

Jesus gave the last days of this age a headline, He called it “The Great Tribulation”

The word tribulation means “grievous affliction or distress”

As we move closer to the end of this age tribulation on mankind will increase

Added to this is the decreasing desire of the government, the school systems and law enforcement, to restrain moral decline

We live in a time when a big portion of society is in open and rebellion toward God

Ps 2:1-2 seem very prophetic at this point....

In a world of unrestrained lawlessness fear and outrage live in our hearts

As a church called to bring healing to our cities, to stand against things like abortion and pornography the task can seem daunting

Christians on the front line are weary – many are just going through the motions, some have stopped fighting altogether

Daniel warned us this would happen (Dan7:25)

This is why it is important to remember what I said last Sunday – Jesus came in search of life....

Elijah Was Human Too

Elijah fought in the same spiritual war as we do – in his battle for souls he stood against Jezebel and Ahab

But his most intense battle was not against a visible enemy – it was against personal discouragement

As bold as Elijah was, he lived as a fugitive

Jezebel had murdered the Lord’s prophets

As a result their godly influence was replaced with satanic oppression, the priest of Baal & Asherah

But God is always on the move – Elijah and the prophets of Baal were to build altars to the God they served

The God who answered by fire would be acknowledged as the God over the nation

King Ahab and the whole nation came to watch

Try as hard as they could the prophets of Baal got no response from their god

But when Elijah prayed, fire fell upon his sacrifice

This was Elijah’s greatest victory, everyone saw God’s power (1 Kings 18:39)

But God wasn’t finished – Elijah had all the priest of Baal destroyed

He prayed and the Lord brought rain ending a 3 year drought

Think about this – on this day both fire and rain fell from heaven!!!

If this day had happened at any other time the whole nation would have repented

Baal worship should have ended but it continued

In fact nothing changed

The revival Elijah expected didn’t happen, the opposite actually happened

Jezebel vowed to kill Elijah and he fled exhausted and discouraged to the wilderness and there he prayed (vs. 4)

Elijah had offered the Lord his very best effort and he couldn’t bring revival to the land - Discouraged and overwhelmed – he had enough

Have you ever said that? “It is enough”

Maybe you have been frustrated by your lack of ability to bring change to your situation, your family, your work, your marriage, your kids, your health, ect.....

And it’s not because you didn’t give it your all or try hard enough

And not you find yourself just like Elijah so tired of it all just ready to give up

With all his physical resources spent Elijah laid down and slept and as he did an angel touched him and told him to get up and eat

Even though he was weary with life itself he ate and then fell back to sleep

Once more the angel touched him (vs. 7)

**Listen to me Church – for all our vision and plans both corporately and individually, God’s will cannot be accomplished without His strength

The journey before us is too great

We need the strength that only comes from the Almighty’s touch

Return to Your Beginnings (vs. 8)

The Lord gave Elijah strength, not to send him back to battle but to bring him back to the basics

In trying to fulfill the task God has given us if we sacrifice our daily devotional life, we will soon be dry and desolate

To restore us God always brings us back to the essentials of our faith

Our first and highest purpose is not to save a nation, but to give Him praise

When we lose this focus, we lose touch with the presence of God

Elijah was led to Horeb – the mountain of God – Horeb means “desolation” – the place God took him mirrored his soul.....

This isn't the first time the Lord has taken a servant to His Horeb

500 years earlier the Lord appeared to Moses there

In his zeal Moses had tried and failed too.....

He fled, as a fugitive, and lived 40 years in desolation

When the Lord brought Moses to Horeb it was for two reasons

To reveal Himself to His servant

To initiate a new beginning based only on God's sustaining power

In Moses' eyes Horeb had been a time of desolation

But to God it was a place where He prepared His servants for new beginnings

As the Lord met with Moses He would now meet with Elijah

So the question still remains.....

How Did You Get Here?

Maybe Elijah's greatest virtue was his zeal

Twice he says he was very zealous for the Lord

*But zeal without wisdom becomes its own god that compels to expectations that are unrealistic and outside the timing and anointing of God

Zeal must be balance with strategic encounters with the Living God

If its is not we will become frustrated with people and discouraged with what we think are delays

So Elijah has come to Horeb and was staying in a cave and soon (vs. 9)....

I think this is the most important question God has ever asked me “What are you doing here?”

It digs into my spiritual place

Basically He is saying “How did your service to Me become dry and desolate?”

When we fail to seek life we will always find a desert waiting for us

Our primary purpose must be to abide in Christ

Otherwise our eyes will be consumed with the brokenness all around us

We will be frustrated by the brokenness of the world while we ignore the brokenness of our own soul

In His great love for us the Lord stops us and demands we look at our life

Does the cross of Jesus Christ bring me life our death – where is the abundant life?

We can be honest at Horeb – we have nothing to prove and no need to pretend there

It's a place to evaluate our heart's condition

That is when the presence of God draws near to our hearts

We find that it is the intimacy with God that we have neglected

Isn't the Lord alone our source of strength in the battle anyway?

*If the enemy can distract us from that he will keep us isolated from the power and help that come from God in overcoming our battles

Are you trying to accomplish God's will without the companionship of Jesus

Have we been traveling in our own strength – could that be why we are exhausted and discouraged?

When Joseph and Mary lost Jesus for 3 days they returned to where they had last seen Him – and so must we!

Yesterday's experience with God will not suffice for today's battles

What seems like a time of desolation is really a time of preparation

Revival of great proportion is coming to our land!!!!!!

Here at Horeb God is preparing us for a new beginning