

## "Going on Offense"

The Ministry of the Spirit

October 4, 2026

### "Former Things & New Things"

Reminder: **Last week we saw that "Redemption"** (the ministry of the Christ) **gives way to "Restoration"** (the invasion of Renewal!) ...

#### **Eph 2 ...the Great Chapter that Unpacks this Act of Redemption—Salvation BY GRACE!**

Eph 2 ... <sup>12</sup> "Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ" ... <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." ... <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."

... **"Separated from Christ"** (v.1 - "you were dead in trespasses and sins") ... **THIS is the great source of life's "Deserts and Wilderness Places"!!** ... The Garden of Eden & the City of God have a RIVER in them, whose streams make glad the city of God! (Separation is Contrasted w/ NEARNESS!)

... **"But now in Christ"** ... **This s HUGE! ...This is restoring what was lost in Eden! —Access to the Power & Presence of God!** ...In its "Ultimate Sense" - THIS is what Isaiah saw, when he said, "Remember not the former things, behold I am doing a new thing ...I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Jn 7:37-39 <sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

#### **BEHOLD, I am doing a "new thing"**

Rom 6:4 "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, **IN ORDER THAT**, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.**"

Rom 8:3-4 "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh could not do. ...<sup>4</sup> **IN ORDER THAT**, the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who **WALK NOT ACCORDING TO THE FLESH BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT.**"

...**The "Redemption" portion of the Gospel is an "IN ORDER THAT" chapter!! ...That gives way to "Renewal & Restoration" BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!** ...Let us not be "Cross Enamored & Spirit Ignorant"—That doesn't make sense! ...Let us not treat "Hearing Truth" and Being "Well Taught" and "Doctrinally Faithful" as the Ultimate Goal!

#### **WE Are to Participate 'RIGHT NOW' in What God is Doing!**

Gal 5:16-17, 25 <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ...<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

... "Walk by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit" ...**These are NOW experiences!** Current, meaningful, compelling, exchanges with the Spirit!

## Keeping in Step with the Spirit

...Elijah and God's Changing Seasons...

### 1Ki 17:1-7 ... **[Playing DEFENSE]**

...We meet Elijah (Yes, a famous prophet. ...but also just a dude from "Tishbe" (Kenner); a man with passions like us (Jam 4:17 "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours...")

-- But Elijah is a man who "Interacts With" the Spirit of God! ...v. 1 "**Yahweh, before whom I stand**" (That's NEARNESS! That's ACCESS!) ... "And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah" (1Ki 18:46)... "...And Elisha said, 'Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.'" (2Ki 2:9)  
...In N.T. Language - Elijah is a man "Filled with the Holy Spirit"

...Elijah is "In Step with God" ...**this is very much more than merely being a man who knew Biblical Principles and lived a morally & ceremonially appropriate life!**

v. 1-3 ...**The Spirit's next step is a DROUGHT!** ...3 1/2 Yrs of certain "Life Characteristics" (disfavor, leanness, scarcity, vulnerability, fear, death, struggle, SURVIVAL!)

Beware: **Not Every Day in God's Purpose is Exactly the Same!** ...this is a bit more of a "Day of Defense"

Deut 8:1-3

1Ki 18:1-2 ...**[Playing OFFENSE]** 3½ years later the Season is Changing! ...God is INSERTING His Purpose and Elijah is part of that "Insertion"!!

NOTICE: For Elijah to Engage This Season—He has to Leave the Wilderness! ...He has to STOP HIDING!

1Ki 18:17-22 ...**This Isn't a "DEFENSIVE Survival" Season! ...Elijah needs to "Perceive, Receive, & DO" something new!!**

...**Elijah's first step on offense ...is to "Confront & Conquer" a principality/power!!**  
(Ahab/Jezebel ...Prophets of Baal)

**?? – What/Who's Your/My "Ahab or Jezebel"??** ...this "Dominant Force" on the landscape of my life! ...The Thing I'm HIDING From?

1Ki 18:23-24 ...**the Real Warfare is about WHO WILL WE CALL UPON??**

...At Some Point You Go On Offense by TRUSTING IN and LOOKING TO and HOPING IN GOD!!

**NOTE:** Elijah (man) Has a Role of "Participation" with God in His Purpose! ["Paracreating"]

"If the command to fill the earth is an injunction to procreate, then the command to subdue the earth is an injunction to paracreate. ... It is as though, among all the vast universe, he left a little corner of it unfinished in order that Adam and Eve might paracreate, participating in the ordering work of creation under God's direction and mandate. ...Adam and Eve are mandated to participate..." **Christopher Watkin**, "Thinking Through Creation", p. 103, 104

-- **Elijah "accesses the presence of God"** (Whether you are Adam in Eden, Isaiah before the Throne of God, Elijah, or the church! ...We have "Access to God"! We access the Presence of God and Go On Offense!)

...James described this "participation" this way: Jam 4:17 "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit."

...James acts like it was "Elijah's Activity" that "created these conditions on earth"!! ...and in a "paracreation way" it was!

...PAUL ...would tell Elijah to "STRAP ON YOUR ARMOR—and Go On OFFENSE"!!

Eph 6:10-13, 18-19

**...Pray! Participate in the Invasion of Renewal!**

1Ki 18:41-46 ...**[Praying for a New Season]**

v. 42-43 ...**Elijah prayed ...and... "there is nothing"**

...Sometimes we pray—and "there's NOTHING"!!!

...There were "6-Nothings"!!

v. 44 ...**THEN!! At the 7th time— "a LITTLE cloud like a man's hand"**

... "paracreated" by a man named Elijah!!

... "a little beginning to a Big Outpouring"!!

Is. 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Is. 44:3 "For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."

...we can get used to living in "Wildernesses & Deserts" ...and we're not ready to "receive" rivers!

...We can Live on DEFENSE and Fail to Perceive when it's Time to "GO ON OFFENSE"!!

...we can be Bible Believing, Church Attending, Christians—and NOT be "in step w/ the Spirit"!!

**?? - What if God is wanting to "change seasons"??** (In your life; in LCC; in His church). ...**What Needs to be PREPARED in Me??** ...**Am I postured to "Play Offense"?** ...to advance the kingdom, to pray, to pierce darkness, to conquer forces, to destroy the works of the devil, to DO Lk 4:18-19!!