

THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS

Look up, the rain has stopped; look down, the fruit is not flowing

06-28-09

(Amos 8:11,12) **Behold**, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine [hunger] in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD**: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro **to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it**.

(1 Ki 17:1) And **Elijah** the Tishbite [Heb: of Tishbeh (in Gilead)], who was of the inhabitants of Gilead [Heb: mass of testimony], said unto **Ahab**, **As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years** [because of the idolatry of the people of the ten northern tribes (Israel) under the leadership of King Ahab and Jezebel], **but according to my word**.

1. (Deu 11:13-17) 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** [the early rain in the autumn encouraged the sprouting of seed and new growth] **and the latter rain** [in the spring brought the crops to maturity], 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.
2. (Luke 4:25,26) But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, **when the heaven was shut up three years and six months** [a reference to the Great Tribulation], when **great famine** was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elijah sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.
3. (James 5:17,18) Elijah 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** [i.e., the word of God].

FIRST A NATURAL REFUGE HERE

(1 Ki 17:2-7) **And the word of the LORD** [an angel, or Christ: John 1:14] came unto him, saying, **Get thee hence**, and turn thee eastward, **and hide thyself** [from Ahab and Jezebel] by **the brook Cherith**, that is before [east of] Jordan [in the wild-erness]. And it shall be, that thou shalt **drink of the brook**; and I have commanded **the ravens to feed thee there** [God uses the saved and the unsaved to His own purpose]. **So he went and did** according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him **bread and flesh** in the morning, and **bread and flesh** in the evening; and **he drank of the brook**. And it came to pass after a while, **that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land** [the natural dried up because of the lack of the spiritual – is your brook drying up?].

1. **Dictionary**: raven = any of several large corvine [resembling a crow] birds with lustrous black plumage and raucous voice, esp. the raven, of the New and Old Worlds, which has from time immemorial been considered a bird of ill omen.

SECOND A SPIRITUAL REFUGE THERE

(1 Ki 17:8-11) And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, **Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon** [the king of Zidon was Jezebel's father], **and dwell there** [i.e., in the bosom of the enemy]: behold, **I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee**. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there **gathering of sticks**: and he called to her, and said, **Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink**. And as she was [obediently] going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, **Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand**.

1. Zarephath = Heb: **refinement** [the purpose of the Great Tribulation] // to fuse (metal), i.e. refine:-- cast, (re-) fine (-er), founder, goldsmith, melt, pure, purge away, try. [To refine who? The widow woman represents you and I]
2. Zidon = Heb: in the sense of catching fish; fishery.

3. widow = Heb: a widow; also a desolate place:--desolate house /// in the sense of bereavement; discarded (as a divorced person):--forsaken.

(1 Ki 17:12) And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, **I have not a cake [of bread], but an handful of meal [ground seed: flour] in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse [a saucer]:** and, behold, I am gathering **two sticks [a type of the cross]**, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

(1 Ki 17:13,14) And Elijah said unto her, **Fear not;** go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof **a little cake first**, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, **The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth [a period of time that lasted 3 ½ years].**

(1 Ki 17:15,16) And **she went and did** according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. **And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah [food and nourishment (strong implication of growth) provided in refuge].**

PARALLELS

(Rev 12:1-6) And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; **a woman [the born-again church universal] clothed with the sun [the white (Gk: light) robe of righteousness, the shed blood of Jesus Christ], and the moon under her feet [Satan a defeated foe],** and upon her head **a crown of twelve stars [the twelve tribes, the twelve disciples]:** And she being with child [pregnant] cried, **travailing [in Great Tribulation] in birth, and pained to be delivered.** And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold **a great red dragon,** having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. **And his tail drew the third part of the stars [angels] of heaven, and did cast them to the earth [as fallen angels, devils, demons, unclean spirits]:** and the dragon [defiantly] **stood before the woman [in the courtyard of the Tabernacle] which was ready to be delivered [in the Holy/Most Holy Place], for to devour her child as soon as it was born.** And she brought forth **a man child,** who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: **and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.** And the woman **fled into the wilderness,** [FIRST A NATURAL REFUGE HERE] where she hath **a place prepared of God,** that they should **feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days [1260 days % 30 = 42 months = 3 ½ years].**

(Rev 12:13,14) And when **the dragon** saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted **the woman** which brought forth **the man child.** And to the woman were given **two wings of a great eagle,** that she might **fly into the wilderness** [SECOND A SPIRITUAL REFUGE THERE] [This is commonly described as the rapture], into **her place,** where **she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time [3 ½ years],** from the face of the serpent.

Amen