*Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.*
Philippians 3:13-14 The Message Bible

First Love Ministries, Inc.
Prayer Study 263

# The Elijah Company
## *Is the Journey too Great for You?*
## And
## *Have You Lost the Vision?*

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*

*Malachi 4:5-6*

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

What is the great and dreadful day of the LORD? The Day of the Lord is a period in history at the end of the age in the Last Days when the Lord openly intervenes in the affairs of men. It is an apocalyptic term (i.e., having to do with the end time events on the earth) and is also a prophetic term. It is thought to have to do with the Lord's outpouring of His wrath because of the sins of mankind (see Psalm 2), and the Day of the Lord will be characterized by catastrophic weather and earthly calamities such as plagues, famines, hurricanes, pestilences, droughts, and manmade disasters, etc. (see Isaiah 2:12, Isaiah 13:6-9, Amos 5:18-20, Jeremiah 46:10-11, 1st Corinthians 5:5, 1st Thessalonians 5:2, 2nd Peter 3:8-10). I believe that this is a time when the Lord is going to allow judgments in a revved up and unique way in one last effort to cause the world to turn to the Savior and the people of God to repent. No doubt these events will start off happening slowly and increasingly be more numerous and more destructive as time comes before the Second Coming of Jesus.

## ELIJAH

Because of the context of this scripture and Malachi's tying the coming of Elijah with the coming of the Day of the Lord, we can assume that John the Baptist, called by Jesus as that Elijah (Matthew 11), is a forerunner or initial fulfillment of coming of Elijah. There will be greater fulfillment later in an Elijah Company. This is not usual in scripture. For example, Peter in Acts 2 said that the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was that

spoken by Joel 2. We know, however, through a close reading of the book of Joel that there is coming a greater outpouring of the Spirit, something that will *outpentecost Pentecost*, as Leonard Ravenhill put it, at some future time which we have not seen yet.

## THE ELIJAH COMPANY

Most likely the Elijah spoken in Malachi 4:5-6 refers to a company of people, not a single man. They will have a father's heart (Malachi 4:5-6); they will be a prophetic people (1st Kings 17:1); they will walk in a unique measure of faith and see the promises of God before the Body sees them (1st Kings 18:41); they are going to be great intercessors (James 5:17); they are going to walk in the miraculous (1st Kings 19:8); they will be bold reformers (1st Kings 18:40), and they are going to raise the dead (1st Kings 18:21-23). They will be the prophets of fire (1st Kings 18:36-39), and part of their ministry will be to deal with Jezebel, the Harlot Church of Revelation 2:10. Like Elijah the Tishbite, the Elijah Company will rebuke the godless and reawaken and restore the nation of which they are apart. How we need the Elijah Company in America to stand for Jesus no matter what the cost!

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE JOURNEY BECOMES TOO GREAT?

*But he himself* [Elijah, the Man of God] *went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a juniper tree. And he requested for himself that he might die and said, "It is enough! Now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers." And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked and there by his head was a cake baked on the coals and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came back the second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee." So he arose and ate and drank, and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights unto Horeb, the mountain of God.*

1st Kings 19:4-8

It is difficult to believe that this Elijah is the same man who publically defied 450 prophets of Baal without fear, and yet now we see him running in fear because of a threatening message sent by Jezebel, threatening to kill him. Here he is a man broken and beaten down by an incredible ministry and by the attacks of the enemy who knows "who has the goods" and needs to be shut down for the kingdom of darkness' sake. In his defense, you do not see any brothers, except his servant, standing with him. I am sure that, if

this happened today, many Christians would have judged Elijah, telling him that he should be praising the Lord in his situation, exhorting him to trust the Lord and quoting Romans 8:28: *All things, brother, work for good to those who love the Lord….* What many sideliners don't understand, however, is the COST of ministering for the Lord-the heavy demonic attack, the frustration of dealing with people who think the Church is "all about ME, MYSELF AND I," and the trials and tribulations the Lord uses to perfect our character. Although 7000 had not bowed their knee to Baal, Elijah stood alone before the prophets of Baal. He was exhausted physically, mentally, and spiritually. He needed rest. And he needed food. His food for was the physical body, but often in our journey we are going to need spiritual rest and spiritual food to continue the journey. We cannot make it by ourselves.

So when the journey is too great, we need to come apart, rest, and eat.

## WHEN ARE WE, AS MEN, MOST VULNERABLE TO BEING OVERCOME BY THE JOURNEY?

### 1. WHEN WE HAVE LOST THE VISION?

*Where there is no vision, the people perish….*
Proverbs 29:18a

Vision comes from the Lord. It is a revelation from God put in our spirits or delivers prophetically from the Lord to a prophet and from a prophet to the Body. It is a goal or target we reach for to satisfy what God's purpose is for our lives as we team up with the Holy Spirit to try to accomplish God's will and purposes on the earth. The Message Bible paraphrases the above Proverbs 29:18a: *If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves…*

Habakkuk was a praying prophet who had a vision problem. He confronted the Lord in His prayers and asked: *O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear! Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.* (Habakkuk 1:2) Habakkuk was in a situation much like we are today. He had a great burden because his own people were wicked and violent and not living godly lives and not honoring the holiness and justice of God. The Lord initially answers Habakkuk that He will use the Babylonians, who were described as dreadful, merciful, violent, idolaters, fierce, scornful and terrible, to punish His people for their sins. Again, today we are in a similar position, and the Lord is releasing judgments even on His people through the Babylonian World System.

**BUT THEN THE LORD GAVE HABAKKUK A VISION**

His reaction: *When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble; when He cometh up unto the people, He will invade them with His troops.* (Habakkuk 3:16)

His conclusion after seeing the vision: *Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will joy in the God of my salvation.* Habakkuk 3:17 KJV

*Though the cherry trees don't blossom, and the strawberries don't ripen, though the apples are worm-eaten, and the wheat fields stunted, though the sheep gates are sheepless, and the cattle barns empty, I'm singing praises to God. I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God. Counting on God's Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like a deer. I feel like I'm king of the mountain.* Habakkuk 3:17 The Message

What did the vision show: *And the LORD answered me and said, "Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come. It will not tarry."* Habbakkuk 2:2-3

There are two unfulfilled prophecies in Habakkuk's vision.

1. Hebrews 10:37 tell us that Habakkuk's vision was the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, a future event that is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie.
2. The second yet unfulfilled prophecy is God's ultimate purpose on the earth as recorded from Habakkuk 2:14 and also in Isaiah 11:9: *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

The Kingdom of God is everlasting, has always been and is and always will be. Mankind, however, has not walked in the fullness of the Kingdom and will not walk in the full revelation until both of these prophecies are fulfilled.

When the Knowledge of the Glory of the God fills the earth, Isaiah 11 and 12 tell us what the world will then be like:

1. All of the animals will no longer eat each other or harm humans.
2. Children will not longer be afraid of or harmed by wild animals.
3. There will be no accidents or death.
4. Jesus shall stand as the standard around which all nations will gather. All men will look to Christ for safety and deliverance.
5. Jews will again become missionaries, taking the Word of God and preaching Jesus from Jerusalem to all nations.
6. All nations shall seek Jesus.
7. There will be universal peace.
8. His rest shall be glorious.
9. He will gather the outcast of Israel.
10. He will set His hand the second time to recover the Jewish remnant.
11. Envy and pride shall depart.
12. All adversaries will be cut off.
13. There shall be a highway of holiness for the remnant of His people.
14. The righteous shall be caught up in praise for Him.
15. The Gentiles shall seek Christ and will bless the Jewish people.
16. There will be no fear.
17. The righteous will be full of joy.
18. The inhabitants of Zion will sing and cry out and shout the greatness of the Holy One in the midst of the remnant company.

2. **WHEN WE WALK IN THE FLESH INSTEAD OF THE SPIRIT.** *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are of the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please god.* Romans 8:5-8

**The results of walking in the Flesh:**

1. **We are open to temptation.** Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
2. **We have sinful impulses which lead to death.** Romans 7:5 *For when we were in the flesh, the sinful impulses, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*
3. **There is no good thing in us.** Romans 7:18a *For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing…*

4. **We are open to condemnation.** Romans 8:1 *There is, therefore, no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, but after the Spirit.*
5. **We don't please the Lord.** Romans 8:5-8 *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
6. **You have a lust problem.** Romans 13:14 *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*
7. **You shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.** Galatians 5:16-21 *This I say then, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But, if ye are led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleaness, lascivisousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousy, wrath, factions, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders,*

**<u>Walking in the Spirit</u>**

1. **You produce fruit.** Galatians 5:22-25 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control, against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*
2. **You receive eternal life.** Galatians 6:7-10 *Be not deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have, therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*
3. **You have no confidence in the flesh.** Philippians 3:3 *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*
4. **You are alive in the Lord.** John 6:63 *It is the Spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.*

5. **You are a candidate for the Manifested Sons of God Company.** Romans 8:13-14 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

## Some closing prophetic words

*...The walk of faith is no easy road. Sometimes we tell the Lord, "This is too much. It looks simply impossible to get through it all." At times our souls cry out, "Lord, save me, I'm sinking!" And the sinking part is real; we can look at our circumstances and say, "To be delivered from this is humanly impossible." Beloved, we are at the place where we must be willing to literally die to everything. As long as your heart is set on knowing Jesus is with you, knowing that you are loved, and that God has sworn to be your keeper when you are overwhelmed in your darkest hour, you will hear him say, "Peace! Be Calm! Don't Panic!" Is anything to hard for him? Remember: "Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning."*

David Wilkerson

*There is about to be a separation between the "spirit of Israel" and the "spirit of Esau" in the Church.*

Paul Keith Davis

*They* [the Remnant of the Last Days] *will not be sold with position or money. They are remembering why they "got in this" in the first place-FOR THE LAMB, for Jesus Christ's honor, for the sake of His worthy name. Their backbones are being steeled in the furnace of affliction and purified of contemporary dross. They are old-school, hard-core Jesus freaks, and they are not apologizing for it. The remnant is not ashamed! They are blood-bought and fiercely committed to the Word-the Logos and the Rhema. Something within them stirs because they know they are here on a kairos assignment. They realize that they may have forgotten for a*

*moment, diverted off the path for some years, but like soldiers who remember drills from long ago, they are coming to attention and position and awareness. They are here on purpose. They are necessary to Heaven's narrative. They are not bystanders. They are players on the stage of His-story. This army is realizing they never should have eaten Babylon's food in the first place, even if it was served in halls decorated to look like a cheap imitation of Zion. They would rather be pilgrims than settle. They would rather be fools for Christ than wise in the world's eyes. They would rather be known in heaven and feared in hell than recognized on earth. Whatever happens to them in the world really doesn't matter. They have locked gazes with the Lamb's eyes and locked step with the cadence of Heaven's march. His remnant understands that this is the Final Act, and there is no turning back. No*
*turning back. We have decided. Have you decided?"*

*Robert Stearns*