

"THE BATTLE FOR BREAD"

I Kings 17:6

The birds of the Bible make a very interesting study.

Stork - knoweth her appointed time.

Sparrows - teach lessons of God's providence.

Ostriches - by careless incubation in the desert illustrate careless parents.

Bat - idea of darkness.

Eagle - strength.

Ravens - bring bread to a hungry man.

Englishman Mark Catsby with his pencil sketched the fouls of Heaven. Feathers - eyelids - the Lark, Quail, Wren. *carniel*

V.1 - Time - when grain crop cut off - (famine) was in the land.
Had Prayed - No Dew or Rain - Trees shed - fields parched - Elijah shares this calamity.

V.2. Visitation of cherub - "Word of Lord came to him".

V.3 - Cave - by the brook, sat a minister of God. (Elijah) was waiting for something to eat. *But the Angel - "Hide Thyself" Every command had a Promise!*
No pathway opens the Veil - Man of God sits in Meditation - (12 Mo's Rest)
Eyes red with weeping, his faith rises to heaven.

Why did he not go to his neighbors - a wilderness.

Why not pick some berries - there were none.

Seated at mouth of cave, sees a flock of birds approaching. Oh, if they were only partridges, if only I had an arrow to bring them down. They come nearer and they are unclean. The blackness of their color and voice prove them to be ravens.

The Whirr around His head and pause - one raven brings bread, another meat, they discharge their cargo until the prophet has enough.

For six months, some say a year, the morning and supper bell sounded.

Guess where they got the food from. Some have said they got it from the kitchen of King Ahab. Others, from pious Obadiah. Some say Elijah had to climb trees to get the food. Others, Arabs brought the food.

Some will admit anything but that the Bible is true. You may chop away at the miracle, but know this, you are robbing only one man and that is yourself. You will have lost one of the most beautiful, comforting triumphant lessons of all the ages.

Who were the servers of this food - ravens.

Who gave them the freight to serve - God.

God taught them to fly, he told them to swoop down at that cave. I can tell who introduced the Prophet to the raven - God. "If any man shall take away from the words of the prophesy of this book, God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the Holy City."

This evening while we watch the Ravens feeding Elijah, but God's Spirit feed your hungry soul.

Where is the great battle going on today? Is it Iran?

It is the battle for bread - stores, factories, banks, jobs, men go forth in behalf of some home circle that has to be fed!

I have known women bending over the sewing machine or sweeping floors, mending garments.

The great question is not did the Civil War turn out right, but how shall I support my family? How shall I meet my notes? How shall I pay my rent? How shall I give food, clothes, and education to my household.

This is the problem how can I feed my family.

I have gone out hunting dove, quail, ducks, geese, but this evening I am looking for a raven.

44- Food is so important - James Buckingham tells a story about the day the stove blew up.

It was his Birthday, the wife was going to surprise him with a cake. She mixed the dough, a dozen eggs, milk, and sugar. Placed in the oven. She went in the Den to tend the children and await the outcome of the cake.

Ten minutes later there was a terrible explosion in the kitchen. She rushed in to find the oven door hanging loosely from its hinges and splotches of cake batter all over the kitchen. As if that weren't bad enough, the room was filled with a strong odor.

Call her husband - called the gas people. Told not to light a match.

Man from Gas Company arrived - (discovered) - young Timmy seeing mother cooking cake for Daddy - decided to do something nice for his favorite friend Randy the brown Collie, who lived in the doghouse.

Unknown to his mother, Timmy had taken a can of dog food from the cupboard and put it in the broiler, underneath the oven. He wanted to get Randy's dog food nice and warm.

He warmed it all right. The can of dog food got hotter and hotter until it exploded -- right beneath the Birthday cake; blowing the unappetizing conglomeration of cake and dog food over the kitchen.

Dumped the cake in the garbage and scraped for hours the hardened dog food off the blasted out oven and off the walls in the kitchen.

The man got a new electric range for Birthday which his wife had wanted for a long time.

We look now to the battle for bread -- three things.

1. Distributor.
2. Dependability.
3. Design.

I. DISTRIBUTOR

The caterers came to Elijah directly from God.

"I have commanded the ravens that they feed thee." They did not come out of a near by cave. They did not just decide to alight there.

God sent them, launched them, told them what cave to swoop.

That is the same distributor that is going to supply you! He is your Father.

You would have to make an elaborate calculation before you could tell me how many pounds of food and how many yards of clothing would be necessary for you and your family; but God knows without calculation.

You have a plate at his table and you are going to be waited upon, unless you act like a naughty child, and kick, and scream, and pound the plate and try to upset things.

God has a vast family, and he has a method and you are going to be served, if you will only wait your turn.

God has already ordered the suits of clothes you will need, down to the last one. *(cash)*

God has already ordered all the food you will ever eat down to the last crumb.

(Sensible) parents depend on his own judgement as to clothing and food for children in the family. The child says give me sugar and sweets -- parent say eat plainer food first.

Child says give me certain clothes, parents that is not suitable.

God is our Heavenly Father and we are his children and he is going to clothe us and feed us. He may not always yield to our infantile wish for sweets or glitter.

Ravens did not bring pomegranetes from platter of Ahab. They brought bread and meat.

God had all the Heaven and earth before him and under him -- yet he sends plain food - because it was best for Elijah to have it.

Be strong -- that is the same God is going to feed you. It is never hard times with God. His ships never break on the rocks, His bank never fails.

He has the (supply) for you and the (means) for sending it. He (not) only has the cargo but the ship. He can reach out from Heaven and send a flock of ravens until

food reaches your gate. He is the distributor.

II. DEPENDABILITY

Story tells us that Elijah did not hoard up a surplus.

✓ Vi 6 They did not bring enough on Monday to last all the week. Nor enough one morning to last until the next morning.

They came (twice) a day - brought just enough for (one time)

✓ (Great fret) of the world is we want a surplus. Want the ravens to bring enough for (50 years).

(More) confidence is put in the (Virginia National Bank) - equal time (Chesapeake Bank & Trust) - or perhaps (People's Bank) than you have in the (royal bank of Heaven).

Bring me gold - better be content with just enough.

✓ (If) family in the morning eat up all the food, don't sit down and cry saying, "I don't know where the next meal is coming from."

About 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening look up, 2 black spots on the sky, and you will hear the flopping of wings. Two ravens of the Lord, one bringing bread the other bringing meat.

The (butcher and baker) have arrived.

Vi 4 - Glass - filled from Brook the rich -

Drink - Clatter of
meat - food -

God is infinite in his (resources) and this is dependability.

✓ City of Rochelle beseiged - people dying in famine - tides washed up on the beach as never before enough shell-fish to feed the whole city.

God is good and make no mistake about that.

✓ 1555 - England - great drought. Crops failed. But in Essex on the rocks a place where they had neither sown nor cultivated, great crop of peas grew until they filled a hundred measures.

✓ Family stories - great drought in Conn., New England. Water disappeared from the hills - farmers drove their cattle down through the valleys and supplied them with water from wells of neighbors. But after a while these began to fail -- neighbors said to Mr. Birdseye you must send your flocks some where else our wells are giving out. Norfolk, Virginia Beach at present are rationing water.

Mr. Birdseye an old Christian man, gathered his family at the altar, gathered the slaves of the household, and on their knees before God they cried for water; there was weeping and great sobbing at the altar, that the family might not perish for lack of water, the herds might not perish. Family arose and the old man took his staff and walked out over the hills and in a place where he had never noticed anything particular, he saw the ground was very dark, took his staff and turned the ground and water started. Beckoned his slaves - they brought pails and all the family and flocks were cared for. They build troughs reaching from that place to the house and barn and the water was a living fountain.

That says to you a lesson, when there is great stress of circumstances - pray and dig, and pray and dig.

God says "The mountains shall depart and the hills be removed but my loving kindness shall not fail." If your business has a break down = look out for the ravens.

In your despondency out God on trial -- I can tell you what the first chapter of your life is -- the second and final chapter. It is mercy - God watched over your cradle and the time in between.

III. DESIGN

God sent relief to the prophet with the most (impossible conveyance). It was unexpected God would use this method. Not a dove or meadow lark, or quail, or robin red-breast. It was a fierce bird, a forceful bird we call ravenous. A passion for picking out the eyes of men and animals. It loves to maul the sick and dying.

All the food Elijah gets for six months or year is from ravens.

Design was to send food from (unexpected) source.

You plan and struggle and hope some big-hearted man will go your note -- God will open an unexpected source.

Here is where we make a mistake.

We design God's method - his plan.

We get proud - a few dollars - so proud independent of God. No longer pray "Give me this day my daily bread", because you have made provisions for a hundred years!

Then something comes and sweeps everything away - and you begin to pray and feel your independence and humble before God and cry out for the treasures of Heaven.

A child has been swept away from your home by diphtheria, scarlet fever.
Self-righteousness is not to acknowledge that you are a better person than
you used to be.

What brought to you the sanctifying blessing?

Every child of God needs to get out of despondency.

The Lord never had so many ravens as he has tonight. Cast your fret to
the winds.

Some are like a little girl of 4 years old. "Oh I wish I could go to
Heaven and see God and pick some flowers!"

He will let you go at the right time and pick flowers. Until then whatever
you want pray for.

Elijah had a tremendous work behind him and a tremendous work before him.

God does not have spare ravens for idlers, or for people who are prayerless.

Ask God for what you want and you shall have it, if it is best for you.

Christian woman was left by her husband a widow with one half dollar and a
cottage. She was palsied, had a mother 90 years old to support. Everyday she
asked God for the needs of the household. Friends were astonished with God's
answers item by item. One day, rising from family altar a friend said "you have
not asked for coal, and the coal is out." Then they stood and prayed for the
coal... one hour after that, the friend threw open the door and said, the coal
has come.

A generous man, had sent the coal. Never before nor after did he supply coal.

Ex. 16:4 "It will Rain Down bread from heaven for you - gather a certain Rate Every Day! Manna
You cannot understand it - ravens - ravens.

Deut 2:7 Wilderness - was God with
"Thou hast lacked
Nothing!"

Has not God taken care of you two or three times every day? That is marvelous.

I look back and wonder God has given me (food three) times a day regularly all my life time. Never missing.

I wish that all people would trust Him with their lives.

Y. 9, 12 - 14, 16 Widow zarephath Sustained -
Bread for today.

Bread for tomorrow - immortal soul.

"Blessed are they that hunger after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

To all the sinning - sorrowing - wasted opportunities - cast your eyes to the Judgement.

Look up from the interceding Christ comes the ravens, ravens with atonement.

On questio - how many here are willing to trust God for the supply of their bodies Brook at che with Never dried up! Are you sick - have sinners - God & Elijah still lives -

Trust the Lord Jesus for the redemption of their souls?

Only Believe