

# **I Hear the Sound of an Abundance of Rain**

October 17, 2004

**I King 18:41-46**

## **1. Elijah had prayed and it had not rained in 3½ years, but the Lord spoke to him - go to King Ahab and I will send rain upon the earth:**

- First there was a “show down” between the Lord and Baal on Mount Carmel
- The prophets of Baal called to him all day to burn the sacrifice
- They never got an answer or any results, other than self mutilation
- Elijah called on God and the wet alter, sacrifice and the water in the trench were burned up
- Elijah then killed the 400 prophets of Baal

## **2. Elijah then prophesied:**

- Because the Lord had spoken to Him earlier, he now tells Ahab he better get up and eat and drink
- By faith and trust in the integrity of God, he speaks of a sound of abundance of rain when there is no rain or sound thereof.
- On a cloudless day, with his face between his knees, he prays for the promised rain
- God had already told him earlier that he was going to send the rain, so why did he pray for it? Just to ask GOD to now fulfill his Word.

## **3. The power of fervent prayer:**

- He sent the servant to look for rain the first time - “There is nothing”
- He prayed again and nothing. He prayed and sent the servant a total of 7 times to see if God had moved.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> trip the servant reported seeing a small cloud about the size of a man’s hand rising from the sea.

## **4. Elijah recognizes that God has moved - no rain yet, but He’s making up a cloud:**

- Elijah speaks again in faith and sends word to King Ahab - you better get started on you way back because the rain is coming. Just at the sight of a hand-sized cloud.
- Don’t wait for the sound of thunder clapping before you hear the sound of rain
- Don’t wait for the pouring rain before you believe
- Don’t wait to get wet before you get into action
- If God has ever spoken – just trust Him

## **5. The rains came:**

- And the hand of the Lord was upon Elijah and he was able to out run Ahab and his chariot from the Mount to the city of Jezreel.
- When we have total confidence in the word and promises of God, we too will prophecy (proclaim the truths of God) and then pray and expect him to fulfil his word.
- Then the hands of the Lord can be on us to strengthen us to do the extraordinary things He wants to accomplish through us.