wrote regarding the fervent, persistent prayer of Elijah, *“Go again seven times; let us not be dejected for some disappointments, but continue to wait upon God, who will answer me, and that speedily.”* And F. B. Meyer wrote, *“God’s promises are given, not to restrain, but to incite to prayer. They show the direction in which we may ask, and the extent to which we may expect an answer They are the mould into which we may pour our fervid spirits without fear.”* And that is exactly what Elijah did, he did not give up, he knew God would answer, he just didn’t know when and thus, he continued to pray until God did answer!

3. And so Elijah asks his servant to go and see if it looks like rain, and he does this seven times. And finally, the seventh time, his servant, all he sees is a small cloud that your fist could obliterate as you looked up at it. And yet that is all Elijah needed to hear, and he warns Ahab to get his chariot in high gear, and head home, it is going to be a gully washer! That is faith in action!

In regards to this, Spurgeon used this text as an illustration of the small signs that precede a mighty work of God. And he gave four “certain signs and tokens for good which prayerful faith clearly perceives when an awakening, a genuine revival is about to come.” Here are those small clouds that will turn into a gully washer you might say in our faith.

- A growing dissatisfaction with the present state of things, and an increasing anxiety among the members of the church for the salvation of souls.

- When this anxiety leads believers to be exceedingly earnest and importunate in prayer.

- When ministers begin to take counsel one with another, and to say, “What must we do?”

- When we shall see the doctrine of the individual responsibility of each Christian fully felt and carried out into individual action.

VERSES 45-46

1. The rains came, just as Elijah said. And he girded up his loins, or tucked in his robe into his belt, above his knees, so that he could run faster without tripping, and he supernaturally out runs Ahab back to Jezreel, which was about a 15-mile journey from Mount Carmel. Why was this important? Matthew Poole thinks that it was, “To demonstrate that he was neither ashamed of, nor afraid for, what he had done, though he knew how Jezebel would resent it, but durst venture himself in the midst of his enemies, as being confident of the Divine power and protection.”

2. Now things are going well, the prophets of Baal have been put to death, at least some of them. Elijah is on the mountaintop of his spiritual life you might say. But, it seems that after every mountain top experience, comes the valley. Elijah is going to find that out. You see, you can't live on the mountaintop forever, for it is in the valley that we grow. There is a saying that, “all sun makes a desert.” And that is true in our own Christian walk.

We need those times in the valley, being guided by our Shepherd, so that we can grow. Remember Peter, when he saw Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration; he wanted to set up booths to stay there. But they needed to get down off the mountain and back into the valley, for there was work to do. And when they got back they encountered a demon-possessed boy in which the disciples could do nothing for. Jesus had to release this boy, and thus, a valley experience for Peter and the boys. Don't be angry at those valley experiences; see what the Lord is showing you, for it is the place you will grow. It all depends on what we do when we are down in the valley and how long we are going to be there I think many times is based on how fast we want to learn the lesson! May we learn quickly and continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will see how Elijah handles this next time, and it is not good.