

# calvary chapel

portsmouth



## 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings

*Simply teaching the Word simply*

# A Man of Faith

- Elijah prays a most audacious prayer
  - “No dew or rain for 3 ½ years”
- How much faith did this require?

# An Ordinary Man

**17** *Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth for 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**

# Faith

<sup>20</sup> ...verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Matthew 17:20**

# Faith

- Faith = Risk?
- Is faith hoping that something might happen?
- Is it believing with all your heart that it will happen?
- Is it just believing without doubting?
  - cf James 1:5
- Isn't that just positive confession?



# Positive Confession?

*7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he*

**Proverbs 23:7**

- Note: This often misquoted verse is actually saying that a person may not be what they appear to be on the surface!
- It is the heart that reveals the true nature of a person

# Faith

- So what is faith?

*I* Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

- Faith is not faith in faith
  - It is not how much you want or believe something
- Faith is faith in GOD!

# Faith

- It is faith in God's character
- It is the confident assurance that God is the same, yesterday, today & forever
- It is the knowledge that God is faithful & delights in keeping His promises
  - No one can have faith in God without knowing Him!
- It is on this basis that Elijah prays!



# Faith

*22 And Jesus answering saith unto them,*

*Have faith in God.*

*23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

**Mark 11:22-23**

# Faith

- *“Either we trust in the power of a firmly held belief activating some mysterious psychic power of the mind, or else we trust in God and His infinite power, which is obviously demonstrated everywhere in the universe. Only a fool would choose the power of the mind over the power of God. True faith looks to God to do that which neither one’s mind (conscious or unconscious) nor talents nor efforts could accomplish” - Dave Hunt*

# According to His Word...

<sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

<sup>17</sup> 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 11:16-17

# According to His Word...

- God had said that if the people turned away and worshipped false gods...
- In His wrath He would withhold the rain!
- Elijah simply holds God to account!
- “God you have promised so now you have to do according to Your word”!
  - Doesn't this help to put faith in context!

# According to His Word...

- In order to pray in faith (effectively), we must be diligent students of His Word!

# According to His Word...

<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth for three years and six months.

**James 5:17**

- Note Elijah's confidence in God and His word!



*I 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

- It was God's word!
  - Elijah was simply uttering what God had already decreed.

# According to His Word...

**18** *And he prayed again; and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

**James 5:18**

- What would be the condition of God granting this request?



# 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings

## Chapter 18

*I 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**



9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

**Deuteronomy 30:9-10**

*2 And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.*

*3 And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:*

*4 For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)*

**1 Kings 18:2-4**



*5 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 18:5**

<sup>6</sup> So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

<sup>7</sup> And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?

<sup>8</sup> And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

**1 Kings 18:6-8**

9 And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldst deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?

10 As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

11 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

1 Kings 18:9-11

**12** And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

**13** Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

**1 Kings 18:12-13**

**14** And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.

**15** And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.

**16** So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

**17** And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

**1 Kings 18:14-17**

# Inverted Reasoning!

*20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

*21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

**Isaiah 5:20-21**

- Time has changed nothing!
- We are still held to be to the perpetrators!




# Blame The Christians

- Nero blamed the Christians for the fire that destroyed Rome in A.D. 64
- Christians are blamed today for ‘brainwashing’ their Children by teaching them about Biblical Creation rather than teaching them the Science of Evolution!
  - Note: there is NO science to support Evolution!!
- Christians are blamed for being intolerant!
  - How many ‘Gay’ B&B’s have been targeted by Christians?
  - How many ‘Gay’ bakers have been taken to court for rejecting Christian values?

# Blame The Christians

- In 1967, medieval historian Lynn White Jr. published an article called 'The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis'.
- *White argued that '[Western] Christianity is the most anthropocentric religion the world has seen'. He concludes that the modern technological conquest of nature that has led to our environmental crisis has in large part been made possible by the dominance in the West of this Christian world-view. Christianity therefore 'bears a huge burden of guilt'*

A photograph of Barack Obama speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He has a small American flag pin on his lapel. He is gesturing with his right hand. A white speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text. The background is dark blue.

AND, DON'T FORGET:  
CHRISTIANS DID SOME  
AWFUL THINGS A  
THOUSAND YEARS AGO.  
AND SINCE MANY  
MUSLIMS STILL THINK  
IT'S THE TENTH  
CENTURY, WE SHOULD  
CUT THEM SOME SLACK.

Obama at the National Prayer Breakfast

“The future must  
not belong to  
those who  
slander the  
prophet of Islam”

- Barack Hussein Obama







Warren predicts that fundamentalism, of all varieties, will be *'one of the big enemies of the 21st century'*.

*'Muslim fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, secular fundamentalism - they're all motivated by fear. Fear of each other.'*

*(January 8th 2006 edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer).*

# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

TheTimesNews.Com Published:

Friday, November 22, 2013 at 04:49 PM.

- Twenty years ago, the New York Times ran a full-page ad for Columbia University. It advertised seven fields of study in which a person can get a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies: American, Ancient, East Asian, Islamic, Jewish, Medieval, and South Asian Studies. Richard John Neuhaus spotted this ad and wrote an editorial about it, asking, “Where is Christian Studies?”



# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

TheTimesNews.Com Published:

Friday, November 22, 2013 at 04:49 PM.

- He pondered four possible reasons and then settled with this one: “Nervousness is caused by the awareness that there are an awful lot of people who really believe in Christianity. The university is a cosmopolitan space where ‘religious traditions’ can be subjected to critical examination but are not to be taught as though they might be, well, you know, true.

# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

TheTimesNews.Com Published:

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- Even in religious studies departments, faculty members who are Hindus, Buddhists, and believers in Mystical Crystals can quite openly profess their faith. Muslims and, usually, Jews can, too. Nobody raises a question about their ‘proselytizing.’ Not so with Christians. The fear is that Christianity might be taken altogether too seriously.

# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

TheTimesNews.Com Published:

Friday, November 22, 2013 at 04:49 PM.

- The absence of Christian Studies in the Columbia program, it turns out, is not an insult to Christianity. Those of the other faiths, however might have reason to be offended.”

# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

TheTimesNews.Com Published:

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- I think Neuhaus was right. We see his theory working itself out in universities everywhere whose religious life groups are being told by administrators that proselytizing at an event cannot be done unless the people who are being proselytized have come to the event knowing that there will be an attempt to convert them. Just wondering ...which religious groups are they concerned about?

# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

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- A man named Saul in the first century made it his aim to destroy the church, to put an end to the Christians’ proselytizing once and for all. Let me ask you something. Why was Saul persecuting the church? Was it because the church sang awesome songs, heard interesting talks, and got together to think about how to improve themselves and help others? No. Saul knew the church perhaps better than we did.

# “Be aware of the ‘dangers’ of Christianity”

TheTimesNews.Com Published:

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- He knew that if they were right, and that Jesus really was the Messiah and that salvation comes not through works of righteousness but by grace through faith, then his whole life was a pile of rubbish. That’s what he wrote later, after his conversion to Christianity: “Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”
- Be aware of the dangers of Christianity. You might find that it is, well, you know, true!

**18** 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.

**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 18:18-19**

- 450 Prophets of Baal
- 400 Prophets of Ashtoreth / Astarte



# Ashtoreth

- Ashtoreth the primary goddess worshiped by the ancient Canaanites and neighbouring peoples, including the Philistines **1 Samuel 31:10**. The Israelites also worshiped Ashtoreth from as early as the time immediately following the death of Joshua **Judges 2:13**.

Ashtoreth was often associated with carved trees. Therefore, Ashtoreth worship often took place in forested areas, under a tree, or in an area marked by a carved "Ashtoreth pole," such as the one made by the evil King Manasseh **2 Kings 21:7**.

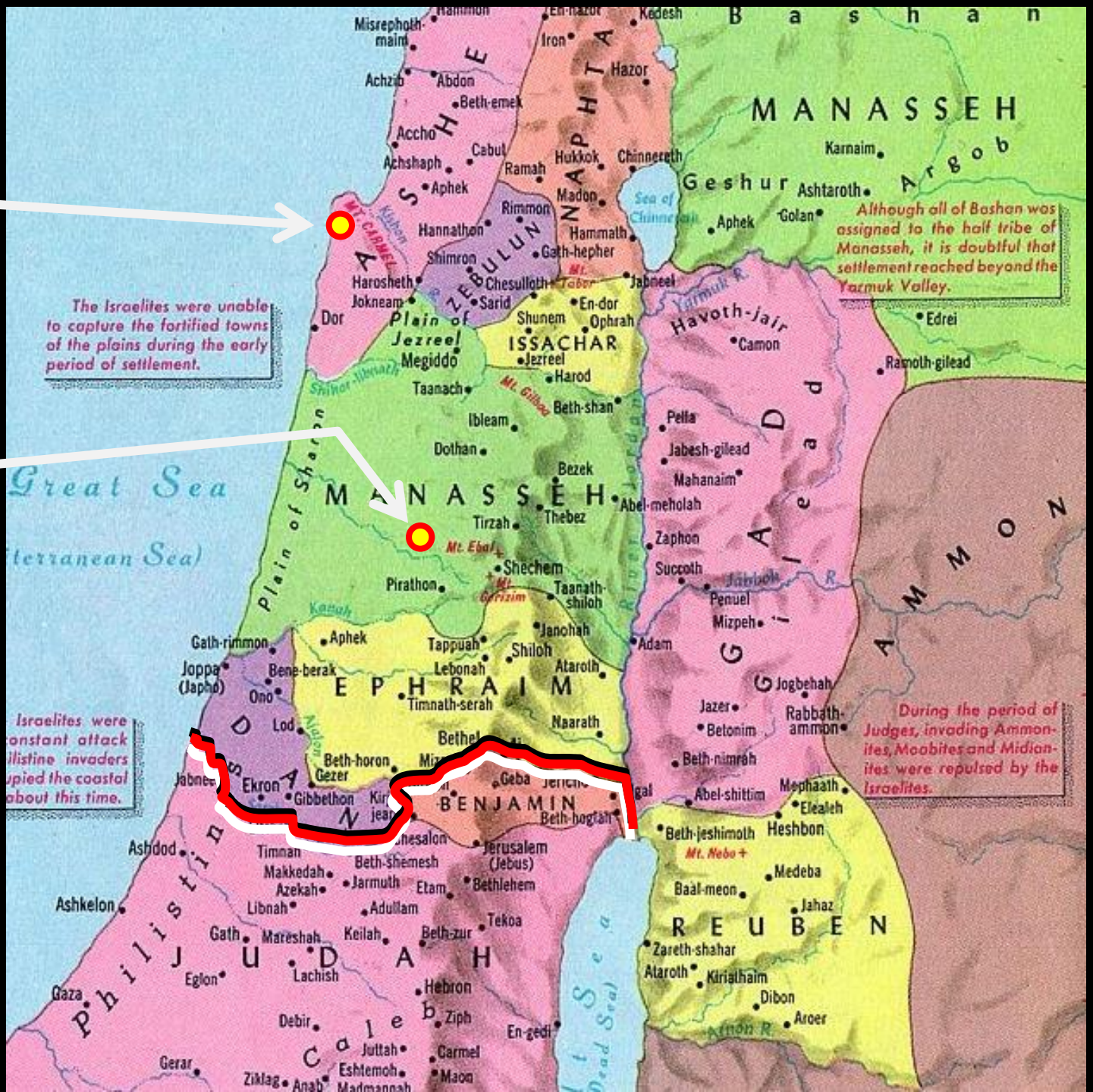
# Ashtoreth

- Ashtoreth was also identified as the moon goddess who belonged to the family of gods associated with Baal the sun god **Judges 3:7;6:28**. Worship to her included sexual immorality, prostitution, divination, and fortune telling. As a result, the Mosaic Law spoke specifically against Ashtoreth worship **Deuteronomy 16:21**. Despite warnings from the Lord, many Israelite leaders worshiped Ashtoreth. Several of Solomon's wives drew the king from the true God to "Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians" **1 Kings 11:5** most likely the same as Ashtoreth. Queen Jezebel also worshiped Ashtoreth and supported 400 Ashtoreth prophets **1 Kings 18:19**.

Mt Carmel



Samaria



The Israelites were unable to capture the fortified towns of the plains during the early period of settlement.

Although all of Bashan was assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh, it is doubtful that settlement reached beyond the Yarmuk Valley.

Israelites were constant attack Philistine invaders occupied the coastal about this time.

During the period of Judges, invading Ammonites, Moabites and Midianites were repulsed by the Israelites.



# Mt. Carmel



*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.*

**1 Kings 18:20-22**

- Romans 11:4 - 7000 prophets remained that Elijah knew nothing of

*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.*

**1 Kings 18:23-24**



*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.*

**1 Kings 18:25-26**

*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.*

**1 Kings 18:27-28**

*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.*

**1 Kings 18:29-30**

*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.*

**1 Kings 18:31-32**

*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.*

**1 Kings 18:33-35**



*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.*

**1 Kings 18:36-37**

- This is the key to understanding all that Elijah did! – None of this was his own design, but according to God's Word!



*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.*

*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 18:38-40**

- We must put to death all that would seek to separate us from God in our lives

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

*42 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,*

*43 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.*

**1 Kings 18:41-43**

- Elijah was in no doubt, as this was not dependant on the size of his faith, but on the size of His God!

*44 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.*

*45 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.*

*46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*



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