

THE BROOK IS DRY

Text: 1 Kings 17:7a

7a “Some time later the brook dried up...”

Introduction: We all know where this verse fits into history. It is in the life of Elijah, the prophet.

Let’s look at this event and as we do observe how the enemy can take a single circumstance and turn it into a crisis for folks like you and me today.

I. The Brook is Dry.

A. A safe place for the prophet Elijah.

1 Kings 17:2 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah:

3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.

4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there."

1. God sent the prophet here.

a. Right place.

b. Right time.

2. It was the place of provision.

1 Kings 17:4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there."

3. There is nothing like being in the center of God’s will.

B. Why is Elijah here?

1 Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

B. But the brook dries up. Does anybody know why?

1 Kings 17:1b "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

1. There is a drought in the land.
2. The sins of Ahab and Israel have brought this on.

Deut 11:16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

17 Then the Lord's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you.

C. There is nothing Elijah can do because the drought has at least three more years.

James 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

D. The rain is the sign of God's favor and blessings.

Lev 26:4 I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit.

5 Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.

II. A Dry Riverbed.

A. I hear a voice speaking to you me telling us the river has dried up.

1. Is there safety in the land?
2. Is there peace?

3. Is there plenty and vats running over?
4. Isn't that what your God promised you?

Joel 2:24 The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

5. The brook dried up and now the river has run dry!

- B. So many Christians have bought into this lie.
 1. The 'river of God' no longer flows here because if it did would we not be enjoying its blessings.

Ps 46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

2. It isn't flowing in my life or I would not be having the problems that I am facing.

- B. For many years, pastors, theologians and Christians have declared it no longer flows.
 1. Tongues are a thing of the past.
 2. Prophets no longer function and their words are not heard.
 3. Extravagant worship is not necessary for the scriptures declare:

1 Cor 14:40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

- C. "God is so angry with His people that He has shut up the windows of heaven and nothing is going to change."
- D. The brook dried up and the 'river' no longer flows.

Conclusion: On the contrary! This is not what the scriptures proclaim. Hear the Word of the Lord!

Joel 2:23 Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.

Joel 2:28 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

The riverbed is not dry unless someone has damned the river up. I think more Christians need to take a trip to the '**RIVER**' [River of God] on Sunday's.

Don't come expecting drought and dust and despair! Remember there came a day when the prophet Elijah made this statement:

1 Kings 18:41b "...for there is the sound of an abundance of rain."

You can put up your umbrellas. You can run for cover. You can do anything you wish to avoid this outpouring but you better get out of the "Riverbed" – "Church" if you don't want to get swept away.

Because this is what God has declared:
Acts 2:17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Joel 2:23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you — The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

The "River of God" is flowing! Get in on the blessing! Get in on the joy and peace that is flowing!