

## **Message Notes**

### **“. . . and I’ve Seen Rain”**

#### **1 Kings 18:41-44 (ESV)**

**February 12, 2017**

#### **The Theme Today Is Not Improvement for Absence of Rain**

- ◆ **In an Anguished Country (Illustrated in California)**
  - ◆ **Extended Drought**
  - ◆ **Examples of Difficulty**
    - ◆ **Groundwater Deficit (1 acre foot = 325,851 gallons)**
    - ◆ **Forest Fatalities**
- ◆ **By an Abrupt Change**
  - ◆ **Extensive Rain**

“2017 will not be a surface water drought for California. Precipitation and snowpack in much of the state already exceeds that for an entire average water year, and we still have two months to go in California’s wet season.”  
(“Water Deeply” California Drought Newsletter)
  - ◆ **Eliminated Danger**

“Nearly all of California’s major reservoirs are currently above historical average levels, with the state’s two largest reservoirs, Oroville and Shasta, currently at 126 percent and 124 percent, respectively. . . . and the area of the state with extreme drought now is below 1 percent, compared with nearly 2 percent one week ago (January 2017).”  
(U.S. Drought Monitor)
  - ◆ **Elevated Hope**

“It gives everything a much brighter look.”  
(Frank Gehrke, California Snow Survey Chief)

“We are no longer in a drought emergency. Conditions have changed significantly since the drought emergency was declared (in 2014).”  
(Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District for Southern California)

#### **The Theme Is Intercession to Advance Righteousness**

And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.” So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.  
(1 Kings 18:41-42)

- ◆ **How to Have Confidence When Praying**
  - ◆ **Accept God’s Provision**

“Prayer is the human tool of faith that God has sovereignly chosen to translate His promises into performance. . . . Prayer is the hand of faith that reaches out and grasps the promises of God. It is one of the instruments God uses to mold us into His image and purposes.”  
(J. Hampton Keathley)

◆ **Align Ourselves with God's Promises**

“And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, . . . Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; <sup>17</sup>then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you. (Deuteronomy 11:13-14a, 16-17)

After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.” (1 Kings 18:1)

◆ **By Appreciating Those that Are Unique (Joshua 6:3-5)**

“Every promise in the book is mine . . .?”

◆ **By Appropriating Those that Are Universal**

(Psalm 103:11-13; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 7:7-8; Romans 10:11-13; Philippians 4:19)

◆ **By Acknowledging His Conditions**

◆ **Promises with Guidelines (1 John 1:9; Matthew 21:22; Psalm 66:18)**

◆ **Promises with Grace (Psalm 119:105; Daniel 4:35; Titus 2:11)**

◆ **By Acting on His Reliability**

After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.” . . . And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain.” (1 Kings 18:1, 41)

◆ **How to Show Commitment to Praying**

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he 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 at the seventh time he said, “Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea.” And he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.’” (1 Kings 18:42-44)

◆ **Elijah's Place Showed Deliberateness**

◆ **Elijah's Posture Showed Dependence**

◆ **Elijah's Persistence Showed Devotion**

“We pray casually instead of fervently and intensely. And we regard persistence in prayer as an indication of lack of faith. To us, faith means asking God one time for something and to ask again is tantamount to admitting we do not expect to receive it. How Elijah's prayer rebukes this kind of praying!” (Roger Ellsworth)

*To deepen our experience of prayer, follow Elijah's practice.*

*To what place can we go to show our decisiveness?*

*What positions could we assume to show our devotion?*

*What manner of persistence would most clearly express our devotion to prayer?*

*Answering these questions will teach us much and show us more.*

(Pastor Dave)