

DIVINE SUPPLY IN DESOLATE PLACES

The Lord reminds us that even as there is a growing spiritual famine in the land for hearing the true Word of the Lord, so shall the natural famine continue to escalate. Has He not warned His people to expect increasing famines prior to His return? He has spoken by His Spirit and He has spoken through dreams; were not Noah and Joseph warned in advance of the world-wide events that would sweep across their world? Faithful believers have stored up the grain; they have become the granaries through which the Word of God is dispensed. Similarly, the Lord God has strategically placed individuals in appointed places, with food and provisions for those who are fleeing from the tyranny of an oppressive government and from the apostasy in the houses of Saul. Refugees depart to the wilderness. As it was true of Samuel, the prophetic ministry, and David, the king-priest ministry, they have abandoned Saul's house because the Spirit of the Lord has departed from him. Saul is an overlord who starves his army; he slays the priesthood and he pursues those like David, the one who is destined to rule and to reign. David would not sit and eat at Saul's table; when he fled from the presence of Saul, God protected him and provided for him in a barren place. Was it not David who recorded that the Lord God prepared a table for him in the presence of his enemies? And as it was in previous days, so shall a discouraged, persecuted people flee to places of refuge. Those who are hearing the call to come out of Babylon shall be led to areas of respite in remote and hidden locations. They seek the things of the Spirit and the presence of His glory in a dry and weary land.

The influence of Jezebel seeks to kill the Lord's messengers; even as Jezebel turned Ahab against Elijah, so shall the legal authorities be turned against God's people. Political heads consult together to establish statutes and legislation through which they enforce their wicked agenda. And even as Herodias turned Herod against John the Baptist, the forerunner ministry, so is it true in the day in which you live. Hardship will be a reality for many; oppression grows against the godly; religious and political authorities harass the Lord's beloved and will hunt them down. Angry mobs, influenced by the spirit of antichrist, have arisen with hate, anger and rage. The spiritual war intensifies and so does it manifest in the physical realm: they seek to shut you up and shut you down. Was it not true that a mob tried to push the Son of God over a cliff, and another mob sought to stone Him? And have the Scriptures not recorded incidents of the mob violence that stoned Stephen to death when he testified, or of the mob that assaulted Jason and the brethren in his home and brought unjust charges against them?

Your enemy knows that his time is short. The spirit of lawlessness attempts to systematically dismantle God's righteous laws; tyrants in the land have become a law unto themselves. The people cling to their idolatry, feasting on their love of entertainment and pleasures. But their life of ease and abundance abruptly comes to an end. They reject the message of the Cross and those who embrace it. Children of darkness wallow in iniquity, blinded by the spirit of this age. Watchmen cry out, but the warnings go unheeded: pestilence and plagues shall continue; signs in the heavens shall unfold; earthquakes shall intensify and enemies invade the land. And what could have served as a wake-up call for prodigals, has been but an inconvenience to them, a mere disruption in their pursuit of the good life. But the props they have leaned upon are broken; the idols they have trusted in shall fail, and the kingdoms they have built shall crumble to the ground. The prophets have seen it and the messengers are declaring it: Babylon is fallen! It collapses and descends into shambles; and as it falls, many will shelter in place, but some shall embark upon a journey into secluded places. Pockets of land are scorched and burned, resources are cut off and upheaval will force a caravan of people to depart from the chaotic cities with their

teeming multitudes. And within the ranks of this caravan are a people who follow the Cloud of His glory, even as Israel was led through the desert wasteland. They are sorely tested, but their needs are met as they move in obedience to His leading. There are periods of rest in difficult times; birth pangs cease, but they return with greater intensity. Pharaoh's army pursues God's people in the wilderness, hoping to bring them back under submission to the taskmaster's whip. But a Pillar of Fire separates them from their oppressors. Faithful believers who perceive themselves to be alone or unique, will discover they are not alone, but part of a Remnant; this scattered group of solitary, alienated individuals, come to realize the Lord has reserved for Himself a multitude of obedient servants. And they grow stronger in faith and connect with one another. Is it not written that when Jezebel (the harlot system) cut off the prophets, Obadiah hid the Lord's messengers in caves and fed them? He encountered Elijah while searching for water in the wilderness. A spiritual thirst has driven many of the Lord's people into uncharted territory, and they shall find fellowship and solace through kindred companions. Was not Elijah sustained and fed by a widow woman, by ravens and by an angel? Food was supernaturally supplied for him, giving him the strength to continue on his journey to the "mount". Elijah, like John the Baptist is in the wilderness; their ministry is not found among the temple crowds or the merchants of Babylon. Voices in the wilderness call for repentance; they have the ability to "turn the hearts" of people back to the Lord; they announce the coming of the Messiah!

He brings forth water from the Rock; those who pant for the water of the Word, who search in desperation for Living Manna shall be fed; loaves and fishes shall be multiplied. Those who go "outside the camp" will suffer reproach, but they are led to a place of supernatural supply and divine provision. Is it not written that in a time of great loss and famine, Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem (the house of bread) and were led to a source of food and drink in the field of Boaz? Their determination to arise from a condition of pain and loss, led them to a place safety and refuge in the land of the "Kinsman-Redeemer". Is it not true that in the most desperate of circumstances, the Lord God orders the steps of His covenant people, leading them to His desired end? Is He not able to sustain His people during times of war and famine? When a Levite (priest of the Lord), was searching for shelter, he stopped at Micah's house who offered to support him with money, a change of clothing and food. Micah's household was blessed, even as the widow's household was blessed when Elisha "multiplied the oil" for her. Elisha's obedience to the Lord gave him favor with the widow, who supplied him with food and a "furnished room". Even now, "Elisha" stands ready to feed the sons of the prophets with "bread of the first-fruits", loaves of barley and full ears of corn. The Master has indeed, furnished a table for His people in the wilderness, and that which is spread before them is "meat", full of truth, without leaven. Has He not said that insight and understanding comes in the breaking of His bread? His people partake of unleavened bread at the Passover, prior to their entrance into the Promised Land. Lot prepared unleavened bread for the heavenly visitors prior to his departure from Sodom; it was eaten by the priests and consumed by the Nazarites. Has He not recorded in His Book that during the days of the apostle Paul, the angel of the Lord stood beside him when the "ship" was about to break apart? And that damage and loss would be sustained, but those who sailed with him would be saved? A final feeding of bread was given to those who would be rescued to strengthen them. At about midnight, another land came into view and was seen by those who sailed with Paul. A tumultuous storm arises, but He shall preserve those who cling to Him, for they can see that a safe haven, "another country" lies directly ahead of them!

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“And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass...And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up food in the cities...And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea...And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn, because that the famine was so sore in all lands”; Genesis 41:32, 48-49, 57

“Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was not water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee.” Deuteronomy 8:15-16

“And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers; and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left...And Naomi said unto her daughter-in-law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen”; Ruth 2:14, 20

“And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Bethlehem-judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place. And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in”; Judges 17:9-10

“And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick; and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither”; 2 Kings 4:8-10

“But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot...and brought the man of God bread of the first fruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk. And he said, Give unto the people that they may eat”; 2 Kings 4:41-42

“And their eyes were opened...he was known of them in breaking of bread”; Luke 24:31, 35

“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus”; Acts 17:6-7

“For there stood by me this night the angel of God...Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all of them that sail with thee...But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country...And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat”; Acts 27:23-24, 27, 35-36

