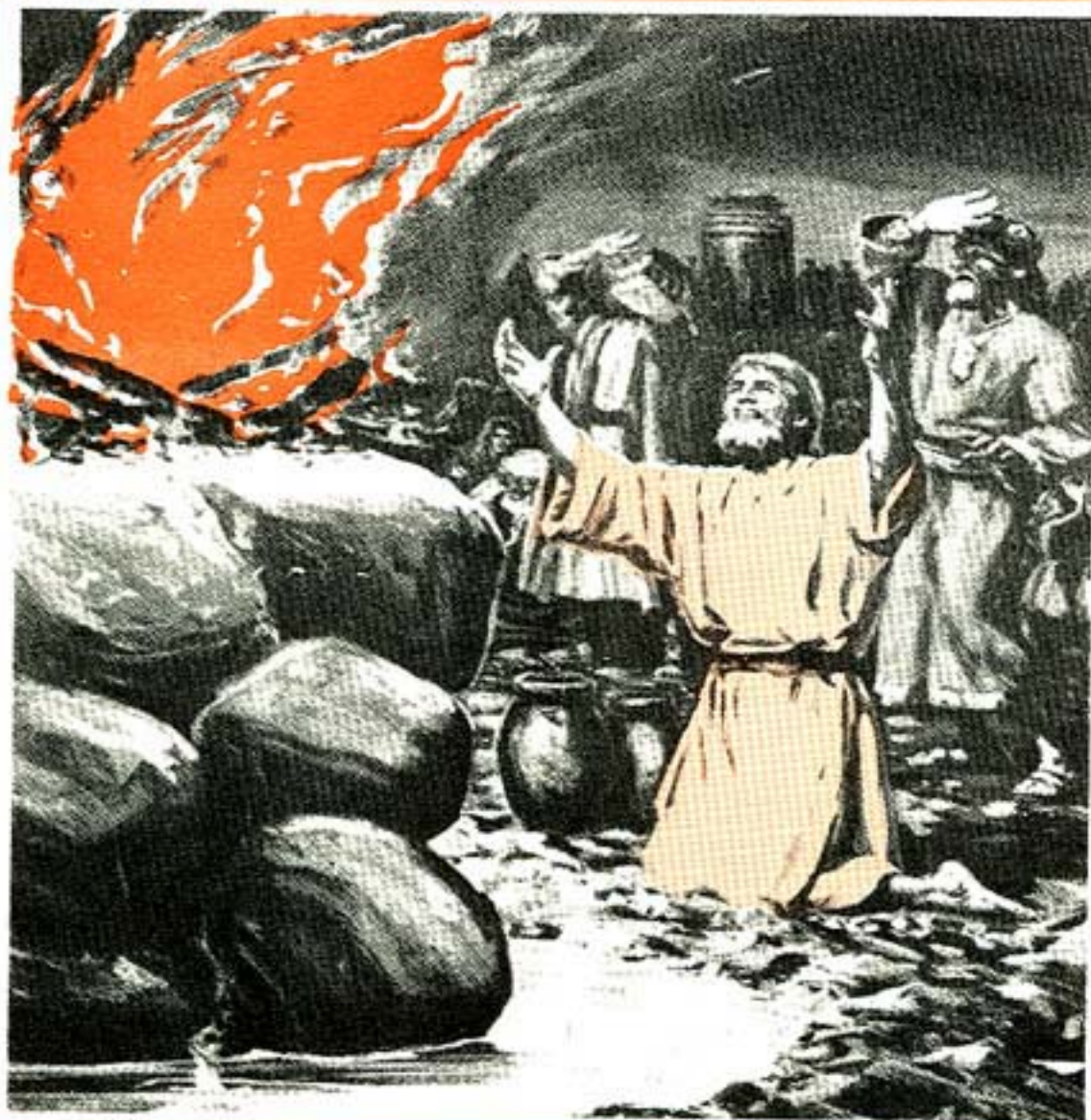


I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET



The Best of Sheldon Emry

I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET

by Sheldon Emry

INTRODUCTION

The following are the last words of the Old Testament:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5-6

A study of the above prophecy is herein presented to ascertain if there is to be a future fulfillment; and if so, if it is to be by a literal resurrection of Elijah or by some other means, that we may correctly understand God's promise, and not be deceived by false claims which might be made in the name of Elijah or in the Name of his Lord and ours, Jesus Christ.

This study is slightly-condensed and revised from sermons preached by Pastor Sheldon Emry.

I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH, THE PROPHET

I'm convinced that the fulfillment of the prophecy of Elijah the Prophet, given in the last two verses of the old Scripture, has a lot to do with what is going to happen in the future, here in America.

I believe that you will see that there is something very very important about the

last two verses in the Old Testament. There must be a reason why God Almighty, of all the prophecies He gave us, left these two verses at the end of the Old Scripture of the Bible common used among the Israel people.

Let's read it in Malachi 4, verses 5 and 6, because this is the prophecy that we will be talking about in all the rest of the Scripture to which I refer.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5-6

WHAT CHRIST SAID ABOUT ELIJAH

Not only did He say, I'm going to send him to do something, but apparently whatever it is that Elijah the prophet is going to do, it's going to be done, or ELSE God will have to smite the earth with a curse. Thus, it is a very important prophecy. Now turn with me over to the book of Matthew, because we are going to read some things about a fulfillment of some of this prophecy, regarding Elijah, and what Christ said about it. First, turn to Matthew 16, verse 13.

Is It Jesus?

In this verse, there is evidence that some people thought that Jesus was this Elijah, which was to come:

*“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.”*

Matthew 16:13-14

The people knew something of these prophecies, for they were Israel people who knew a lot about the Old Testament. They thought, at least some of them thought, Jesus was this Elijah.

“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Son of the Living God,”

Matthew 16:15-16

Jesus thereby identified that He was not Elijah. Jesus was the Christ, the son of the Living God. Thus, He was not fulfilling the Elijah prophecy. This is, also, told in Mark 8 and Luke 9, making three witnesses of this same identification that Jesus was not fulfilling this prophecy of Elijah. Now, turn to Matthew, chapter 17, where it states:

*“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.”*

Matthew 17:1-3

It should be noted that Elias is Greek to English for Elijah. This is the transfiguration on the mount, where Christ was changed. He apparently appeared as if He were white and glowed; but with Him were two other men. And of all the Old Testament saints of Scripture, apparently Moses and Elijah were the two most important, at least as far as this incident was concerned. So these three apostles saw Christ changed, and they saw Moses and Elijah with Him.

Then in verse 9 we read:

“And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.”

Matthew 17:9

Now, Christ said to them they saw a vision, as they were to "Tell the vision to no man;" So, I would assume that this visionary-appearance of Elijah in the transfiguration on the mountain was not a fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi; because whatever that vision was, he did not fulfill any other things of the prophecy. He did not turn the hearts of the children, or anything the Elijah of prophesy was to do. It was only a vision.

Let's go on:

“And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?”

Matthew 17:10

They said, "Well now, we saw Elijah; now you tell us it's a vision, and you tell us not to tell anybody about it. Now, why did the scribes say that Elijah must first come?"

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."

Matthew 17:11-13

IS IT JOHN THE BAPTIST?

Now, usually this is understood, and it's rather plain that Christ was saying, "Yes, Elijah must first come, and Elijah HAS first come." The disciples understood that He meant John the Baptist. Now, turn back to Matthew 11, because this brings John the Baptist into the picture.

"And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John....."

Matthew 11:7

This is Jesus Christ, talking about John the Baptist. Let's read all that He says, and see where or how John the Baptist comes into this Elijah prophecy.

"But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet."

Matthew 11:7-8

Christ is saying, Yes, you saw John the Baptist, and he's not only a prophet, but he is more than a prophet.

"For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before

thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee."

Matthew 11:10

So often people read this and they assume this is definite, positive proof that John the Baptist was Elijah, which was to come: but if you will turn back to Malachi again, you will notice that the specific verse that Jesus Christ quoted, when He was talking about John the Baptist was not Malachi 4:5-6, but actually Malachi 3:1 which states:

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:1

We believe that Jesus Christ was the messenger of the covenant. And Jesus is saying that John the Baptist is the one who came as the messenger to prepare the way for him. He did not quote Malachi 4:5-6; He quoted Malachi 3:1.

In Matthew 11:11 Jesus goes on:

"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist:...."

Matthew 11:11

Again, John the Baptist was someone very special. He says he is a great prophet, and he is "more than a prophet;" and among men that are born of women, there is no greater than John the Baptist.

"... notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Matthew 11:11

Now I think that he is pointing out very definitely that whatever John the Baptist is, he is a mortal human being, because the least in the kingdom (and we are talking about the kingdom after the resurrection) would be greater than this John. Therefore John, in spite of how great a prophet he was, must have been just a mortal human.

In fact, James mentions in the last chapter that Elias was just like the rest of us. But he is a great man, according to Christ. Then Jesus goes on:

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Matthew 11:12-15

Now upon just a surface reading of this, it would appear that Christ again was saying that John the Baptist was Elias, which was to come. He said it one time, that He came and they did unto Him as they wished. Now He says, speaking of John the Baptist, "This is Elias which was for to come," but you'll notice, before He says, "This is Elias which was for to come," He said, "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John." In other words, something took place there, not just a man, but He mentions the law and the Prophets, and then He says, "This is Elias which was for to come." As you probably realize, I am going to show you that John the Baptist did NOT fulfill all the prophecies of Elijah which was to come. There is a greater fulfillment, and I have a great suspicion, Brother, Sister, that you

and I and most of us here may live to see this fulfillment. We will show you some of that as we go along.

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DENIAL

Let's go to John 1, because we want to listen to John's testimony, himself. In the first part of the first chapter of John is this tremendous description of Jesus Christ; and, then, starting in the 19th verse, John the Baptist is described. I want you to consider this in the light of the things that we have read, because we are going to see whether or not John the Baptist actually-fulfilled Elijah which was to come. Starting verse 19: "And this is the record of John." A few verses later on he is definitely-identified as John the Baptist.

“And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.”

John 1:19-21

So here John the Baptist seemingly-contradicts that which Jesus Christ had already said, that this John had been "Elias which was for to come." The questioners go on to John, "Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No." He denied it twice. "No, I am not Elijah."

"Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”

John 1:22-23

John was referring again to the same idea that he would be the one who would prepare the way of the Lord; and he actually was quoting Isaiah as he, John, said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.¹¹ Turn back to Isaiah 40, for this is important in understanding John the Baptist's office, so that we can then understand the greater fulfillment of this prophecy of Elijah which must yet come to pass.

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Isaiah 40:3

John the Baptist, quoting this verse, was saying simply, "I am not Elijah, but I am the one who is fulfilling Isaiah 40, verse 3." He quoted it so they would definitely-understand what he was fulfilling. Let's read Malachi 3, verse 1 again, to keep that familiar in our mind, for it closely fits Isaiah 40:3.

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:1

Now that is what Christ quoted regarding John. Together they make it plain, John fulfilled Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3.

Let's read on in the first chapter of John, verse 24:

"And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose."

John 1:24-27

Then he goes on, and the description comes of the Lord Jesus Christ. But he goes way out of his way to make the point he is NOT ELIJAH, even though we have read literally that Jesus Christ said that John the Baptist was.

We have already seen the following:

- Elijah was to come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord;
- Some people thought that Jesus was Elijah, and He denied it;
- Jesus said Elijah is to come, and the disciples understood that He spoke of John the Baptist;
- John the Baptist said, "No I am not Elijah," and he referred to Isaiah 40:3 as to what he was.

ZACHARIAS AND JOHN

Let's turn to the first chapter of Luke, and, perhaps, we can get a better understanding of what all these things mean, to see they are not contradictory. This is the story of Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, who was a priest in Israel. He and his wife were quite elderly and had no children. Then, an angel appeared to Zacharias in verse 11, and the verses following it state:

*“And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord...
And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.
But the angel said unto him, Fear not,.. for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.
For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord,
And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.”*

Luke 1: 11-16

Remember what Christ said about John the Baptist, *"There was no greater than John the Baptist."*

TURNING THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THE FATHER

Remember, in the prophecy of Elijah, he would turn the children to the fathers, and the fathers to the children. Now John is going to turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

“And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:17

Now, you will notice how this fits in with the other things that Christ could say, "This John the Baptist is Elias which was to come," because the angel had already prophesied that John the Baptist was going to go IN THE SPIRIT AND THE POWER of Elijah. John the Baptist could truly, also, say he was not Elijah; but he had the spirit and the power of Elijah.

You will understand some of this a little better further on, when we get into who and where Elijah was, because he was a tremendous prophet. John the Baptist was to go in the spirit and power of Elijah; and he did some rather fantastic and fabulous things for the Lord, in the spirit and power.

There is one very important thing in this prophecy of John the Baptist, which is the reason why I believe he fulfilled only a partial prophecy of Elijah. It says he (John) will go before Him (the Lord) in the spirit and power of Elias (Elijah) to "Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children." If you will recall, in the prophecy of Elijah, he was to do two things; turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers. Notice, there is no prophecy for John the Baptist, that he would turn the children to the fathers. I am going to show you that, to me, has a tremendous significance of what is going to happen in this end of the age.

Our people, the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Germanic and kindred peoples, have perhaps been the best people in the world for planning for the future. In other words, the fathers consider what is going to happen to the children. It is a trait of the race, resulting from the preaching of the gospel, that our people consider the children. But the great crying need for us in this end of the age is that we go back and find out about our fathers. You see what I mean? We must go back and find out what the fathers did, and I want to show you from the Scripture that the desperate need today, the thing that John the Baptist was NOT prophesied to do, but Elijah was to do, is to turn the children to the fathers, which has not been done. We must be turned to the history of our race.

There is quite an exhortation in Isaiah 51 from the Lord, in the first three verses:

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness,....

That means you Christian Israel people, you believers in the Lord, who try and follow righteousness, the Jesus Christ.

...ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. (Look back where you came from.) Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him."

Isaiah 51:1-2

Just imagine, here we are in the 1970s, going on to the year 2000, and we can hardly get anyone to look back and consider the amazing, stupendous thing the Lord God Almighty did. He picked out one man, way back there several thousand years ago. Of all the people who were alive upon the earth, God picked One man and said, *"I am going to make you high above all people that are upon the face of the earth, and I am going to bless all the rest of the earth through you, Abraham, one man."*

God says, through the prophet Isaiah, to Israel, *"You people that follow righteousness, I want you to look back to that father of yours, Abraham, and see what I said to him, and what I did to him, and why."* Then he adds in the next verse, which MUST be in there so we can see why we have to look back to the fathers:

"For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and

he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody."

Isaiah 51:3

What can that possibly be but a prophecy of the Kingdom? But BECAUSE of that kingdom that is to come, you look back to your father Abraham, and to your mother Sarah that bare you.

Turn to another prophet, Ezekiel:

"And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me."

Ezekiel 20:1

This is Ezekiel writing:

"Then came the word of the LORD unto me, saying, Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you. Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers."

Ezekiel 20:2-4

And he goes on to show Ezekiel he does not want Ezekiel to pray for these people. All he wants Ezekiel to do is to tell them about their fathers. *"Tell them the abominations of their fathers. Tell them the history of Israel. Tell them what your grandfathers and your great grandfathers did wrong in the sight of God."*

Now, I know it is a great thing in the preaching today to say, "Oh, we are going

on in a new age and a new future, and isn't it wonderful? It does not make any difference what happened in the past; all you have to do is look to the future."

Well, for some reason or other, God Almighty gave a prophecy that Elijah would come and turn not only the fathers to the children, but the children to the fathers; and John the Baptist did not do that, and here we find back in Old Israel writings by the prophets, that God thought it was very important that Israel look back to their fathers.

DANIEL'S PRAYER

Next, we will consider Daniel 9, the great chapter that records Daniel's prayer. In verse 3, it says:

"And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"

Daniel 9:3

And Daniel goes on and prays:

"And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, a Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments."

Daniel 9:4

Daniel set his heart to seek the Lord, and the Lord put it in his heart to confess the sins, not only of himself, but his people, and his fathers. "The fathers of Israel have sinned — generations ago my people turned away from the Lord God Almighty." Daniel recognized it was not done just then, nor even last year, but generations ago, and the way to find the way back to God was to look back and see

what had happened to the fathers in Israel.

Daniel goes on in verse 8:

"O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee."

Daniel 9:8

Now you'll notice Daniel was in captivity in Babylon. The enemies of Israel had captured the city of Jerusalem, and had taken these people into captivity; had burned the city, destroyed everything, the old temple and everything they held dear; yet when Daniel prayed he did not say a thing about the Babylonians — not a thing.

THE SINS OF THE FATHERS

He did not say, "Those darn communists, we know what they have done, those evil communists, those liberals." He did not say a thing. He said, "We have sinned." We, God's Israel people, have sinned. Not only that, but our princes, and our kings, our elders, and our fathers, way back there, generations ago, sinned. Daniel was given wisdom, as you know, by God to understand that.

"In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers."

Zechariah 1:1-2

He did not say, "Now you people TODAY are doing something wrong." He said the Lord has been (past tense) sore displeased with your ancestors — people who have gone on before you.

"Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD."

Zechariah 1:3-4

You know, there is a tragic thing among my so-called conservative and patriotic friends. They have the mistaken idea that if we will go back and do just LIKE our fathers did, we will be all right. But way back in Israel, God said, You go back and look at your fathers. They did NOT do what I told them to do. You understand that something is happening to you and your nation because generations ago your people had turned away. You look back to them.

"Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us."

Zechariah 1:5-6

In other words, God was reminding Zechariah to tell those people: "Your fathers thought they could get away with what they were doing. Your fathers rebelled against me, and they did not follow me. Now you look back and see what happened to them when I dealt with them according to their (wrong) ways."

Just imagine the situation in America today. It has been many many years since World War 2. You would think that with hundreds of thousands of the finest young men in America who were slaughtered in a war which was of no consequence to anybody, (all it did was destroy people) you would think that people would have begun to turn to the Lord to see for what we were being punished. Well, God said to Old Israel in Zechariah, "Your fathers thought they could get away with this, but the word of the Lord caught up with them, and look what happened to them."

Zechariah was prophesying just after they had gone to Babylon. The entire nation of Israel had been destroyed because the fathers in Israel thought they could turn away from the Lord and get away with it. How many people do we have in America today who do not understand the blessings came because we turned to the Lord, and the curses are now coming upon us because our fathers turned away from the Lord. The only way they could understand that is to go back and look and see what the fathers did. Zechariah has made the point that they do not get away with it.

THE SINS OF THE PREACHERS

Malachi gives a prophecy which I believe is perhaps more current than it is ancient:

"And now, aye priests, this commandment is for you."

Malachi 2:1

You men who are responsible for teaching and preaching and carrying out the ordinances, and teaching the law of God, this is for you. This is not a prophecy for the lay people. This is a prophecy for our priests in Israel.

"If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart."

Malachi 2:2

Apparently, the priests in Israel were not following the Lord God Almighty; so God said to them, "I'll send a curse upon you priests and you ministers."

"Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it. And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 2:3-4

God made a covenant with the house of Levi. A definite, specific covenant that they were to take care of the ordinances of God Almighty. They were to take care of the blood sacrifices. In this end of the age, that means they do not put the animals to death, and sacrifice the blood, but they teach and preach the blood sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they preach the law, as you will see (or they are supposed to). He goes on, "My covenant is with him," and He is talking about Levi, the father of the priesthood.

"My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity."

Malachi 2:5-6

Now He is talking about the original Levi, son of Israel.

"But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 2:8

Brother and Sister, if there is anything in the preaching in America today that is causing people to stumble, it is at the law of the Lord. The ministers desperately-try to teach and preach that the law of the Lord is not in effect anymore. It's all gone. It has been put away. They say we need not read it, we need not study it, we are not to DO the law because we are not under the law, we are under grace.

Well, Brother, Sister, the law was given through the grace of God. He loved Israel, therefore He gave them a fiery law (Deut 33:2) from the Lord God Almighty. He says to these ministers, "You've corrupted the covenant, because you have caused them to stumble at the law. Therefore have I, also, made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law." Over and over he repeats the same thing. It's the law you've done away with. It's the law you've corrupted. It's the law you've made people stumble at. You've been partial in the law.

He goes on:

"Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously, every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?"

Malachi 2:10

You Levites, you won't preach the law, and you profane the covenants of your

fathers. If you stop to think, the ministers in America today don't even know that God has a covenant with our fathers. You know that? There isn't one minister in a hundred preaching in the churches of America who asks, "Did you know that God Almighty had a covenant with your fathers?" No, they tell them that God Almighty had a covenant with the fathers of the Jews! — some other people; a different people. And our people sit here, not even knowing that the fathers in this Book are their fathers.

Now how in the world can you turn these children of Israel, these people, these Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, and kindred peoples, who are the physical, literal descendants of the House of Israel; how in the world can you turn them back to their fathers, when the ministers tell them this is not even a book about their fathers? These are the fathers of some other people. And remember, Malachi said, "He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest.." If it is not done, God said, "I will come and smite the earth with a curse."

Now, Brother, Sister, we talk about repentance, national repentance, turn people to the word of the Lord. We want revival. We pray for this, and we pray for that. You know what I think has to come in this nation? I think an understanding has to come in this nation that we are the children of the fathers. If we do not even know we are the children of the fathers, how can we turn back and do like Isaiah did, and Daniel did, and Ezekiel did, through the word of the Lord, confess the sins of our fathers? We have to understand what they did wrong, so we do not do the same thing wrong; and get back to the right things of the Lord, as given in the law and the prophets?

It is going to take Elijah to change things, which I think is GOING to be done here in America. And Brother, Sister, it is good news for us, but it is terrible news for those Levites, the modern ministers who have turned our people from the law, and turned them from their fathers! Because that's what's been done. They have turned our children, the children of Israel, AWAY from our fathers, they have told us the Bible is the history of the Jews; it is a history of somebody else; even that it may be a collection of myths and legends! They have done everything in their power to keep us from understanding about our fathers; and God says, look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you. Well, I am going to show you that the fulfillment of Elijah will turn some children back to their fathers, and Brother, Sister, it will be done with violence — with **violence!** But it is going to be done in the spirit of the Lord. And praise the Lord, it may be one of those things that will tremendously turn America to God.

WHAT IS AHEAD

America (Israel in the end of the age) has not turned back to the gospel, and the law, and the prophets of their fathers. They are trying to go into the future. Many preachers say, "Oh, we are New Testament Christians, and we use only the New Testament." But notice in the New Testament some very familiar verses that Paul wrote in 1 Cor 10. He recounted Israel history in the first ten verses; then he said,

"Now all these things happened to them for ensamples, and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come."

1 Corinthians 10:11

A LITTLE HISTORY

Paul said this history of Israel was written for us. Some think the history of Israel was written for Old Israel, but that is not true, because the history of Old Israel actually was not given to great numbers of lay people until after A.D. 1500. You know that for all practical purposes the people (lay people and families) did not have written Bibles for a long time, until after the invention of the printing press; so really the Old Testament was not read to any great extent in Israel until from fifteen hundred down to the present time.

In the fifteenth chapter of Romans, Paul wrote in Verse 4:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Romans 15:4

The Old Scriptures were written for us that we might have hope. So, let's turn back to the Old Scriptures in order to find out more of what the prophecy for Elijah might be. Let us go back to chapters 16, 17, and 18 of First Kings, but first of all we will read just enough in the previous chapters to give a little idea of what the situation was in Israel when these events took place. First in the 16th chapter:

"In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah."

1 Kings 16:23

We are reading the history of an account that happened after the division of the kingdoms, and this happened to

Israel. The Word says that Omri began to reign over Israel.

"But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him."

"For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities."

1 Kings 16:25-26

This King Omri was worse than the ones before him.

"So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead."

"And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him."

1 Kings 16:28,30

We see that when we get up to the time of Elijah, we have the father of Ahab doing worse than anybody had done before him, and then Ahab comes along, and now he's the king, and he does worse than the rest of them. Apparently, the civil and political leadership in Israel was about as bad as it could have been. They did everything against the Lord.

"And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him."

"And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria."

"And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."

1 Kings 16:31-33

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

This is the situation that we find in Israel at the time that Elijah, the prophet, is there. Ahab does everything. He is worshipping Baal. He is setting up all these programs to do the anti-Christ and anti-God things. Now, I would have you consider the present situation today in the light of what we have just read. I do not know whether America is as bad as it was under Ahab, but I do know this, that at the present time, the ruler in America arranges religious services in the White House, which would be the palace in relationship to Ahab at the time of Elijah. He arranges for a Catholic Priest on one Sunday; and then the next time they have services, they have some left-wing, modernist Protestant preach something; and I understand from reading the accounts they never close their prayers in the name of Jesus Christ. Then the next time, they have some Pharisee, Jewish Rabbi, and they have services which he conducts. So you see, regardless of what they are doing, in spite of the fact that many people think the conducting of these services has something to do with Christianity, what they do have are ungodly religious services. They are worshipping something other than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In fact, I would remind my hearers, that in spite of many people thinking that Nixon is doing a good thing by having services in the White House, if you will turn with me over in the New Testament and let me read some very familiar verses, they should show you what he really does in those religious services.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

This is a very simple statement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"He that hateth me hateth my Father also."

John 15:23

No one argues under present circumstances and knowledge that the Jewish Rabbi hates Jesus Christ. This is part of their religion. Christ said that if they hate him, they hate God also.

"If I had not done among the works which none other man did, they had not bad sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."

John 15:24

Jesus repeated himself for emphasis. Those that hate Jesus Christ hate the Father. Then, speaking of the Spirit:

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

John 16:13-14

So, they cannot claim that they have any kind of spirit of God; because the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is to glorify Jesus Christ. If there is anything that is not glorified in the so-called White House religious services, it is Jesus Christ, no matter what they do or say, or how religious they act.

THE POWER OF ELIJAH

Now, let's go back to the story of Elijah in 1 Kings, which I quoted just to show

you again the political situation, the false worship that was going on.

"And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the Kings of Israel that were before him."

1 Kings 16:33

You stop and think. The things that go on in the White House in the name of religious service, I believe, are provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger. I cannot see how it could be any other way. Next, in the 17th chapter:

"And Elijah the Tishhite, 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

Elijah the prophet said to the king: "There's going to be no rain in this land until I say so." We read in the other Scriptures that it did not rain for three years. For thirty-six months, there was no rain in the land. I would like to spend a lot of time on Chapter 17, but I am going to suggest instead that you read it, because it is a rather brief story of Elijah having to go out into the wilderness away from the city; and under God's guidance, he went to a widow woman, where they lived on just a handful of flour that she had in the barrel. and a little bit of oil.

You remember the story: they lived on that all during the three years when there was drought and famine in the land. Also, her son died and Elijah brought the son back to life. I could preach a whole sermon on that, for I believe that the woman was symbolic of Israel, and the son was symbolic of Jesus Christ. He died and rose again.

This is a miracle performed by Elijah, and I mention it primarily to show you the chronology of events. You might consider Israel as a widow, which this woman was in chapter 17, and she had a son. Remember, in Revelation 12, we have the "woman" who was forced to flee into the wilderness. She had a son whom the devil tried to devour. He was Jesus Christ. I believe that in chapter 18 of 1st Kings, we have a situation that would be comparable to something happening after the birth, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, we are going to read chapter 18, because now it is time for the famine to be over; and remember, rain is symbolic of the Word of God. Elijah had said there was not going to be rain for three years, but now the three years have passed.

"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

God said, "All right now, it's time to rain. But you go to the king, the civil ruler of the nation. You go to the ruler of the land, and I'm going to send rain."

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

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house..."

1 Kings 18:2-3

Then in parenthesis it says:

"...(Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly."

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 18:3-4

Obadiah was the governor in the house of the king. He was a good, godly man. Remember what Brother Snook said about going to Washington, DC, and finding good, godly people there? — people who do not know what to do? They are not in charge of the nation, but they are there, just as Obadiah was.

We find Ahab, according to the Scripture, was the worst king that Israel had had in that time, but here was Obadiah, right up there in the top echelons of government, a godly man. So they were there at the time of Elijah; and as we read the account, we realize that for all practical purposes, the true prophets of the Lord were hidden. They were safe, but they were hidden where they could not get out the word.

"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

Remember, water is symbolic of the Word: Go unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks.

"So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself."

1 Kings 18:6

Here is what the famine had done in the land. This evil, ungodly king was desperately going out to seek something to save the horses and the mules. You may think that is not too important; but

remember, at that time horses and mules represented transportation, communication, wealth, and the military power of the nation, because horses were used in battle, both for riding and for pulling the war chariots. If they lost the horses and the mules, or were in a position of losing them, it meant the country was in very bad condition. The king, evil king that he was, was desperately trying to find out some way to save the might and power and wealth of the nation. He was going out and seeking something. I don't know whether he went out and got a Protestant minister, and a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi in his attempt to do it, but he was searching the land, trying to find a way to save the nation. You can recognize that after three years of no rain in the land, Israel was in a desperate situation, a very desperate situation, when Elijah came.

"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?"

And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

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

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."

1 Kings 18:7-10

The king, apparently, had used all his efforts to get rid of Elijah, to stop Elijah from preaching to Israel, to kill him. Now, remember as we compare this to today, I am not necessarily saying that Elijah is representative of one man. The Elijah who is to come may be many men, who will do

the things that Elijah is to do; but the king, this evil king had attempted to find Elijah for the purpose of silencing him. He had been unable to do so, and now Obadiah, representative of believers, sees Elijah coming out in the open.

He says, "Why the King has been trying to kill you. Now you come out here and you tell me to go? Why, the king knows that I know you, and he's going to kill me too, and going to get rid of all of us." However, Elijah convinced Obadiah that he should go to Ahab, and tell him that Elijah was there.

"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."

1 Kings 18:17-18

The king wanted to blame the true prophet of God for the trouble! He knew, of course, that the prophet of God had been the one who prophesied no rain. But the true prophet of God says, "Oh no, you; you are the civil leader of, the nation; you are the one who has caused the trouble in Israel, because you have turned away from the Word of the Lord and have followed Baalim."

FOLLOWING BAALISM

Regarding the idea of following Baalim, perhaps we should turn over to Jude, because there is a prophecy about ungodly people that is to happen in the end of the age. Jude is a little book, one chapter, just before the book of Revelation. Speaking of evil people in reference to the end of the age, Jude says this:

"Woe unto them for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward (for money or pay), and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

Jude 11

Each of these things mentioned here by Jude is identified in the Scripture. We will not go back and look at the verses, because most people are quite familiar with them, but I am going to mention these three things that Jude is talking about.

First of all, "They have gone in the way of Cain." You remember about Cain and Abel, when they brought their sacrifice to God, Cain brought things out of the ground. He brought no blood. He refused to offer blood sacrifices. He denied the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I believe that is what Jude means when he is talking about the error of Cain. This is told in Genesis 4:3. Today, we have a great host of modernistic churches who are denying the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. They say, "Oh he is just a man, and just a great teacher."

Second, the error of Baalim, which is told in Numbers 25, when Baalim convinced Israel to sin by committing fornication with the Moabites. We know it today as integration, or interracial marriage, which was one great error of Baal worship, to bring all the races together and marry them in with Israel.

Third, the "gainsaying of Core." Core here is the Greek spelling of Korah, who rebelled against Aaron and Moses in the wilderness; rebelled against the authority of God Almighty, or the law, statutes and judgments given through Moses and Aaron.

Jude is talking about something that would happen in the end of the age, and back in 1st Kings, the prophet said to the king, "You have gone and followed Baalim." Baalim was the one who caused Israel to sin by intermarriage and fornication with the Moabites; and lo and behold, what do we have in this end of the age? One of the greatest efforts of our government today is directed at forcing us to mix with the heathen. They are planning to take our children, and bus them in wherever they can take them, and mix them in with the little colored children, and if we refuse that they are going to put us in jail. All government offices, all businesses are being requested to integrate all departments of business. This is the King's orders. This is not something that comes from God; this is coming from the "king." Apparently, that may have been what was coming from the king in Elijah's day; following the "way of Baalim." It was error from the top, from the civil ruler.

Now, because you have done all these things:

"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.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel."

1 Kings 18:19-20

The civil ruler obeyed this man that he had been trying to kill just a few days before. Apparently, the civil government had gotten in such terrible condition, because of the famine, they were willing to do ANYTHING, even to obey the prophet of the Lord. Therefore, we have the king, who one day was trying to kill

him, the next day says "All right," and goes out and does what this prophet tells him to do. But look at the people:

"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."

1 Kings 18:21

SILENCE! Not ready to take sides yet. Apparently, they do not know who is going to win, and so they are quiet. Isn't that the same thing today? You know, there are men who are out preaching the true word of God, and in a comparative basis, silence from the people. A very, very tiny percentage of the people will speak up, and stay upon the Word of the Lord, and the laws, statutes and judgments, and the things of God. So the people, generally speaking, did not say a thing. Now remember, there were a lot of prophets, who were still alive. Obadiah saved one hundred of them, so there are good ministers around. They are not all lost, but everything is silence.

"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 18:22

Well, that may be about the ratio today. I don't know, one to four hundred and fifty, do you suppose?

*"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:
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

In other words, the people said, "All right, if you can prove he is God, then we will obey him." People are not going to object. They will let this go ahead. Let's have this contest.

But did you notice what it is coming up to? It is coming up to a confrontation between the true prophets of God and the false prophets, with the civil leader standing by obeying the true prophet of God, doing what the prophet of God told him to do. So they went ahead.

"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.

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..."

1 Kings 18:25-26

The margin says "with a great voice." In other words, "You had better shout louder. When you get on the radio or on the pulpit, you had better raise your voice because that god you are crying to is not hearing you." And Elijah goes ahead and says, "Cry louder, cry louder."

"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."

1 Kings 18:27

You know, when I read this, I think of some of these ministers who raise their voices so loud when they preach, as if they are going to really get up there so God will hear them. Elijah was talking to these fellows in precisely that way. He said, "Look, everything you are doing, and everything you are saying, and everything you are preaching, and all of the prophesying you are doing; nothing is happening. Nothing is coming to pass, I guess you had better shout louder!" And they did -- see the next verse:

"And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them."

1 Kings 18:28

They actually felt that they had to sacrifice themselves in order to get this done. They went out and gave up everything that they had; they cried to the people how much they were doing for the people. They were even cutting their own skin and letting their own blood run out, trying to do everything that they could in order to have this thing come to pass, not understanding, or believing, or preaching that the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has done it all. They are trying to do everything themselves. No wonder their god did not answer. No wonder that none of these things came to pass.

"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."

1 Kings 18:29

Or, as the margin says, "nor any attention." Their "god" did not hear them though they were "prophesying."

Just consider the situation in America today. We have at least, I should imagine, four hundred and fifty times as many men prophesying that God, in the form of Christ, is going to come and rapture the church off the earth, and then send the great tribulation, with an antichrist to rule. They are prophesying that the Jews are going back to Israel and fulfilling all the prophecies of Israel, and the truth of the matter is that when anybody looks into that, they see that nothing that they are prophesying is coming to pass — none of it!

These men prophesied and did this all day long, and, nothing happened. No one answered. Nothing came to pass. Not a thing about which they were preaching and talking happened. Well of course, what were they doing? They were doing the same thing that ministers are doing today; they are calling on a god who is a no-god. The ministers have made the Word of God of none effect; and actually, through their false teaching, they are teaching the "religion" of Baal. Most ministers, especially the modernists and liberals today, are preaching integration of the races; that we must mix with the other people. Well Brother, Sister, that is not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the gospel of Baal! I should not use the term "gospel," for it means "the good news." That is the bad news of Baal, to mix all these people together.

"And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me." (Now look what the people did.) "And all the people came near unto him....."

1 Kings 18:30

The people had watched these other prophets for years, preaching of things that did NOT come to pass, just as today, the things taught do not come to pass, are

not true, and the people are beginning to suspect them. Here they watched ALL DAY long and nothing happened. Then when the true prophet of God said, "You come up near to me," look what happened:

"....And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down."

1 Kings 18:30

A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD

Now, we are going to have some true worship of God Almighty — first thing you do. He did NOT call upon God for a miracle first; he repaired the altar of the Lord first; look how he repaired it:

"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: 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

First thing he did when he was going to repair the altar of the Lord was to bring Israel into it, by bringing in twelve stones to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. A true prophet of God!

"Considerest thou not...The two families which the LORD hath chosen..."

Jeremiah 33:24

These are the two houses of Israel — the House of Judah and the House of Israel — the seed of Abraham.

Let us use the Bible to identify these prophetic stones at Rev. 21 (very familiar

verses), but I wonder how many modernist ministers would ever connect them with Elijah's building an altar of twelve stones to reinstate the true worship of God in a time of terrible trouble.

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Revelation 21:2,9

This is, of course, Christ's Bride.

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

Revelation 21:10

Yes, there are about four hundred and fifty preachers in the United States that preach that the church is the bride of Christ and is going to be snatched away, for every one minister who teaches the truth that New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ and then identifying New Jerusalem with the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel."

Revelation 21:11-12

Yes, the Bride of Christ has the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel written on her.

"And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald...."

Revelation 21:19

Then what does John do? He lists the names of twelve precious stones that are the foundations of NEW Jerusalem. Twelve tribes of Israel — twelve stones — the same symbolism Elijah used!

"And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."

Revelation 21:21

Most ministers recognize all of this as that golden city, New Jerusalem. Well, what is the foundation? The foundation is TWELVE stones. And on the gates are the twelve names of the tribes of Israel.

What was Elijah building back there? Symbolically, he was building NEW Jerusalem, the TEMPLE of the Lord. That is what it is called in Revelation 21; and the first thing he built it with was twelve stones to represent the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Let's read on to see what Elijah did:

"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. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time..."

1 Kings 18:33-34

THE WATER OF THE WORD

Notice who it is doing this now: it is the people. The people are out there obeying Elijah, pouring water. You know what water is? Water is the Word of God. What are they doing? They are pouring it on the twelve stones of the tribes of Israel, according to Elijah's instructions.

"...And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time."

1 Kings 18:34

They took four barrels of water and filled them three times, so they poured twelve barrels, total. Twelve barrels of water poured out on all these things that he had built on the altar of the lord.

"And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water."

1 Kings 18:35

EVERYTHING was covered with water. Remember now, water is symbolic of the Word of God. This is used all through the Scriptures. And this "temple" is just absolutely-saturated with water, under the direction of the true prophet of God; and the people are doing it.

"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,..."

1 Kings 18:36

WHERE? — "in Israel!" Thou art God IN ISRAEL! That is the hardest thing that we have to tell people today, that God is the God IN ISRAEL. Of course we have to identify these twelve stones, and these twelve tribes before they can know that:

"...And I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word."

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

Look what he says, they will know what God has done: "...that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again." God had prepared the hearts of the people. He was not just going to demonstrate that he was God by fire coming down from heaven. Elijah said, "I want you to show them that not only are you God, but you have turned their hearts back again." This is what Elijah-to-come was prophesied to do: turn the hearts of the children to the fathers, and the fathers to the children, lest he come and smite the earth with a curse. And Elijah said, speaking in the spirit of this time, that God actually — ALREADY — before the fire came down from heaven, had already turned their hearts back to God. Well, you would assume that because they were already obeying Elijah, to some extent they were pouring out the Word on Israel. Then, AFTER all this:

"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."

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 18:38-39

Brother, Sister, that is revival in Israel!

CONCLUSION

Now, before we read on, let us recap the events which happened that led up to this confession before God. Then, maybe you can see the comparison to the events leading up to the end of the age.

First of all, Israel was in very desperate straits, physically. The nation's king was literally despairing for the nation. He was out searching all over, trying to find something to save the nation.

Number two, the true prophets were almost completely-hidden; they were gone, away in a cave somewhere.

Number three, the ruler had been told by the true prophet of God what to do, and he obeyed, in his trouble.

Elijah went to the ruler, and the ruler obeyed by bringing all of the other priests into a confrontation between truth and falsehood: A national meeting of the people who are preaching the truth, and the people who were preaching falsehood, to demonstrate to the people as to WHO was GOD, done under the auspices, literally, or allowance of the ruler. And of the false prophets, NONE acknowledged the Truth of God, and the people answered not a word.

The people were literally neutral in this confrontation at the beginning; until the false prophets went through all their rigmarole trying to tell what was going to happen, and nothing happened. Not a word, not a sound, no prophecies being fulfilled in anything that they did. Then Elijah identified the House of God with Israel, by building the true worship, or the true altar with the twelve stones of the tribes of Israel. The true worship of God had to come and be built on the identity of

the House of Israel, and it was done by Elijah, a true prophet of God. Then we read:

"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 18:37

Then the fire fell, and the people acknowledged the Lord. Now, Brother, Sister, let's read:

"And Elijah said unto them (to the people, to the children of Israel), 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

And SLEW THEM THERE. Now I would ask you to consider this race of people who are the primary inhabitants of the North American continent, and Europe, too. If and when, at some time in the future, when these Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Germanic and kindred peoples come to full knowledge of how they have been deceived and lied to, and lied about, and tricked, and literally-destroyed by these false prophets, Brother, Sister, what do you think they are going to do with them? Do you think they are just going to take them out of the pulpits and say, "Well, you can't preach anymore," when they realize that some of these men for fifty years have deceived generation after generation of our race, brought them into what they called churches and taught them ALL FALSE DOCTRINES, tried to get them to go out and marry other races, tried to bring down this nation by having them literally cohabit with heathen nations?

And who has done it? Prophets of Baal. Do you think that these people of Israel,

rising up in the truth and knowledge of their identity and the word of God, are going to let those men LIVE? I don't think so. I don't think so. Elijah said to these people: "You take them out," and the people obeyed him. And they went out and they slew all the prophets of Baal. Then look what happened:

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

1 Kings 18:41

God is going to pour out the latter rain on His people, Israel. Yes, now, you have cleansed the temple. Now, you know who you are. Now you know who God is. Now, you know who Israel is. Now, you have gotten rid of the false prophets in the land, and cleansed the land.

"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."

1 Kings 18:42

And, of course, we read that he prayed; and then it came to pass:

"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."

1 Kings 18:45

Tremendous rain upon the people! Just think, three years with no Word of God, no rain, nothing was happening. The land was in trouble; it was, literally, ready to die; even the king recognized it. Every one of these things had to take place BEFORE God poured out this latter rain upon the people. Brother, Sister, I think that there

is a possibility that Elijah the prophet may come and follow through in the same pattern, do the same thing at the time of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6. Now, look at Luke 4, where Jesus is talking about Elijah:

"And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country."

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; 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

Just think, this true prophet of God saved hardly anyone, healed hardly anyone, but his ministry caused obedience by the ruler, exposed the false prophets in the sight of the whole people, symbolically restored Israel as the true "house of God," turned Israel to God, destroyed the false prophets, and ended with God pouring out the latter rain. In all of his ministry he had few of the signs that TODAY people think are the manifestations of Christianity. NO, Brother and Sister, the evidence and workings of the true God of Israel are the preaching of His Word and the obedience BY ISRAEL: Not the going out and preaching God's Word to all the heathen, not the raising up of many people from their sick beds, not saving all their souls so that when they die they can go to heaven.

No, Elijah, the prophet, did one thing. He went to the king and the people and he said, "I am going to show you who YOU are, and who God is. And the prophets of Baal are going to be taken OUT OF THE LAND." Brother, Sister, we pray for

revival, we pray for the Word of God, we pray for all these things that we desire; but we are not going to have them until "Elijah the prophet," in the spirit and power of Elijah, goes through the very things that Elijah did that brought the latter rain that ended the drought, ended the famine, brought the Word of God and obedience to Israel.

I would suggest, if you desire, you might want to go back and read the third and fourth chapters of Joshua. When they went into Canaan-land, they took twelve stones and made an altar to the Lord. You can read the account. It is quite long. It is in two chapters.

You will read that the instruction for that was given in Deut 27:1-8. Moses told them when they went into the kingdom (Canaan-land was a kingdom) they were to take twelve stones and they were to build an altar to the Lord. In Deuteronomy 27, Moses told them to do it; and in Joshua 3 and 4, Joshua DID it. One of the things that you will see is that they wrote the words of the law ON the stones. I assume they wrote the ten commandments, but I am not positive, for it just says the words of the law. If you will read that, you will recognize the same thing in the last chapter of Malachi. Let's read those last two verses in closing, plus the one before them:

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments."

Malachi 4:4

For whom? For Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Then comes:

"Behold, I will send You Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great

and dreadful day of the LORD:

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4:5-6

As you read the story in Joshua, you will find that Joshua told the people to put those stones there so when your children ask what those stones are, you tell them, "It was the Lord who brought us out of Egypt into Canaan-land."

Let us tell our children the story of the true God, and the Truth of His Word, that we are in disobedience, that we must turn and obey Him because we are, in truth, the children of Israel, and the true house of God. Then they, and we, will know it is the Lord who will bring us out of THIS BONDAGE we are in today into the Kingdom of God. Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH

A Commentary

By

"The Woman Judge"

The subject of Malachi's prophecy that God will send Elijah again has been of interest to many Bible students in these last days. My first encounter with it was in the late 1930s, when Judge P. E. Gardner, W. B. Record, and other independent preachers were giving out the message that we Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and kindred people are the literal descendants of the ten tribes of Israel.

A recognition of our identity as latter-day Israel awakens a keen desire for delving deeper into the Scriptures; first to find out what God expects of us, not only as individuals, but, also, collectively as a

nation; and second, to be apprised through the study of the prophecies relating to Israel's destiny, just what we must expect and prepare for in the days ahead before Christ's return to earth.

This is where the Elijah prophecy enters the picture. Some said in the 30's that Elijah is to be resurrected and come back, but others said that since he was translated and did not die he could just appear at any time. It takes earnest study to search out the truth in this regard. As to whether he could appear at any time because of being "translated," we find in Hebrews 11 that Enoch is mentioned, but not Elijah as one who did not see death. Nevertheless, the passage concludes about those mentioned, Abel, ENOCH, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises....."

Hebrews 11:13

The rest of the chapter mentions other worthies who had faith, and who were tortured, and suffered for their faith, but who nevertheless died, and:

"... received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Hebrew 11:39-40

The promises and the promise referred to are those made to Abraham: "A city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (vs. 10), and "in Isaac shall thy seed be called" (vs. 18). The city they looked for and did not receive is the New Jerusalem, for which we are all waiting. The calling of the seed in Isaac began when Christ was born, in whom all who believe are termed Abraham's seed: Isaac's sons, Christians; but something

better has been provided for us. It is better for us all. They, without us, cannot be made perfect. This perfection is the receiving of everlasting life. Without it no one can enter the city. Without it no one can "appear at any time" from out of the past. Without it, no one will come forth from the dead, until the dead in Christ come forth first.

John Fox of England, a man of keen insight into the Scriptures, wrote about this question on page 65 of his book, "Life, Death, and The Resurrection." He stated that for Elijah to return in person would necessitate his having already received a glorified (immortal) body. Fox points out that this would place him ahead of Christ, exactly contrary to what the Scriptures declare, that in all things Christ has the preeminence.

It is worthy of our notice that Elisha, who was Elijah's successor in the prophetic office, asked for and received a double portion of the same spirit that was on his teacher. Elijah's mantle fell on him while Elijah was being taken up. The falling of the mantle signified the granting of Elisha's desire.

John the Baptist was, also, to function in that same spirit that was on Elijah (and Elisha). We note again that John was filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, from his mother's womb. This was an uncommon thing, for the Holy Spirit had not yet been given to Israel in general. Only a few of the prophets and priests had been blessed with that gift. Some had it only at times. We can only guess if any had it as an abiding thing, such as is common since the first Pentecost, when Peter told the crowd that "the promise is to you and your children." But John was BORN with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and he was "in the Spirit of Elijah."

Both Elijah and John went to the rulers of the nation to demand righteousness from them. It is my opinion, after years of considering the pros and cons of Elijah's "coming again," that these modern prophets, such as W. B. Record and P. E. Gardner (in the 30's) and Robert Record, Pastor Emry, and Bell and Snook (in the 60's and 70's) are all functioning in the Elijah spirit. They are the ones who are turning the hearts of the children to their Israel fathers, and the national fathers to their children. They are teaching us that we are not heathen, nor gentiles, but literally the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They are the ones who are going to our national fathers year after year, pointing out to them that our nation is God's nation and our country, which we blindly call "God's country," is literally such, for it is the place that He appointed long ago for His people (2 Sam 7:10).

We pray in our national songs, "God of our fathers, known of old...be with us yet, be with us yet." We praise Him in song, "Our fathers' God, to thee we sing." If we mean those founding fathers of our nation, we must recognize that the God of our American fathers was and is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; our generic fathers from ages past. We call ourselves "God's people" but do not recognize that God called only ONE people to be His: the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In Malachi's prophecy the time of fulfillment is at the end of the age, "before that great and terrible day of the Lord." In John's day, the children were not ignorant of "the fathers." The "fathers" are the twelve patriarchs, together with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But in this end of the age, the children know almost nothing of those patriarchal fathers; yet Malachi declared, the children are to be turned (or pointed) to them; and the

fathers (of the nation) are to be turned (or taught) of the children of Israel.

John the Baptist fulfilled the part of turning many of the, then, children of Israel to the Lord their God. In this way, he prepared them to receive Jesus the Messiah, who came after him. Inasmuch as Elijah's job (in returning to Israel before the great and terrible day of the Lord) is to turn the hearts -- children to fathers, and fathers to children -- and these modern prophets of Israel are doing that job, they must be the "Elijah" whom God would send. They have the SPIRIT of Elijah.

OUR YOUTH READY TO BE TURNED

When we think of the children of Israel, we usually think of the adults. Yet they are only part of the meaning for this present time. For OUR children are coming into the limelight on the world stage of today. The adjoining news item shows a great movement among our children, turning toward the God of Israel, Jesus, the Son of God. Millions of dollars are being planned for and spent, to carry the message of the Saviour around the globe. How many of their hearts would be turned "to the fathers" if a few trained "Elijahs" were to attend their "congress" and other meetings? Armed with cassette players and tapes on our identity and responsibilities as children of those fathers, the ear of one youth here and one there could be captured.

The few would soon spread the Word to more, and the movement would be turned in the direction of NATIONAL righteousness, bringing forth the fruits thereof, knowledgeably. The time is coming, as per Daniel 7:18,22, when the "saints will take the kingdom." It will not be so many "old

timers" who will be in the action, but as when the children of Israel entered the land of Canaan, it was the "new generation" who went in and possessed the land. So it will be today. Our youth will be the ones who will become the leaders of the kingdom nation.

— The Woman Judge
