



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Rain Brings Blessing

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Bob Bradley

I am going to read one verse tonight. I hope tonight, that I can share this with you that will be as much as a blessing to you, as it has been to me. I read this story for many, many years, but it was just like it was brand new this week, as the Lord spoke and directed me on what I needed to talk about tonight. Actually, how I got to thinking about this and what the Lord used to get me to thinking about this—we were out delivering bags. It started to rain. I made the statement to those that were around. I feel a raindrop on my bald head. I got to thinking about this and it has been an absolute tremendous time thinking about this. It is just great how God uses things.

1 Kings 18:41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is a sound of abundance of rain.*

This story is a story that I am sure you have heard many, many times. It is a story about Elijah, a great man of God. A man that God called. A man that God commissioned to be a prophet, to take His Word unto a nation, His nation, God's people that were very sinful. They had departed from the living God. Ahab is the king. Jezebel is his wife. Ahab has allowed Jezebel to lead him and the nation into baal worship. If you read the scripture, there is no doubt in my mind that Jezebel has one thing on her mind and that is having baal worship as the national religion of the Jewish people. That is what she wanted. She wanted to kill all the prophets of the Lord. She was a very wicked person. You can't imagine, in your mind, I don't think, and I can't either, how wicked that Jezebel really was and what she did. She even convinces Ahab to build her a temple, a place where she could go to worship baal. The worship that they did there was something that is completely, absolutely despicable and we won't even talk about it tonight. However, it was a horrible...thing that they did. It was very sinful, evil, and very wicked the things that they did in their participation in their worship to baal.

Keep in mind something. God spoke to people way back in the book of Deuteronomy. He told them if they would simply do what He asked them to do; when you Deuteronomy chapter 28, verse 15; God makes this statement.

Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

When you read verses 16-23, you will find out that all the curses that God said He would bring on His people if they did not obey Him. You might say, well, surely, He wouldn't have said that. We talk about God being a loving God. He is a loving God. He is a God that is absolutely overflowing with love and overflowing with grace, but do you know what God has also done? God has given you and me the ability to choose

what we want to do. He has given us the ability that we can obey Him and walk with Him so that He can bless us and do great things for us, or if we walk contrary to Him then we know that God is going to judge.

He also says something in verse 23, that if you guys don't obey my voice, and you don't obey my commandments, if you don't do what I have asked you to do, my statutes, my judgments; He says if you don't do that...

Deuteronomy 28:23 And thy heaven that *is* over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee *shall be* iron.

Do you know what that means? God says, I'm going to stop the rain. If you will not follow me, and you live in sin, and you rebel against me then I am going to turn the sky, I'm going to turn in here just like brass, as hard as brass. There is not going to be any rain come from that and the ground itself is going to become just as hard as iron.

I thought about this curse, what God said He would do. I thought about when we were home as boys, as kids. We would go out and plow our fields. Do you know what you had to do? You don't plow in this kind of weather. It is too wet. You can't get a plow through the field. You have to wait until the ground dries up that you can get your machinery through the field. Not only if you plow your field when it is too wet, then when it does dry out it is harder than a rock and you really can't do anything with it. We plowed our fields in the spring. We would cultivate it, disc it, and drag it and we would sow our seed then do you know what we would do? Nothing. We waited for the rain. You can't make seed grow. There is life in seed that when you put it in the ground and get it to come into contact with good soil and you have some moisture that will come along then it will grow. It will produce some fruit. If you are sowing some kind of a hay seed, if you are planting your tomatoes or whatever it is; your seed has to be in good ground. Your seed has to be in contact with good ground. It has to have some moisture so that it can germinate and it can die and start growing.

Israel was the same way. They looked for the early rain which was in the later fall, October or November. They call that actually, their early rain. The later rain was this time of year in March or April when the rain would come. They looked for that rain so that when they planted their crops in the spring of the year, then the ground would have moisture in it and they would be able to have a harvest sometime in that year. I said this the other night, actually. Over there they don't have much top soil. It needs to be damp. They need to have a lot of rain at the right time of year if they are going to be able to grow crops.

Now here is what is going on. They had sinned. Do you know what God said? He called a guy by the name of Elijah. When you read James 5, the Bible tells us that Elijah was a guy that had like passions like you and me. He wasn't nothing spectacular. He wasn't a polished preacher, maybe like Jeremiah or Isaiah was. He was just a fellow that God had called with a message and he was to go and tell Ahab—Ahab I'm going to pray a prayer and it is not going to rain for three years and six months. That is

exactly what he did. He goes and tells Ahab. Ahab it is not going to rain anymore except by my word. God speaks to him and says, "Hey, it isn't going to rain but I'm going to take care of you." He tells him to go down by the brook. He tells him where the brook is at. He names the brook and tells him to go down there. He says, "I'm going to take care of you." We know that the Bible tells him that he was going to send some bread; some water and bread and flesh to eat. He was going to command a raven. A raven was an unclean bird—get that—but yet God was going to use that bird to bring Elijah something to eat. Also, he was going to be able to drink of the brook. That is the story. Isn't it?

Here he is. Things are fine. I don't know how long he stays here, but I do know one thing. If you don't have any rain, do you know what happens? The creeks dry up.

When we were home, we had a creek that ran in the front yard, in front of the house. We had one here and we had one down here. This one would dry up pretty quick. If you didn't have rain for a week or two or three this would dry up and a little bit longer without any rain the big creek would dry up.

Elijah is here by the brook and it dries up. The great thing was that Elijah wasn't depending on the brook. He was depending on God. Elijah knew since the brook had dried up; God was going to take care of him. We know that He did. We know that God speaks unto him. We know that God directs him up to Zarephath, up the road. He said, I have commanded a widow woman up here to take care of you.

We know that he gets there. We know that he goes up the road. When you read the story. When you read the story, as he is coming into the city; do you know what is happening? The very woman that God has spoken to, the very widow that God spoken to is coming out. They meet each other. That is not coincidence folks. When God says He is going to do something then He is going to do that.

Elijah probably did not know a lot of things that were happening and a lot of things that were going to take place. He did know that God had commanded a widow woman up there to take care of him. That is the story. Isn't it? Elijah speaks to the widow and says, "Hey, if you don't care go get me some water." She goes and she is on her way to get him some water, he hollers at her and says, "While you are coming, bring me something to eat." Do you know what the lady says? The lady says, "Hey, I don't have anything to eat. We don't have anything to eat. We have a little bit of meal in here the barrel and we have a little bit of oil in a cruse in here. I'm going out here right now to gather some wood. I'm going to build a fire and me and my son are going to take this meal that we have and eat it then I guess we are going to die because that is all there is." Do you know what Elijah said? "Hey, you don't have anything to worry about. You just listen to what I tell you and you don't have anything to worry about." Do you know what this woman did? She listened to the man of God. Didn't she? Elijah said, "Hey, that's fine. You do what you are doing but bring me a cake first and everything will be cool. Then you can eat and your family can eat and everybody will be fine. You don't

have to worry about the barrel going to dry and you don't have to worry about the cruse of oil. You don't have to worry about that. Just do what I am asking you to do." Do you know what she does? She does that very thing.

That would have taken a lot of faith on that lady's part. Do you know that? She has a family here, and herself here; now she is going to cook something here that she knows that is all she has. She is going to give it to somebody that this is the first time she has ever met him. That is what she does. Do you know what that is called? That is called faith. That is called faith in the Word of Almighty God. That is what saves you if you ever got saved. Faith in the Word of Almighty God.

If you are living today, in this world, do you know what you need to be living on? faith in the Word of Almighty God. Not faith in the government, not faith in politicians, not faith in the stock market; no. We can have confidence in people but our faith needs to be in Almighty God. Truth! The Bible says they ate for a long time. Do you know how long they ate? Get this. Do you know how long they ate from an empty barrel and cruse that was about empty? They ate till it rained. Isn't that awesome? They ate and ate. It never ran dry.

We know the story. Things were going fine. I don't know how long it was before it rained. I don't know how long it was but they ate a long time out of this little bit of meal and a little bit of oil. They ate a long, long time. Things were going fine. They are eating. They are living. Everything seems to be going fine. It is not raining. However, something happens. Do you remember her son? He gets sick. He dies. Do you remember? She comes to Elijah and says, "Hey, what have it done? You come down here; you are the man of God. You come down here to bring my sins up. My son has died because of my sins and so forth." You know the story. We know that Elijah takes the little boy and takes him up and begins to pray and call upon the God of heaven. Do you know what Elijah does? He brings the young child down and said, "He's fine."

Again, that is a great part of the story. Isn't it? That is an absolutely great part of the story. Time is passing. Three or three and half years passes from the time it stopped raining until Elijah here is going to pray and prayer here shortly and it is going to rain.

Here is what happens when you read the story. The Bible tells us here that as you read, you will find out that the Lord is going to tell Elijah that it is going to rain. There are going to be some things that are going to take place. We are going to do some things here. Elijah is going to do some things that are astounding; I think.

I want you to understand something. He is going to have a contest, and I am going to get a little ahead of the message or the thought but I am going to go back there in a minute. Everybody likes to be on top of the mountain. Everybody likes to be there when the fire falls and the victory is won. Everything is just fine. We don't always want to go through what we have to go through to get to the top of the mountain.

This is what is going to happen. They ate here. They did. The Bible says that God says unto Elijah, "Go show thyself unto Ahab." That is in verse 1 of chapter 18.

1 Kings 18:1 And it came to pass *after* many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

Keep it in mind. The brooks are dried up. He gets to Zarephath. They have a little bit of food in a barrel and a little bit of oil in a jar. They eat on that. The young man dies. Elijah raises him from the dead. Now he says, "Go show yourself unto Ahab."

As you read the story here, as he is doing that; we encounter a feller here by the name of Obadiah. Do you remember him? I never really thought too much about him until I started studying about this, this week. Obadiah is a fellow—the Bible tells us here that he fears the Lord greatly, when you read verse 3. We know that verse 2 tells us there is a sore famine in Samaria. It is a terrible time that is happening here. We understand that. We understand all of those things. However, Obadiah is a guy here that Ahab has sent out over the land to look for some grass for the mules and the horses to eat. He wants to save some of them alive. As you read down through here, that is exactly what they are doing. They are searching for some grass. If you read verse 5, you will find out here that "peradventure that we may find some grass to save the horses and mules alive that we lose not all the beasts."

Get that. Obadiah is looking for some grass for the animals but Elijah here is trying to save a nation. A nation that had sinned, a nation that had walked away from God, a nation that was drying up because of their sin against God. The heavens had stopped raining. The ground had dried up. Things were horrible. Obadiah is worrying and looking for grass for the mules and horses.

Do you know what I thought today, yesterday? How many times we get sidelined on stuff that really doesn't matter. He was looking for grass for horses and mules. And that is fine. We need to take care of our animals. Don't misunderstand what I am saying. However, he was more concerned about taking care of animals than he was taking care of the people. I think we get that way sometimes. I think we get sidelined on stuff that does not matter. Things that are not going to change anything at all.

I thought our children, and our grandchildren, our neighbors, husbands and wives and all kinds of people dying lost and we are looking for grass for the mules and the horses. Amen! People are dying lost everywhere and we are looking for grass for the mules and the horses. Again, we need to feed our animals and we need to take care of them. There is no question about that. God loves animals. We know that He does. He created them. Amen! We need to take care of them. However, listen. He did not give an animal a soul. He gave mankind a soul. He made mankind the object of His love. Amen! We should be more concerned today about our loved ones and humanity and mankind that is lost, doomed, and damned and on our way to a lake than we are finding grass for the horses and mules. These are things that don't matter. Things that have

no eternal value. We get so wrapped up on them. We get so wrapped up on saving and getting involved and doing all this stuff. I don't think sometimes we really understand why we do it. I really don't think we really understand what is going on when we do that. We don't understand there is an enemy that is trying to get us sidetracked from saving a nation. Our nation needs to hear the gospel. Our nation needs to hear the gospel. We are worrying about saving horses and mules. We are looking for grass. Amen! That is just an analogy. I know we are not out looking for grass for horses and mules.

However, we get involved in things today, that has no lasting value.

Elijah was a fellow here that was listening to the voice of God. He was listening and he is trying to save a nation from perishing. Obadiah here is a guy that is listening to the king and he is looking for grass for the horses.

Listen. I hope today that the first and most important thing in your life is evangelism. It is teaching people about Jesus Christ. Sharing the gospel message with Jesus Christ. Whether it is children, or whether we are talking about people who are middle aged, or older folk—whoever they are or whatever they are—evangelism should be the number one thing in our lives.

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. Amen! Jesus Christ came to die on a cross so that mankind might be saved; redeemed, saved, and rescued from a lake of fire. Jesus Christ came to do that.

What is more important to you tonight? Trying to save a nation or looking for grass for horses and mules. What is more important to you? What are you working on? What are you spending all your time on? What are you spending your thoughts on of the day, of the night, of the evening, as you are going down the road? What is on your mind? What is your goal in life?

I know we have jobs and families. I know we have to raise kids. I got all of that. However, what is going on in here. What is the long-term goal? Do you ever think about people who are lost? Do you ever think about your family that is lost? Do you ever think about your co-workers that are lost? Do you ever think about some of the seniors that we have that are lost? I hope you do. Because friend, listen, when they are gone; they are gone. We are not going to get them back. That opportunity that we have today, to try to save a nation; soon and very soon is going to be gone. I wonder really what is on our mind. We allow the enemy to infiltrate our thinking and our minds. We get so involved on stuff and all kinds of things that don't matter. We get so involved in it that we allow it to steal and rob us of the great blessing of God.

That is what these people had done.

Obadiah here was looking for grass for the mules and the horses. I hope you are not doing that tonight. I hope the salvation of your family, children, co-workers, the people you see at the grocery store; I hope that is more important to you. I hope seeing people

saved is more important to you than all the other stuff we have going on today. The enemy is real shrewd. He is cunning. He is crafty. He can give us all kinds of stuff that we need to try to save.

Many years ago—I'll probably get a letter or two or phone call—but many years ago, when I was working for a company and we wanted to put a big river port in down here. We went to meeting after meeting after meeting with EPA. There was some kind of a little old muscle. I'm not sure what it was. They showed me one of them. It did not look like to me it had any life in it. It just looked like—but because that was there and you had literally hundreds and hundreds of people protesting building this dock. They were so concerned and consumed about saving these little muscles they had completely forgotten that people needed to work. They completely forgotten about people's needs. They completely forgotten about people's salvation. They completely forgotten about that. They were trying to save something that did not mean anything at all. If it is in the Ohio River, it couldn't amount to a whole lot. If it is living down there, it couldn't amount to a whole lot.

What are we thinking? What are we working on? What is the long-term goal in our life? What do we really want to do? Do we want to save the mules or horses? Or do we want to see our nation saved?

Listen. It is not going to come easy. We can walk through this world looking for grass with not too much problem. Amen! However, if we are going to save a nation then there is going to be some work involved in it. amen!

Here is what happens.

Elijah asks the guys a question. He tells Obadiah if you go tell Ahab, I'm here. I'm going to meet him today. I need to talk to him today. We know they had a discussion. Obadiah said, "I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to tell him you are here and then you will leave. God will take you somewhere else. Then he will kill me." After a while they met. Do you know what the first thing Ahab said when he looked at Elijah? Are you the one that is troubling Israel? He is talking to Elijah. Ahab said to Elijah, this wicked guy who has a wicked wife that has completely forsaken the Law of God, the Word of God, God's statutes, God's judgements. They had built a temple right very close to the temple of Almighty God to worship baal and he says, "Are you the one Elijah that is troubling Israel?" That is the way it works. Isn't it? Elijah was trying to save a nation. The politicians said hey, you are the one destroying everything.

All you have to do today is turn on your TV set and you will hear the same thing. It is people that are saved, fault, that we are in the mess that we are in; according to our politicians. It is our fault. We are the fanatics and the crazy people. We are all that. However, do you know what Elijah said? You got that one wrong, bub. It is you and your family that are the ones who are troubling Israel. You guys have forsaken the Law of God. You guys have walked away from God's statutes, God's Law, and God's judgment. You guys are the ones that got us in a mess. That is true today. Any nation,

any people, any family, any church that walks away from the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God; we forsake the commandments of Almighty God then judgment is on the way.

We know that they meet. Do you know what Elijah—when you get down to verse 21, of chapter 18—he has a question. How long are we going to sit around here and wonder and have two different opinions? How long here are we going to have two different opinions? You guys say God is God and we are saying baal is god. Let's just settle this thing once and for all. That was his statement.

Do you know what he does? He said, "Here is what we are going to do. You go get your guys and bring them to the top of Carmel. I will meet you guys up there and we are going to have a contest. We are going to prove who God is. Whoever wins this battle then He is going to be God, we will worship Him. If He answers by fire, whichever god/God answers by fire then let Him be God and everybody will worship Him. Elijah knew what was going to happen. Didn't he? He knew exactly what was going to happen. He knew that God was going to answer. He knew it was God that told him to pray the prayer that it does not rain. He also knew that God had already said, "Hey, you are going to tell Ahab it is going to rain because it is going to rain." He already knew that.

We know that they get there. We know that Elijah tells them, you get your bullock. Build your altar. Cut it up in pieces and put it on the altar. We will let you guys go first. They got them a bullock. They built an altar. They cut it up in pieces. They screamed and cried. They cut themselves with knives. The blood gushed out of them. When you read down through chapter 18, verse 28; they did all kinds of things. They cried until noon. Elijah began to mock them. Maybe you need to cry louder. Maybe he is asleep. Maybe he is taking a journey. Maybe he is not listening. You need to cry louder. That is what they did. They cried. They screamed. They did all kinds of different things.

After a while, the Bible tells us here in verse 29, when it was time for the evening sacrifice, which would have been 3 pm in the afternoon. Elijah said, "Okay, guys. You have had all day. You have screamed. You have cut yourselves with stone... You have torn down your altar. You have done everything and now it is time. It is my time now. It is God's time now."

There is one thing that he did here that I think was very important. The Bible says on down in here in verse 30; he repaired the altar that had been torn down. Man, o man folks, I'm telling you something. If we are going to change a nation, if we are going to change our family, if we are going to change who we are, we are going to have to do some repairing of altars. We are going to have to repair some altars. It may be in a church. It may be the altar in your home. It may be in your garage where you used to pray. It may be in the bedroom, or in the bathroom or wherever the altar was at you used to pray; we are going to do some repairing. We are going to have to do some repairing.

Listen. If we are going to have victory, and God is going to be God and God is going to show this world who God is then we are going to have to do some praying. We are going to have to do some rebuilding of the altar. We have allowed the world to tear them down. We got to looking for grass for the horses and mules so much that we forgot about the altar being torn down.

Do you know what satan will do? he will always tear them down for you. He will always move them out of the way for you. He will always tell you that you don't have time. He will always tell you that you don't need to pray. He will always tell you that it doesn't make any sense to pray. He will always tell you when you know it is time to pray, you had better get your sandwich before you do that. You had better go get something to eat before you do that. Maybe you need to call somebody before you do that. Do you know what happens if you listen to him? You will eat. You will call somebody. You will drink a can of pop. Then your favorite TV show is on. Then by that time it is bed time. That is right sister. You don't pray. You do this on and on. You wake up one day and you wonder why you are cold and indifferent. You don't like anything. You don't like anybody. You don't like what is going on. You don't like your husband or your wife. You don't like anything.

Listen. You forgot about the altar you used to have. The altar you used to meet God with and God used to meet with you. He would come down and bless you and flood you with His presence. You just had a great time. You would come to church and God would bless you. You would testify. It was just a great time. We wonder why that is not happening today. I promise you something, if you will be honest, two things have stopped. You are not going to the altar anymore and you are not looking at this. You are not reading your Bible and you are not praying.

Listen. If you will read your Bible and seek the face of God in honesty and sincerity, in obedience; God will bless your life.

He rebuilds the altar. He catches him a bullock and puts it on it. He digs a trench around the thing. For a lack of time, he pours 12 barrels of water upon it, to make sure that everybody did not think that there was any fire left from the other guys. He wanted to make sure that when the fire came, it was going to come in a way that they could be absolutely no mistake. He prays a little prayer. A little small prayer. It was 60 some words. I don't remember now. It wasn't a long prayer at all. He probably prayed in a minute or less. Do you know what happens? The fire comes. The fire comes. It consumes the sacrifice, the stones they made the altar with, the wood and everything that is there, and even licked up the dust in the trench around about the thing. It is all gone.

Here is what happens. The fire fell. The next thing Elijah says and does; take the prophets of baal and kill them all. You take the prophets of baal and kill every one of them. Get that.

Here is what I want you to get.

1 Kings 18:40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

1 Kings 18:41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a sound of abundance of rain.

Isn't that awesome? Your life may be dry. Your life may have been dry for a long time. Your life may have been spiritually dry for a long time. Maybe you have not been living as you should be living. Maybe you have not been praying as you should be praying. Maybe you have not been following or being obedient to the Word of God as you know you should. Maybe you got so involved in looking for the grass for the horses and the mules that you forgot about God, and you forgot about saving a nation, and you forgot about your family and your children and your co-workers and yourself. You forgot about the altar. Probably everybody listening to me tonight probably has at least 1-4 Bibles in their house. But you go dig them up, you would probably have to move some stuff off of the top of them or dig the off of a shelf where they have been forever. If your life is dry, you have not been in the book. If your life is dry and drying up then you have not been spending any time praying.

Listen. The fire fell. God received the offering. He got rid of evil, wickedness. These prophets that had been prophesying about baal and how great baal was. He was the fertility god. He was the god of rain and so forth. Elijah said kill them all. Stop them. Stop wickedness. Get rid of it. That is what they did.

1 Kings 18:41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a sound of abundance of rain.

Get this folks. I mean this with every bit of every bit of me...from top to bottom. I know this. I believe this. Things have been dry in the church. I'm not talking about here, but I'm talking about in the church in general. Twenty years ago, you could have revival, eighteen years ago, or fifteen years ago; we have had revivals here that you would have 10 people coming a night to be saved. I have said this before. There have been so many people come here one night; I prayed so much that I couldn't pray anymore. We don't do that anymore. Do you know why? It is because our lives have become dry. The reason our lives have become dry is because we have walked away from God's statutes and God's judgements, and what God said. We have allowed the altar to get so cluttered up now, we can't even find it. We don't even know where it is at. We wonder why.

I am going to tell you something. I believe this with all my heart. There is a sound of an abundance of rain. Rain brings blessing. When the rain came on the seed, when we sowed it in the spring of the year; do you know what it did? It shot up through the ground. New life. New growth. Amen! I'm going to tell you something. There is some new life and there is some new growth coming to Campbell Chapel.

You might say, preacher I don't believe that. You don't have to believe it. If you don't believe it, you are not going to get to participate in it. amen! That's okay. You don't

have to believe it. Do you know what I'm not going to do? I'm not going to try to make you believe it. You can say it isn't going to happen if you want to. However, there is a sound of an abundance of rain.

Just like that drop of rain the other day that fell on my head where I don't have any hair anymore; do you know what I did? I felt that. Do you know what I feel in this place the last six weeks, or two months; I feel the rain. I feel God's presence. Do you know what I'm hearing from some of you all? I'm hearing, hey, God has touched my life. I have not felt God in my life for a long time. God is back in my life now. Do you know what that is? That is the sound of an abundance of rain. That is new growth. Amen! That is exciting.

It shoots through the ground. Corn in the spring, tomatoes or whatever it is; it shoots through the ground. It is tender. The sun comes out. It grows. It rains. It grows. It rains. Do you know what? It is not too long that we go out there and get them big old roasted ears...we picked those things off and take them home. We would boil them in water. We slop some butter on that. We would eat and have it all over us. We would give it to the community and it was a blessing.

Listen. We can be the same thing. We are going to be the same thing to this community. I believe that folks. If you want to participate, you can. Or if you don't just continue what you are doing. That is up to you. God is not going to make you do anything. He might make wish you had of done something. However, He is not going to make you do anything. You can continue whining complaining and moaning; you can do all of that. However, there is a sound of an abundance of rain. There is a blessing coming. There is some new growth coming. There are some storehouses that are going to be full. It is coming. Amen! Write it down.

Do you know what happens here? Awesome part of this story. He tells Ahab to get down and head to Jezreel. Elijah says, hey my servant, go out here and look towards the sea. Look towards the sea and tell me what you see. He goes out there and comes back and says I don't see anything. He said go back again. We know that he does. On the seventh trip do you know what he sees. He comes back and sees—get this—he says, hey man, I see a little cloud like a man's hand coming up out of the sea. Don't tell me God isn't real. God is real. God is real. Do you know what? The clouds rolled in. The black clouds—I'm going to tell what friend, there was a rain. There was an abundance of rain. Do you know what God did? God blessed old Elijah. I don't know how old he was but out run Ahab to Jezreel. That is in the book. He out run him. He got there. God has some great things.

God wants to bless. God wants to bless us. God is going to bless us. The question is—are you going to be a part of it? That is the question. Do you want to be a part of it? You can! Amen! You get to decide whether you are going to be blessed or not be blessed. You get to decide whether you are going to continue to dry up and look for

grass for the horses and mules, or you are going to hear the sound of the abundance of rain. It is your choice.

If you are here tonight in this building and you need to come and pray, it would be a great time for you to come and pray. If you are listening to me around the world, wherever you are at; it would be a great time for you to come. Call upon the God of heaven. He loves you. He cares about you. He wants to save you. He wants to forgive you. Why don't you come this evening? Why don't you call upon Him?

Come and pray—