

WORLD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER X Faith for the End-Times VI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19

Hebrews 11:17-19 says, *“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”* What a statement this is about the faith of Abraham. He knew he had a promise, Isaac fulfilled that promise. But then God asked for Isaac on the altar as a sacrifice. Abraham couldn’t understand but concluded God would be able to raise him from the dead. That is an amazing conclusion to come to in faith. Abraham so believed the promise of seed that he concluded that God wanted to raise Isaac from the dead, and as a result, received him as a figurative type of Christ. That is tremendous faith in action and it is no wonder that the angel from heaven stopped him and said because Abraham was willing to obey God’s voice, his seed would possess the gate of his enemies. We qualify for a blessing in Abraham because he is the father of all them that believe. And that blessing is that our seed possesses the enemy’s gate. Are we believing for that and calling it into existence? Our seed possess the gate of the enemy and through the Abrahamic covenant we rule in the gate. When we sow this word in our heart and tend that soil, we can grow into the faith necessary to stand on these promises. Abraham bought and paid for it and he is the father of **all** them that believe.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Scripture: Matthew 5:13

In Matthew 5:13 in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”* When we stand on the covenant shoulders of Abraham and choose in faith to believe his covenant promises, then we are the salt of the earth. But if we do nothing with Abraham’s covenant and what his obedience bought and paid for, then the enemy walks on us. God intended that we be the salt of the earth. He gave us the authority. He gave us the power and He gave us the promises. But if we do not use them then we abandon our salt, our covenant and our promises. It is time the church stood victoriously on who we are in Christ! We are salt and light and it is time to act like it!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 13:4-5, Matthew 28:18, 5:13

2 Chronicles 13:4-5 says, *“Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, and said, ‘Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel: Should you not know that the Lord God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?’”* When Jesus said, *“You are the salt of the earth...”* what is He referring to? He is referring to God’s covenant, which confers dominion on David, his sons and his generations. The covenant of salt was given to David and his house and it lasts forever. The Throne of David was guaranteed by salt, and it is the Throne Christ sits on. Jesus said, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* That dominion is guaranteed by the covenant of salt. But we have to enter into the covenant, appropriate it and act on it. Jesus believed 2 Chronicles 13:5 and He declared it in Matthew 5:13. Will we believe it and act on it? I trust we will, in Jesus’ name!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Scripture: Mark 9:36-38

In this passage Jesus is training the Twelve and He is about to tell them how salty they really are if they walk accordingly. This passage ends up with a declaration about salt. We know whether or not we are walking on the enemy is determined by whether or not we are preserving our salt covenant. There are things that forfeit the salt covenant and there are things that preserve it. So let's look to Scripture to find out how to preserve and walk in the covenant of salt. Mark 9:36-38 says, *"Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, 'Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.'* Now John answered Him, saying, *'Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.'* "Forbade" is the Greek word **ko-luo-o** and it means, 'to cut off as in severing a branch from a tree.' And in this passage, He was telling the Twelve they are not the yardstick. Just because somebody does not work with us does not mean we can cut them off when they are doing the work of the Lord. We have to discern whether a person is walking with the Lord or not. If they are walking with the Lord, we are to bless them, not cut them off. The Twelve had to learn to avoid doing things that forfeit salt, and one of those things is judging inappropriately. If we misjudge people and their motives and we stop their ministry for the wrong reason, we are in trouble with God. We have to accurately discern when we judge, otherwise we can cause damage to people and to the Kingdom. We have to discern who is serving the Lord and who is not, and encourage those who are. Our lives and our spiritual fruit are not the yardstick by which to measure somebody else. We have to get the yardstick directly from the Holy Spirit. We have to expect Him to show us who is serving Him and who is not. There are even gifts of the Spirit that help with that, called 'Words of Knowledge' and 'Discerning of Spirits.' The Lord is committed to witness to us who belongs to Him and who does not. Part of life is discerning and knowing. And to do that we have to ask for guidance, hear direction from the Lord and make anointed decisions. John, the Apostle of Love, apparently learned about love the hard way. And we cannot be hard on ourselves if we have to learn the hard way as well. The important thing is to be committed to personal growth, so we can be fruitful in the days ahead.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Scripture: Mark 9:39-41

Jesus responded to John's inclination to cut off a person doing ministry by saying this, *"But Jesus said, 'Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side. For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.'"* One of the first things we have to learn is not to judge by the yardsticks of our own experiences and lives. Doing that is dangerous territory – both for us and the people we may judge. We can only judge by the yardstick the Lord gives us in any given situation. We can only judge by the witness of the Spirit. I trust we will learn this because it is essential in the last days. We have to discern the ministries around us accurately and realize that the time may come that our anointed discernment may very well be a life or death issue.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Scripture: Mark 9:42-44

Verses 42-44 state, *"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'"* Jesus made it clear that offenses come from many places. But the person who causes the offense needs to be very careful because if, through disobedience, we are offending believers who are trying to obey God, we are on dangerous ground. John caused an offense by stopping ministry that Jesus would not have stopped. And Jesus goes on to say that people who routinely cause offenses will find themselves outside the Kingdom and in danger of judgment themselves. Jesus was very strong on this issue. The fruit of our actions, one way or another, depends on the issue of discernment. Are we accurately discerning the individual by the Holy Spirit's yardstick? In this passage in Mark, John did not and it got him into trouble. But Jesus used it for a learning opportunity. And that is how God treats us. He takes our mistakes and uses them as learning opportunities so we can grow up and get it right in the future. And that is exactly how we want to treat people. We want to treat their mistakes like a learning opportunity so they can grow up and not make the same missteps in the future. That is wisdom and that is part of Christ-like behavior. Therefore, let us

start treating each other that way! With each offense that a person makes, let us try to turn it into a learning opportunity that will help them grow into the fullness of Christ. If we choose to walk that way, we cannot lose!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Scripture: Mark 9:45-46

Mark 9:45-46 states, *“And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where ‘Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.’”* The directive, *‘cut it off’* implies immediate action. Jesus is training the Twelve to look for issues that cause sin and cut such areas off. He was teaching them they could not afford to lose their salt and they could not afford to lose their light. When we identify something that causes sin or is a reason we are misjudging situations, we are to take immediate, corrective action. The fruit of waiting is significant and we do not want to reap the fruit of sin. Causing offense, as the disciples did in verses 39-41 qualifies. Being offensive when God wants us to be contributing to growth and development of our fellow believers is sin. If we cause offense when we are instead called to aid in a fellow believer’s growth, we need to identify what is causing our problem and let God show us where the root is. There is no fruit without a root! If our actions cause offense and do not contribute to the growth of our fellow believers, then there is a rotten root in us that needs to be discovered and dealt with. All fruit has a root. If there is good fruit there is a good root. But if there is offensive fruit, it has a root that needs to be dug out and removed. Jesus calls us to do it and He will help us identify and remove that which is not of Him. We cannot afford to disregard these principles. They are keys to how people grow and how we prepare ourselves to use our faith in the last days.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Scripture: Mark 9:47-48

Verses 47-48 say, *“And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’”* Jesus starts out addressing the hand. The hand is symbolic for everything we touch. If we touch money that is not ours, or someone else’s spouse, or anything that is not honorable, we are in sin. If what we are touching is going to be offensive, we are to cut off our hand (our offensive behaviors). Then He moves to the foot. If we find ourselves walking into a place where we do not belong, we are to cut it off – walk out or walk away. Even Joseph in Genesis 39 had to resist the advances of Potiphar’s wife. The ‘reward’—more faith time to withstand the challenges to what God had shown him prophetically. In the Matthew passage Jesus finally moves on to the eye. If we find ourselves looking at things we should not be looking at, it is important to cut off that action immediately. The eye is the window to the soul and we have to protect our soul in every way possible. Jesus uses the hand, the foot and the eye, in that order. It starts with what we touch, proceeds to where we walk and ends with what we look at. Jesus said sinning and offending forfeit our covenant of salt and consequently our covenantal authority. Let us grow into all that the Lord intends us to be. Integrity in private where no eye can see produces power in public where every eye can see!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Scripture: Mark 9:49-50

Verses 49-50 say, *“For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”* In order to be covenant warriors we have to be able to stand in the fire we call down. We have the authority to call God’s fire down, but we have to realize that we must be clean enough to stand in it ourselves. Our salt works judicially as long as we keep our lives clean. Righteousness and holiness are the foundation for the judicial power and authority of God. We must walk in righteousness and sustain holiness because that qualifies us to have salt. It is our choice and it is crucial to prepare to walk there. Nations need to see Christ in the last days and whether or not we can walk victoriously with Him depends on the magnitude of harvest we get. We have to make sure we pursue everything God intended us to have.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-2, Matthew 10:37-39

In Hebrews 11:1-2 we find the essence of faith for the end-times. Faith for the end-times is an issue of believing God's Word and choosing to act on it accordingly. Faith without works is dead, but faith with corresponding action is how God ordained the church to act on His promises. Hebrews 11:1-2 says, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony."* Are we using our faith to serve God and to serve His eternal purposes or are we using our faith to serve ourselves? I have seen people choose to use their faith to serve themselves. The 'faith movement' was geared toward the principle of, 'Name it and claim it' and a number of people used their faith to get comfort, stability and personal, self-motivated gain. Do we find ourselves believing more for what will bring personal advantage or more for what will bring to pass God's will? Have we set our hands to God's eternal purpose? Are we using our faith for His purpose? If we can answer with a resounding yes, then we are in the center of His will. If we are growing in that ability, we are also doing His will. What we are using our faith for is a question that reveals much about who we are and where our heart is. This does not mean that we will never pray for our own wants or needs but very simply means that we should rely on the Holy Spirit to birth and direct our prayers. This is part of taking up our cross daily and following God and His plans and purposes.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Scripture: Hebrews 3:17-21

Hebrews 3:17-21 we are told, *"Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."* What do we use our faith for primarily? In the first two thirds of Hebrews 11, everyone uses their faith to subdue their own flesh so they can sign on wholeheartedly to God's purposes. There is much subduing that faith does in the book of Revelation. While in Hebrews, the first application of faith is on our own flesh to obey God. Abraham had to use his faith on his flesh to step beyond his culture, abandon his father the patriarch and to go with God. God asked him to do something that was not culturally acceptable, and no doubt he had to use his faith on his flesh to obey. After I had spent seven years in ministry, I had generated a wealth of teaching materials regarding faith. And after seven years the Lord spoke to me and said, 'Abraham was the father of all them that believe and he did not know any of what you are teaching!' I had to dig into the Word and completely reassess everything that I taught. I found I had missed something called the Cross. I had to be willing to set aside over 500 audio messages and start over. And when I added the Cross, everything dramatically changed. How are we using our faith? Are we using it to believe for better accommodations, better vehicles or financial security? Or are we using it on our flesh to withstand our comforts, desires and goals that are not birthed by God? Adding the cross opened my eyes that the first application of faith was intended to be used on our own flesh to obey God. When we use our faith to give God the honor and obedience that He wants, we are on the right track. Are we there? That is the question.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Scripture: Proverbs 16:32

Proverbs 16:32 says, *"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."* The Holy Spirit seems to be saying in Proverbs, that if we can rule our spirit, we can rule cities. If we can rule in our spirit, we can rule in the world and anywhere God sends us. How are we doing in that category? Are we using our faith on our flesh to control anything that is not of God? Are we using our faith on our flesh to rule our spirit so we can rule for Christ in the world? How much of what God asks us to do is designed for teaching us to rule our own flesh?

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Scripture: Hebrews 11:3-4

Hebrews 11:3-4 says, *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."* When we learn to use our faith to rule our own spirit, obedience in how God leads us to use our faith in the earth will

continue to speak long after we are gone. If the worlds were framed by the Word of God spoken in faith, then our future is framed by the Word of God that we speak in faith. Our faith birthed in God can still speak after we are gone! Will it?

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Scripture: Hebrews 11:5-6

Verses 5-6, *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* Enoch used his faith and his faith continued to speak after he was gone. Using our faith on our flesh to obey God pleases Him. And diligently seeking Him means daily using our faith on our flesh to make choices that are often hard to make. Will we put our faith to work and please God? That is the question.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7

2 Thessalonians 2:5-7 says, *“Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.”* If you and I walk in the Holy Spirit in our generation, we have a job. Our job is to follow the Spirit, and often that means following Him in judgment to restrain evil through our obedient prayers. It is part of our job. And one of the fastest ways to restrain evil is to use our faith to walk in the covenant of salt. Can we do that? 2 Thessalonians 2 is a clear indication that the Holy Spirit restrains evil and does so through the church. But if we turn the other cheek to evil in every case, we will likely thwart His purposes. Are we going to contend for the faith once delivered to the church? Once we are in the habit of using our faith on our own flesh, then and only then can we use it for Kingdom judicial purposes.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-9

Psalm 2:1-9 says, *“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ‘Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree:’ The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’”* We restrain evil by using a Rod of Iron. The covenant of salt empowers us to pray judicially when led by the Spirit over those who are violating God's Word and see them dry up or be removed. When the Spirit leads us, we can pray judicially to dry up finances or cut them off and remove them. Restraining evil is bringing the judicial Hand of God or Rod of Iron on the wicked. We need to first look at the strength of the words used in this passage, then follow this in the Word and see if it consistently leads us into the New Testament. First we need to recognize that we are the ones called to exercise judgment. He did not say **He** would break them with a Rod of Iron, He said *“**You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.**”* The Hebrew word **ra-rah** is translated *“break”* and means ‘a blow from which there is no recovery.’ Can you and I pray a prayer on an individual from which there is no recovery? Psalm 2:8 promises us a harvest of nations if we ask. When we face resistance to the harvest, it is our job to **break** that resistance. After **break/ra-rah**, we are called to dash/**kaw-fats**. **Kaw-fats** means ‘to shatter in pieces and toss into the air until a whirlwind blows it away, never to be recovered.’ Psalm 2:9 encourages us to pray termination on those who are promoting, espousing and funding evil. If evil is impacting our harvest field, our job is to put the Rod of Iron on it. We need to pray it covenantally and use our faith to put it into action. If evil is hindering our harvest, we are given the spiritual tools to put it under our feet. When you and I use our faith to harvest nations, anything that sets itself against that harvest has to be subject to God's Rod of Iron. Let's use our faith to walk in Psalm 2, in Jesus' name!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 9:6-7 says, *“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”* The Kingdom of God cannot be established without God moving His Judicial Hand. That judgment cannot be prayed except from a platform of righteousness and holiness. Are we walking in righteousness? Have we built a platform of holiness in our lives? It is the only way we can establish the Kingdom of God and Isaiah 9 says it is established with justice and judgment. Let us build a platform of holiness and righteousness and use our faith to exercise the spiritual justice and judgment necessary to establish the Kingdom. Let’s use our faith for a harvest, in Jesus’ name!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-4, Numbers 7

Isaiah 11:1-4 says, *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.”* All through Scripture we have the prayer of individuals whose breath slays the wicked. Moses in Numbers 16, concerning Korah, Dathan and Abiram said, *“Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them.”* The Lord did a new thing in dealing with these individuals, the earth split and we see that Moses’ words slew the wicked. In Numbers 7, Gideon’s words slew the wicked. He was given words to say when they shattered their pitchers. When Gideon’s army of 300 broke the pitchers, they spoke and said *“The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!”* God brought His sword on the enemy. When we obediently and appropriately pray with the Rod of Iron, we strike a blow from which there is no recovery and dash and shatter into pieces that which will be irrecoverably carried away. When we have a platform of holiness, the breath of our lips can slay the wicked. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let’s use our faith to walk in this place!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Scripture: Revelation 2:26-29

Revelation 2:26-29 says, *“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* Speaking to the church at Thyatira, Jesus says He will give us power/**ex-oo-see-ah**, which means spiritual governmental authority. Jesus promised it to a New Testament church. It is not just Old Testament, it is New Testament as well. It has not changed because Jesus has not changed. He is just as much a Judge today as He was throughout the Old Testament. The question is, is our faith being used for the judgment of God to fall on the wicked? Are we using it to restrain the evil that threatens our nation, our harvest and God’s purposes?

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-16

Revelation 19:11-15 says, *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”* One interesting thing about Revelation 19:11-16 is that it describes Jesus, followed by His church. The Greek word translated “rule” is the word **poi-mah-ee-no**, which means ‘pastor or shepherd.’ And notice that it says, *“And He Himself will poi-mah-ee-no them with a Rod of Iron.”* Jesus will pastor them with

a Rod of Iron! Shepherding in this passage means using a Rod of Iron when it is called for – and Jesus is our example. Any pastor that aims to fully do the job Jesus called him or her to do needs to study and understand the full scope of what pastoring means and what it requires. When pastors start pastoring with a Rod of Iron, we will see the fear of the Lord restored to the church and the nation. We are called to use our faith to change things in our own lives and the lives of those around us. Let's pray that our pastors will grow to the place they understand what the Rod of Iron is and how to use it!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Scripture: 1 Kings 16:29-33

1 Kings 16:29-33 says, *"In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him."* Ahab became king in Israel and Ahab started a pattern of absolute, total evil. His abominations are enumerated – from setting up the altar of Baal to marrying Jezebel, to making wooden images, to provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger. He did more of this than all the kings of Israel that went before him. There is a lesson for us here. When there are leaders who are rebellious, whether political leaders or spiritual leaders, it is necessary that God restrain that evil. No one can provoke God with evil and not eventually run into His Judicial Hand. But believers play a very necessary part. We have to cry out for relief and pray the **breaking** and **dashing** we are commanded to pray. We are told we need to use the Rod of Iron to break and dash, but believers have to be taught to do it. And that teaching process requires an emphasis on walking in righteousness and holiness. Only with that foundation can we stand when we are Spirit-led in praying that evil be broken with a Rod of Iron and dashed to pieces like a potter's vessel. God will not sit by and let His purposes be destroyed by an 'Ahab'. The same God who raised up Elijah, a restrainer of evil against Ahab, is raising up restrainers of evil today. Are we hearing the call? I trust we are, in Jesus' name!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1

1 Kings 17:1 says, *"And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."* How do you restrain evil when everyone who is promoting evil gets all their money from an agrarian economy? Ahab's culture did not have a way to keep the economy functioning without rain. And how did God decide to restrain Ahab's evil? He prepared the people so He brought the affliction of poverty by withholding rain. Without rain there was no production and without healthy crops prosperity was lost. People were facing economic destruction and eventually famine and even death. God raised up a restrainer of evil and his name was Elijah the prophet. God is no respecter of persons and you and I can use our faith to pray God's restraint in any given situation. We have to keep our ears tuned to the Holy Spirit and when He leads us, we ought to be willing to pray restraint.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:9-16

When we pray a judgment like Elijah prayed, how do we survive? The same God who gave Elijah what to pray judicially also led him in survival. At first God fed him by the Brook Cherith and then when the water dried up in the brook, He sent him not to an Israelite but to a widow in Zarephath. And in a time of famine, Elijah had to ask her to bring him a little water in a cup so he might drink and a morsel of bread to share. She said she had no bread, just a handful of flour and a little oil in a jar which she and her son needed to eat before they perished. She had no food or water and was on death's door and Elijah was asking her to give her last nutrition to him. In verse 13 Elijah declared, *"Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth. So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah."* Elijah first had to use his faith to restrain evil. But in the process of restraining evil, he unlocked the door of provision until the

assignment was complete. Some of us are wondering where our provision is today. Is it possible that we are in Elijah's position? Is God waiting for us to use our faith to restrain evil before He shows us where the provision is? Is it possible that we are trying to put the cart before the horse? It is time we use our faith to give God what He wants – a harvest! And it seems a significant way we can gain a harvest today is by using our God-given Rod of Iron to restrain evil. In prayer we are to dash and break – strike them with a spiritual blow from which there is no recovery. The breath of our lips will slay the wicked. Are we using our breath to give God the harvest He wants? If we are, we should expect Him to give us the provision we need.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:1-2

1 Kings 18:1-2 says, *“And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, ‘Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.’ So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.”* Everybody knew the famine in Samaria was the result of Elijah's word. Therefore there was a death sentence on Elijah. But that did not bother God – He commanded Elijah to go where they were trying to kill him and present himself to Ahab. Following such a command took a fair measure of faith. Ahab hated Elijah. He blamed Elijah for the famine and was looking for him to kill him. But God sent Elijah regardless. When we use our faith to restrain evil, we need to know there may be confrontations involved. The question is, are we willing to do the confrontation when the Lord says so? If we are affronted or upset by evil are we willing to wait to confront if the Lord has not yet given the go-ahead? If we are afraid of the consequences are we willing to rise above fear and to confront if the Lord directs? Elijah was. And we need to learn to use our faith on our flesh to embrace God's timing until we see a burning bush, hear His voice or until an angel taps us on the shoulder. Elijah had to wait a significant amount of time – his confrontation came to pass after 3 ½ years. That length of time appears prophetic when we look to the book of Revelation. Is God preparing us for a 3 ½ year period? We don't know but we have to walk it out one day at a time using our faith on our flesh to obey.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:7-10, 12

1 Kings 18:7-10 says, *“Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, ‘Is that you, my lord Elijah?’ And he answered him, ‘It is I. Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’” So he said, ‘How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, ‘He is not here,’ he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.’”* When we start to use our faith to restrain evil, even our friends may find there is jeopardy in knowing us. That is exactly what Obadiah found when he suddenly met Elijah and recognized him. He fell on his face and asked, *“Is that you?”* Elijah said, *“It is I. Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”* And when we look at the response we understand the pressure Obadiah was under. Verse 9 says, *“So he said, ‘How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?’”* It was suicidal for Obadiah to tell Ahab Elijah's location. In order to understand that, we have to read verse 10 which says, *“As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, ‘He is not here,’ he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.”* That is the urgency of the death sentence that was on Elijah. Verse 12 explains what Obadiah was afraid of, *“And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth.”* Using our faith to restrain evil will likely make us very unpopular. Perhaps that is a reason many are reluctant to do it. It is hard to get prepared for the inevitable unpopularity that will come when we start praying this way. But we are called to it and need to be willing to do it, regardless of the consequences. There is often a personal cost when we decide to obey God. That is why we are developing our faith to be fed sovereignly and supernaturally so that the provision is available in the needed season to do what God is asking us to do. We may have to walk in this place and now is the time to get prepared.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:17-19

Verses 17-19 says, *“Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel,*

the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." Elijah presented himself to Ahab. Ahab's first comment was, *"Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"* And Elijah had to respond that Ahab was the one that had forsaken Israel and if he wanted the famine to lift he had to gather all Israel plus the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah who ate at Jezebel's table. The fear of the Lord came on Ahab. When Elijah obeyed God, such a fear of the Lord fell that the man who wanted to kill him was unable to and he even went to do what Elijah told him to. That is the process of using our faith on our flesh to obey God and following the Holy Spirit to restrain evil. God honors the faith of the individuals who say yes to Him. Nobody can kill them because they have an assignment they have to carry out. But often there is a price to pay in the process of obeying. God is asking if we will give him obedience despite the consequences. I trust we will, in Jesus' name!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:20-24

1 Kings 18:20-24 says, *"So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, 'How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.'* But the people answered him not a word. Then Elijah said to the people, *'I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.'* So all the people answered and said, *'It is well spoken.'*" Ahab did exactly what Elijah said. Elijah confronted the people, the prophets of Baal and the prophets of Asherah with their sin and what they had done. He says in verse 24, *"Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God. So all the people answered and said, 'It is well spoken.'*" The God who is God will answer by fire. It is time to pray and restrain evil!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:26-29

1 Kings 18:26-29 says, *"So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us!' But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, 'Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.'* So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention." They made their sacrifices to Baal and did everything they could to prove their god was real and to produce fire. And at noon, Elijah started mocking them. So they cried aloud and cut themselves even more until the blood gushed. But there was no answer. Part of praying judgment is allowing people to come to the end of themselves. Let's realize the pain of the waiting interval is part of the price you and I may have to pay. Elijah paid for it here. He had to wait until they came to the end of themselves. And that took the better part of a day to happen. We need to be willing to wait that day or week or month or year. When we are in God's economy, our faith carries us through the whole process, however long it takes. And we must be prepared that it may take a long time. If we are prepared for that, then we can start praying judicially.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:36-40

Verses 36-40 says, *"And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, 'Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.'* Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, *'The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!'* O And Elijah said to them, *'Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!'* So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there." At the time of the evening offering, Elijah cried out and fire fell. And all the people said, *"The Lord, He is God!"* And Elijah said to seize the prophets of Baal and not let even one escape. And he executed them all and cleansed

the land. God raised up an individual with the authority to strike the economy with a Rod of Iron and to execute the prophets of Baal. Has He changed? We know from Hebrews that He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Surely we realize how God wants us to use our faith to restrain evil. Elijah used his faith to kill the prophets of Baal. The breath of his lips slew the wicked. Jesus says that you and I can walk in that today. Are we ready to enter in or will we refuse because of tradition? Are we going to follow God or are we going to succumb to passivity or tradition?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Scripture: James 5:3,16-18

James 5:3 talks about judgment, *“Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire...”* And at the end of that chapter in verses 16-18 it says, *“Confess your trespasses[e] to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”* What is in between verses 17 and 18? What happened in between was the execution of the prophets of Baal. Why does James say that Elijah was a man with a nature like our own? The point of James 5 is that we are called to do judgment exactly like Elijah did it. The question is, will we? Will we use our faith to restrain evil and gain a harvest? Elijah’s assignment was to restrain the evil in the land and cleanse it of evil. Elijah did his job! Will we do ours?

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Scripture: Hebrews 11:30-33

Hebrews 11:30 says, *“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.”* Did God tell Joshua exactly what to do to, by faith, bring the walls of Jericho down? Yes He did. 7 days they surrounded it once each day and on the seventh day they surrounded it seven times. And after the seventh time, they blew their trumpets and shouted and our Bible says the walls went straight down. What did God’s army do then? Joshua’s men killed everyone in Jericho. Did they use their faith to restrain evil and to cleanse the land by executing judgment? They absolutely did. God called them to do it and they did. They used their faith and got what God promised. Why can we not do the same? Verses 31-33 states, *“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,...”* Rahab used her faith to save her family in the midst of judgment. Faith saves families in the midst of judgment, but it also executes judgments so God's purposes can move forward. The prophets Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel used their faith to subdue evil and restrain it. We need to use our faith like the prophets and, at the direction of the Holy Spirit, pray people into judgment thereby releasing others into salvation. Conference

ITINERARY

9/30 – 10/9

Rosario, Argentina

Judicial Conference
Call for meeting times and location

Ap. Hector Melendez
787-231-0628