

## ***Prayer for Revival***

### ***Part 2***

### ***No Revival Without Homoiopathes***

***“17 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. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” (James 5:17-18 KJV)***

The prophet Elijah (Elias) when he prayed the fire of God fell from heaven on the sacrifice that he prepared on the mount Carmel. Upon that event the revival started and through Elijah God executed the judgment of God on the ministers of Baal. ***“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 18:40 KJV)***

We like to see the fire of God (the Holy Ghost) falling from heaven on the ministry that we are doing. And we want to do similar things great as what Elijah did on the mount of Carmel. Apostle James, the half brother of Jesus, wrote about Elijah and said that he ***“was a man subject to like passions as we are.” (James 5:17 KJV)*** So we understand that Elijah was a man under suffering, as the brethren and the apostles who were under suffering. Elijah did great things in his ministry, and finally ascended to heaven by chariots and horses of fire. But if we go to the Scriptures we see also the sufferings that Elijah passed through and we will see the stages that God let Elijah passed through before the marvelous ministry that God did through him on mount Carmel.

Elijah ministered during the time of Ahab who was one of the most wicked kings of Israel. Ahab married Jezebel whom through her, the worship of Baal entered Israel. Jezebel was the first one mentioned in the Bible that she painted her face. During the time of Ahab, the city of Jericho was rebuilt, ***“In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.” (1 Kings 16:34 KJV)*** That particularly was an evil event because Jericho was the first fruit to God whom God said that needed to be destroyed and offered fully to Him. Joshua declared the death of his first born the one who will build its walls, and on his youngest shall be the one who will set up of its gates: ***“And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.” (Joshua 6:26 KJV)*** Ahab defied that command of God, and allowed Hiel the Bethelite to do such, whom even after the death of his first born was so stubborn to continue even he lost all his children up to the youngest one when he set up the gates of Jericho. That event made Elijah prompted by God to go and face the stubborn Ahab. Elijah went ahead against him and declared to him the following: ***“1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but***

***according to my word.” (1 Kings 17:1 KJV)*** The first suffering of Elijah is persecution by the wicked Ahab. The rebuke that he addressed Ahab with was heavy. He told the king that there will be no rain, and that mean there will be drought and famine, for man and animals, because there will be no plants, herbs or fruit due to the lack of rain. Elijah told the king that rain will come only upon Elijah’s Word. That made the King Ahab more angry toward him. Ahab indeed searched all the surrounding nations for Elijah but he did not found him.

Elijah prayed and requested God to prohibit the rain, and it was so for three years and six months. He was willing to suffer for three and half year of famine, standing with God, so that those who oppose God will be disciplined and prepared to give up their Baal worships and come back to the Lord. ***Are you willing to be disciplined like Elijah disciplined himself so that other who oppose God be discipline and give up their idol worship?***

King Ahab and the Israelites were the people of God, but they gone astray from the ways of God and they were needed to be put under famine to be disciplined. Now a day everyone pray for blessing but no one willing to pray for the rain and the blessings of God to be withhold and suffer in behalf of God so that people will be humbled down and be willing to give up their wrong plans and purposes with their idols. ***Now, are you willing to go with the plan of God and the will of God in order that His plan and His will to be fulfilled in the life of His people? Ahab***

Because of the famine and the consequences of it, and because of the persecution of Ahab and its effect, the Lord needed to give this instruction to Elijah: ***“2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. 4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. 5 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. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.” (1 Kings 17:1-6 KJV)***

Elijah needed to go and hide, he was a great man of God, but he submitted to the will of God and went and hid himself in the place that the Lord designated to him. Someone else will say, ‘Why such a man need to go and hid himself beside a brook. He can go and minister to some people: he can go and work, he can go and live in other better places!’ ***Sometime you take the place of God and want to change your own plans just to avoid the suffering circumstances that God wants you to pass through.*** Elijah was asked to receive his food, meat and bread, from the mouth of ravens. He was forced to eat food which is not clean, from source that is not known. But he trusted God and obeyed His instructions. He quenched his thirst with water from the brook, without any juice, soft drink or coffee or tea as we do today. He needed to eat the same food every day and no alternative choice. He was forced to abide in a place, isolated from any person and not ministering to anyone. This is the passion, the suffering, that Elijah had passed through. The Greek word for passion that used in ***James 5:17*** is ‘Homoiopathes’, and it mean ‘suffering the like with another, of like feelings or affections’, and it is repeated only in ***Acts 14:15*** ***“And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.” (Acts 14:15 KJV)***

The NIV and many other Bible versions of **James 5:17** and **Acts 14:15** is not having the word passion (i.e. suffering), ***“Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.”*** (**James 5:17 NIV**) ***“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.”*** (**Acts 14:15 NIV**) *I heard many they speak about Elijah but I heard none speaking about his passion and suffering. Now put it in your mind, ‘No revival and real work of God without Homoiopathes.’*

*How people will go to the term and conditions of God if their Bibles do not reflect the views of God and removed words that is essential to bring them to the will of God? Now Christians became wild and they cannot live without restaurants and readymade food and had forgotten how to bake and how to cook in their houses; they have forgotten to use cheap and simple resources to cook healthy food. No more humility. No more people of God submitting to His will. Girls now reaching the marriage age without knowing how to manage the kitchen work that essential for daily life of the family. Now the men of God are linked with eating delicious plates in expensive and famous places. Alas, the people of God had gone far away and now they need to come back to God. The theme of Suffering should be back to our Bibles, to our lives, and to our ministries.*

***“And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.”*** (**1 Kings 17:7 KJV**) The situation of the lack of rain was so severe that even the brook dried up. Elijah had to suffer greatly; for him to wait upon God was his stand. When no more water made available to him to live on, the Lord sent him to another city to be fed by a widow.

***“8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 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. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 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. 14 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. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 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.”*** (**1 Kings 17:8-16 KJV**) Upon the drying of the brook because there was no rain, Elijah was sent to dwell in ***Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon***. He finished the stage of eating the dirty meat and bread from the raven, now he needed to be supplied by a widow. But what kind

of food a widow can supply him? Sure it is a simple food with less quantity. It would be better for Elijah that the Lord will tell him to go and work; it will be far better than to be humiliated to be supplied by a widow. He is a man but sitting without work and the widow is feeding him. *Many they disobey God and they will not go to serve God in places where they will know that the food is not of high quality. But Elijah was willing to follow the direction of God and to go to the place that God would send him. Such thing that God would tell us to do it might be questionable to us and we may not like it. Certain time also we want to understand why and why. But God is not after us to understand, but He is after us to obey and to continue to obey. In certain situation God would put us in a puzzled situation, but we should not question God or doubt His ways in us. We should trust Him that He is leading us into His will and plans.*

Further more the following had taken place: ***“17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.”*** (**1 Kings 17:17-19 KJV**) Elijah was living there and the son of the widow died. His food was from the widow, she knew that he is a man from God, and such as thus had happened become so embarrassing. *Before revival to take place God would let us pass through humiliating events. He supposed to be a source of blessings to her, but while he is in her house her son died. How then he can show his face to the woman? Many times we want God to bless others so we will be approved that we are the people of God and that the Lord is listening to our prayers. We want God to answer our prayers because we think what the people will think about us if our prayers are not answered. We want God to bless the people because we think what the people will feel about us if material blessings are not coming to them while we are ministering to them. This is evil pride and we need to get rid of such attitude if we want true revival of God to visit our ministries.*

*Elijah during the whole three and half years he ministered only to few people, the widow, her son, and some of others in her house. What kind of ministry is this? Certain time we question God, ‘What kind of ministry is this?’ ‘What is more humiliating than to eat from a poor widow?’ Imagine, Elijah the one who ascend to heaven taken by chariots and horses of fire, he is ministering to only few people over a long period of time!*

Elijah, After he took the boy to his room, ***“20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?”*** (**1 Kings 17:20 KJV**) He told God, ***“O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?”*** As if Elijah was telling to God, ‘Please have mercy on me, understand my situation Lord, I am living in a room in the house of this woman, she knew that I belong to you, but now her son is dead, and I don’t know what to do, unless you bring him back to life.’ After that Elijah prayed: ***“21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.”*** (**1 Kings 17:21**) After the prayer of Elijah God answered him, and once again the son of the widow came to life. ***“22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came***

into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.” (1 Kings 17:21-24 KJV) The woman with the return back of her son to life, she was assured by God that Elijah is a real man of God, and all the Word of God from his mouth is true.

After all these series of testing and trials that Elijah passed through, the Lord decided to send him back to meet Ahab and to bring rain back to the land, “*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.*” (1 Kings 18:1 KJV) That period of time was enough for Ahab and the Israelites to be humbled down and disciplined by the bad effect of the lack of rain and prepared them to the moment that they would be ready to get rid of Baal worship that was prevalent in the land. After Elijah met Ahab he requested him to arrange the meeting on mount Carmel, “*19 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 18:19 KJV) Upon that request the rest of the following event took place, “*20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. 22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: 24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. 25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. 26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. 27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. 28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. 29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. 30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. 34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they*

*did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. 35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. 36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”* (1 Kings 18:20-39 KJV) and end up by the slaughtering of the prophets of Baal, “*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 18:40 KJV) When that took place Elijah announced to Ahab the soon coming back of the rain: “*41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.*” (1 Kings 18:41 KJV)

The whole purpose of the lack of rain and famine was to eliminate Baal worship from Israel. So it is a fruitful thing to pray to God to withhold the blessings and His rain from His people who had left Him and went after idols and false gods to worship and serve.

True that James wrote such about Elijah that he prayed earnestly to God to withhold the rain. Now some may ask the following question: Would Jesus agrees for us to pray such kind of prayer to withhold rain from the people for three and half years? Would Jesus agrees about what the prophet Elijah did? Many they would not pray that God would stop His blessings to flow on others thinking that Jesus would not like us to pray in such a way; they think and they speak such because they don't know what the Word of God tell us about Jesus, “*24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.*” (Luke 4:24-26 KJV) Jesus is the first one informs us the period that heaven was shut up, three years and six months at the time of Elijah. The Old Testament did not inform us about that. James quoted the period of no rain from Jesus. So Jesus agreed and confirmed what Elijah prayed. Jesus explained to us more why that took place. Elijah was a prophet without honor to his own country people, the Israelites that God sent. They did not recognize and heed warning from him. Therefore when God withhold the rain in honoring to the Word of Elijah, this prophet was not sent to any of the widows of Israel because they would not listen and got bless by his ministry. Therefore he was sent to a non believer widow, outside the people of God, who honored and obeyed the Word of God through Elijah, and who finally was blessed when she was well supplied with food during the period of famine, and who received her own son back from death.

**My dear and beloved:** Now we can understand why Elijah was sent to that widow. Jesus made that clear to us. As well as we are taught that we really need to pray for God's blessings to be withhold and taken away from people who had received God's blessing but

had gone away from God serving their own idols and doing their own will and spoiling the field of the work of God.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me and made me understand your will and your ways.*

*Lord I ask you forgiveness for my sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Let us confess and renounce our sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to apply the principles that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself to whatever way of suffering that you want me to pass through in order that you would discipline your people and bring them in subjection to your will.*

*Lord I pray earnestly that you will withhold your rain and your blessings from your people; your churches, the pastors and the leaders who left you and followed their own idols, Lord keep the situation as such till they repent and come back to you.*

*Lord also I pray earnestly for those who repented and had thrown away their idols and cleansed their lives and churches and ministries from all the abominable things, Lord let your blessings come back to them.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and sister who committed their lives to serve you. Lord protect them, and provide all their needs. Lord gives them good health and the strength needed to go on and to make disciples. Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit to go and evangelize and give them the gift of healing, the gift of faith and other spiritual gifts needed to serve you. Lord I pray for true revival in their ministries, in their lives, and in their walk with you. Lord through their lives touch other peoples' lives and bring them near to you.*

*Lord bless your church, add to us workers and members, Lord enable us to reach new area with the gospel and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations. We thank you and we praise you for all your goodness and your faithfulness to us. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf  
The Church Overseer  
Church of God  
United Arab Emirates  
Email: [thebread1@gmail.com](mailto:thebread1@gmail.com)  
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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