

Three Faces of the Elijah Ministry

by Jim Rinker

Luke 3:3 "And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways [shall be] made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God".



The Elijah ministry is a ministry of preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This preparation requires that the body be in the "unity of the spirit" (Ephesians 4:2). That unity is first and foremost our personal unity with the Father. Out of this flows our unity with each other through the spirit.

So from Luke 3 we see that the preparatory work has four faces, each achieving the same overall purpose, our unity (agreement) with the Father. This is accomplished by ministering to each person what he or she needs to come into agreement with God.

Firstly, every valley will be filled. Jesus said blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. We see this in:

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me

to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to [them that are] bound".

Some in the church need to be lifted up and have their wounding and brokenness healed. Some are captives and need to be freed from their valley of despair. God is healing many in the body so that they may be able to harness themselves with the Lord to do His will. So healing and restoration, and reconciliation are a major theme of the Elijah ministry.

Psalms 51:16-17 "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give [it]: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise".

James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble".

Secondly, every mountain will be made low. Many within the body need this face of the Elijah ministry. Paul exhorts us in:

Romans 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith".

Some in the body need to know their true spiritual condition. God gives His grace to the humble and resists the proud. So our divine plowman is working to tear down the mountains and high places so many can be brought to a place of humility and brokenness before Him so that He may lift them up in due season and put them back together as He sees fit. Some need to

fall on the Rock and be broken before the Rock falls on them and their ground to dust. That place of humility is knowing who we really are, just sinners saved by grace and in need of more grace and mercy on a daily basis.

1 John 1:8-9 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

The biblical picture of self-denial is in the Laodocian church.

Revelation 3:17-19 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent".

Self-denial of our true spiritual condition is what cuts us off from the grace of God. We see here that they indeed think more highly of themselves than they really are. God counsels them to anoint their eyes with eye salve so that they can see (their true condition). Notice also that God does not scold them out of not being His children. He exhorts, "As many as I love I chasten".

Hebrews 12:5-8 "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons".

Notice here that we need to endure chastening. This means we need to receive it and seek after it.

Psalms 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting".

God only chastens us because He wants us to rule and reign with Jesus as His bride. He only wants the best for us but at the same time will not compromise His kingdom's principles to bless us. He will, however, only present a pure and spotless bride without wrinkle to His son (what a true King deserves might I add; what our blessed Savior deserves). This is what He is transforming us into <<IF>> we allow Him to work in our lives by enduring His chastening which we are ALL partakers of.

Revelation 3:20-21 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne".

So let us allow God to work humility into us, so that He may exalt us in due time.

Matthew 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted".

1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time"

Matthew 20:25-28 "But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many".

The third face have to do with removing the obstacles on the narrow road that leads to righteousness. The crooked needs to be made straight and the rough being made smooth speak of inner purity. It is to bring to light the dark areas in our heart and take them to the cross.

Deuteronomy 17:20 "That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, [to] the right hand, or [to] the left: to the end that he may prolong [his] days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel".

The Elijah ministry is a ministry of preparation. We are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling so that we may enter into the kingdom realm of doing the will of the Father on earth. That entering into the kingdom will occur when Jesus comes back to His church (ten virgins parable; Matthew 25). Those who have overcome will be partakers in destroying the works of the devil and redeem that which was lost.

1 John 3:8 "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil".

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled".

Notice that our obedience must first be fulfilled. Paul is saying that we must first be overcomers. There is indeed a time of preparation were we are tried and purified (sanctified) before we can be direct partakers of "revenging all disobedience". This preparation is the essence of the Elijah ministry.

Luke 3:16-17 "John answered, saying unto [them] all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable".

When Jesus visits His church, He is coming to reap all that has eternal value, which is the

wheat. The works of the flesh, the chaff, He will burn with fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire".

Therefore, let us allow the four faces of the Elijah ministry do their perfect work within us, preparing us to be worthy vessels for the glory, which is yet to come. Let the Lord Himself be our delight as we seek to have that divine marriage, that two becoming one...knowing Him...knowing His ways and having His heart and love within us and being divinely joined to Him.

Philippians 3:10-16

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect:

but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:

but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and

reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing".