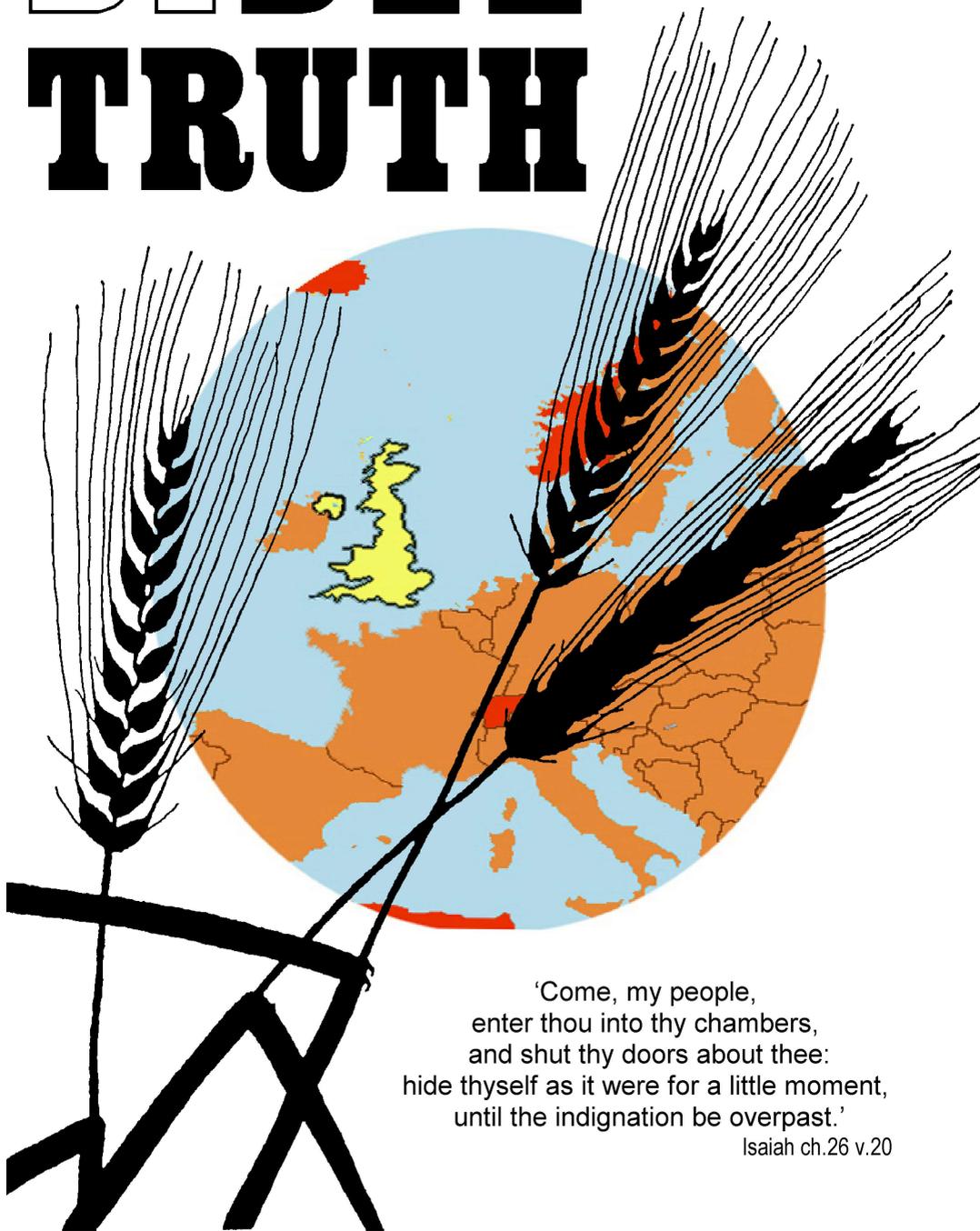


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'Come, my people,  
enter thou into thy chambers,  
and shut thy doors about thee:  
hide thyself as it were for a little moment,  
until the indignation be overpast.'

Isaiah ch.26 v.20



# CLOUD SMALL AS A HAND

by Bob Williams

We live in a wondrous period of history, yet at the same time they are extremely frustrating times for this Covenant Land, with apathy and ignorance of the Covenant People, in this day and age.

Often we can feel 'walled in' – family, neighbours, politicians, religion, all of them seemingly uninterested with what is happening and the wrong in society at large. It is a society living in such an unacceptable way, but we cannot escape being a part of it. The world is striving in its own strength to overcome the insurmountable.

Only with faith in GOD'S Word and being attuned to it, can we know the future, the hope, security and peace there will be, but which the world does not understand. You only understand by Spiritual revelation and not natural intellectual sight.

'For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.'

Romans ch.8 v.5

1 Kings Chapter 17 commences by setting out a particularly rebellious and immoral stage of Israel's history. The tragedy is we seem to be in exactly the same position today. The Scriptures tell us the Lord was stepping in at that stage, there was a drought brought in just as He warns with consequent famine and thirst. Today we have a famine of God's Word!

'Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:'

Amos ch.8 v.11

In the Bible statement of this period of time, Elijah was obedient to God's Command and drought with famine ensued.

True believers, those completely surrendered to Jesus, have the assurance of a 'Brook Cherith experience', always being fed by the Lord. Rather than allow Elijah to get comfortable, the divine source in

that place dried up and Elijah was moved on. In the same way like Elijah, we have to be prepared for the Lord moving us on. It is His Plan that matters and not our own personal plan and comfort. We should respond to the circumstances of our life changing and being moved on.

Of course the divine source had not dried up, indeed it cannot ever be possible to exhaust the Power of God, only at that point in time and place was the source hidden for a purpose. The Lord moved Elijah on to experience further evidence of His Power over all things. Although only a small handful of flour and a jar of oil being available to Elijah, he was not daunted, but with confidence in His Lord, it was sufficient.

Different to the 'servants of today', who must have constant material wealth (which you are encouraged to pray for), with glass cathedrals to encourage and minister Christianity. Elijah was taken away from the comfort of Brook Cherith and faced trials and testing, which meant that at all times his confidence and faith had to be focussed in God.

There were no massive audiences, devoted followers, huge publicity campaigns as we see today. He was a prophet not an entertainer!

You may say this did follow on Mount Carmel, with hundreds being in attendance as Elijah ministered God's Power against Baal's prophets. However, we need to hold back on this to see the Plan and Purpose of God. Remember the drought and famine was still causing disaster. It is in the third year of the disastrous conditions, yet similar to today, there was no repentance of the people's sin and iniquity –

- The messengers of the word were hidden away - Prophets
- Those in authority were idol worshippers and failing their people – King/Queen
- The people themselves totally apathetic and helpless – Society

King Ahab was more concerned for the livestock than his people.

'And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.'

1 Kings ch.18 v.5

As pious and fervent as Obadiah appeared to be, he did not want to 'rock the boat' of subservience.

When Elijah and the king met, there was still the rebellion with Ahab calling Elijah, 'the troubler of Israel'. In this Israel land of the covenant, Bible believing Christians are still being called 'troublers', which is why Europe is so concerned to silence true Christianity.

'And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.'

1 Kings ch.18 vv 17-19

Here we have a direct challenge from Elijah toward the idolatrous leaders and people of that time, which is required so much today. Of course it has to be in the total will and timing of the Lord. It had to be of the Lord that a rebellious and wicked character like Ahab would be so commanded.

Of course we know the outcome of the gathering, but it became a direct challenge to the people Israel to choose their course of life. The timing of the Lord in this day will be a blessing and curse choice for them and we shall be vital with true Spiritually revealed knowledge and understanding to assist those in turmoil. They will need to be aware and decide about their faltering between so-called 'reality' and the truth of the higher realm of Jesus.

So after the amazing work of God through Elijah on Mount Carmel, did he then go on a ministry tour, pulling in the crowds, demanding their adoration, enjoying the fame?

### **Today many make full time ministries of a short time of success**

No! - he went to the top of Carmel to meet with his God, to worship Him and wait upon Him, there was still much to be accomplished.

Today we should be in that helpful position as the true church, there is a sense of anticipation, as there was with Elijah there on the mountain. The Lord is about to do something to shake all the apathy and abomination around us. Are we then looking for a great 'revival' – perhaps not!. So often when the Sovereign Lord moved things forward, it was usually with the minimum of effort and numbers.

‘And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.’

1 Kings ch.18 vv 41-46

Here the man of God is directing a king! (The Sons of God will be in the same position in the Kingdom of God.) Still no rain had arrived – water, drought, famine and pestilence, still dominated life at that time.

Again it could be said we are in a similar position today, Spiritually and naturally we are in a disastrous mess.

Yet Elijah speaks of ‘the sound of the abundance of rain’.

### **What power of prayer**

‘Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.’

James ch.5 vv 17-18

Elijah (Gk Elias) was in a way a very ordinary person like us! He was the instrument to work the works of the Lord in varying degrees of elation, discouragement, courage and cowardice - but through the power of God succeeded.

He stood in a situation of drought and clear skies, but trusting in His Lord.

The Lord makes clear that any disobedience brings hardships.

‘And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all

your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.'

Deuteronomy ch.11 vv 13-17

Elijah had prayed in the Lord's Will and correction of Israel and now Elijah still stood in a situation of drought and clear skies, but he heard the 'sound of rain'.

### **What was that sound?**

He spoke as though feeling the rain drops; was it 'wild fantasy' or hopeful prophecy? The answer lies in His Walk and Life in the Lord. Similar to Elijah we should be tuned into the Lord - we should hear things the world does not hear, like metal to a magnet.

'And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.'

1 Kings ch.19 v.12

As a new creation we have an inner ear - an extra sense; it is the difference between the believer and non-believer, spiritual and non-spiritual.

### **Also known as faith**

Faith is a much misused and maligned word. We often pray for more of it. Why? It is too often used religiously ! Elijah did not say rain coming because it sounded holy. Faith should be as basic and fundamental as gravity is in nature.

'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.'

Romans ch.10 v.17

### **Knowing the full plan and purpose of God by revelation of the Bible**

'But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.'

Hebrews ch.11 v.6

It is the flower of the root and stem. It is the fruit of the vine, knowing the sovereignty of the Lord.

Elijah was told to pray for the rain to cease, he did that and there was no rain. Now he knows he has to pray and reverse it. Elijah could be confident and have faith in God's Word when called to minister.

**Beloved, this day if a true believer you are tuned in to God**

Our Lord will change things, take for example the time the Greeks came to see Jesus.

‘And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.’

John ch.12 vv 20-29

Some heard the voice as thunder! That is why we are ridiculed so much as Christians, or viewed as ‘out of touch’; God's sounds, His Words, are ‘thunder’ to them, something unacceptable - but they cannot escape from it, although not having understanding of it.

The World is striving in its own strength to overcome the insurmountable. You cannot see by natural sight revelation of the Spirit, but we in faith of God's word and attuned to it, know spiritual revelation gives the future and hope and security and peace the world cannot know. Once Jesus knew of the Greeks' request - it gave Him opportunity to take the Disciples further again. The appointed time consistently there!

In that appointed time the Lord placed Elijah in the position of the people having rain, or not. Seven times he told his servant to see if there was sign of rain and there was no sign, but Elijah relied on

spiritually hearing the sound of abundant rain. Then the servant did see a sign, what was it - storm clouds?

‘And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.’

1 Kings ch.18 v.44

We are not dealing with the large numbers, the loudest or the majority; it was a small cloud, as the size of a hand.

Elijah was of sufficient faith and confidence in his Lord concerning the outcome; he said to the servant ‘go down before the rain stops you’. A cloud as small as a man’s hand was sufficient evidence of the Lord moving.

Seemingly, the Lord uses small elements for bringing His Will into being, or increasing our revelation. Jesus Himself referred to His Disciples as a ‘small flock’.

‘But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’

Luke ch.12 vv 31-32

The symbolism of the small hand is significant too, since we have ‘the code’ for this in Matthew’s Gospel.

‘I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’

Matthew ch.3 vv 11-12

Reference to the winnowing fan means He is speaking about ‘judgment’, starting with His own people who are continuing to reject Him and act in a rebellious and stiff-necked way.

### **We get the connection from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah**

‘Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting. And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways.’

Jeremiah ch.15 vv 6-7

However, the Lord has His Appointed times for carrying out all the elements of His Plan and Purpose.

‘For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.’  
Isaiah ch.41 vv 13-16

A hand, when we look at it forms a five point usable means of achieving; it also represents the ‘five point ministry of the Apostles’.

‘Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:’  
Ephesians ch.4 vv 8-13

All this is in accordance with the Apostles’ doctrine as taught them by Jesus through the Holy Spirit. This little flock, whom the lord has been gathering out of the general assembly for a special work, the overcomers, seemingly hidden, no one taking them seriously, will then come into their gifted and anointed ministry, all in his appointed time.

The Glass Cathedral ministries may be having their rather inward looking froth and bubble time at present, but the Lord will not be hesitant to bring in a True Ministry of the full Gospel of the Kingdom.

The ‘little flock’ - a cloud as small as a man’s hand - will be sufficient to bring the necessary results for the promised and assured ‘former and latter rain’.

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