



Experiencing beyond the norm

January 29, 2017

1 KINGS 17:1-4 NKJV – (1) And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.” (2) Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, (3) “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. (4) And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

The doctrine of **common grace** pertains to the sovereign grace of God bestowed upon *all of mankind* regardless of their *election*. In other words, God has always bestowed His graciousness on *all people* in all parts of the earth at all time.

Special grace, however, differs from common grace. Special grace brings favor only to a targeted group of recipients. Why? Obedience, submission, commitment and consistency are characteristics of those who receive this type grace. God can use this “special grace” in a unique way to accomplish any task of His choosing. But, do not get it wrong! God can also use what is evil to accomplish a task as well. He can make “Hell bring Heaven to you.”

Elijah the Prophet is a perfect example of God using evil to accomplish a task. He was on a mission for God. In verse one, Elijah the Prophet makes it clear to King Ahab what God pronounced on the Israelites resulting from their incestuous idolatry! Again, it was God saying and doing, not Elijah. Elijah was only a mouthpiece. Let this be a lesson to us all. **It is all about HIS glory!** Note that it is not about our sharing or receiving a percentage of the glory. **It is all about Him!**

Mind you, when Elijah announced what God said, I want you to know that he was also included in the trials to come however, this is when “special grace” kicked in! In **Verse 2-4a**, God instructed Elijah to go to a certain brook by the name of Cherith. This was not a regular type of brook; it was the brook where God directed Elijah. The water was fresh at a time when no one had water. God told Elijah to drink of it.

LESSON: To receive the “super natural”, we must learn to leave that which is common or simply no good for us. But that is not all. God told Elijah the Ravens would bring him food in **verse 4b**. According to **Leviticus 11:13, 15** and **Deuteronomy 14:12, 14**, ravens are among the birds considered unclean to the Jews. “And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: Every raven after his kind.”

Yet God used these birds to bring breakfast, lunch and dinner to His servant. Why? Elijah was willing and had his mind made up to follow the will of God! We struggle just to be at bible study, church services and the list goes on. Many are still on milk, when God is serving meals of substance! Are you ready and really willing to experience the supernatural? If yes is your answer, be careful! God will also test you. Remember, what Elijah said to the same Israelites in **1 Kings 18:21** “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, *How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people answered him not a word.* Why didn't the people answer him? Because they had not made up their minds. But, do you have yours made up?

SCRIPTURE READING

HEBREWS 3:12

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I do not intend to tip toe through life - only to arrive safely at death.