

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

RLJ-1482

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FEBRUARY 8, 2015

PART 10: ASKING FOR THE MIRACULOUS

PRAYING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

As the successor to Moses, Joshua turned out to be a man of great faith. He walked through the Red Sea, and saw God supply food and water during the 40 years spent in the wilderness. He had seen the Jordan River dry up during their river crossing and the subsequent win at Jericho and his faith had grown to the point that he was willing to ask God for the impossible.

Joshua must have become excited when he saw rocks and hailstones literally fall from heaven and decimate the enemy. **Joshua 10:10-11**

The sun and moon do not normally stand still in the sky for an extended period of time. Joshua must have been excited to speak and watch as God made it come to pass.

The earth is spinning around its own axis at a speed of 1,083 miles per hour on the equator. It takes 24 hours to make one rotation and the sun is stationary to the earth as it spins along. Joshua must have thought that the sun was moving around the earth and commanded the sun to stand still so that he could finish the battle. **Joshua 10:7-12**

God did not explain to Joshua the relationship between the sun and the earth but provided the miracle Joshua was seeking. **verses 13-14**

How did God do it? The Bible does not say. God could have stopped the earth's rotational spin or had His angels set up a supernatural "floodlight" that looked like the sun and delivered the necessary light. Regardless, it was a supernatural act that took place from a simple command uttered in faith. Jesus told us to have faith in God; all it takes is a little bit of faith. **Mark 11:13-14, 20-24**

It is important to establish that the miracle took place because it was God's will for Joshua and the people of Israel to have victory over their enemies!

CONTROLLING THE WEATHER

Jesus revealed there are four angels controlling the earth's weather. Today we know these winds as the "jet streams" which move like rivers high in the atmosphere, directing rain and snow over the earth. **Revelation 7:1-3**

King Ahab was on a collision course with the Lord when the word was given to the prophet Elijah that there would be no dew or rain. **1 Kings 17:1**

God made a supernatural provision for Elijah. **verses 2-16**

Since Elijah lived in the supernatural, he did not hesitate to tackle death and raised up a dead boy. **verses 17-24**

Three years of drought caused a grievous famine in Israel. God told Elijah to go and meet King Ahab, who had issued an arrest warrant because of his proclamation and the lack of rain. **1 Kings 18:7-17**



THE SHOWDOWN ON MOUNT CARMEL

God told Elijah that it was time to show Ahab and all the people of Israel that they had followed a false god and to return to the living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **verses 18-26**

Elijah faced 850 false prophets on Mount Carmel who had dedicated themselves to Baal. This was the religious ruling class of Israel, answering directly to Queen Jezebel. She had tried to root out all worship of the God of Israel by slaying as many priests and prophets as she could find because they refused to bow their knees to Baal. **verse 19**

There must have been hundreds of thousands of men on that mountain along with Ahab and his soldiers and the 850 prophets of Baal. **verse 20**

Elijah challenged the entire assembly in faith. The power of God had not yet manifested on the mountain and he stood alone against a large hostile multitude. **verses 21-26**

Elijah began to mock the 850 prophets of Baal at noon and challenged them to become more intense in trying to conjure up fire, knowing full well that Baal was not a god, but a demon that was not being held in check by God and allowed to perform what the prophets of Baal requested. **verses 27-29; 1 Corinthians 10:19-22**

Elijah called the people to him toward the evening to prepare an altar for God. **verses 30-32**

Elijah wanted to be certain no one could accuse him of cheating and drenched everything in water. He then prayed a simple prayer and God answered from heaven with a fire that consumed the water, stones, wood and the sacrifice. There was no confusion after God emphatically manifested His supernatural power. **verses 33-38**

SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH

After the fire fell, the Israelites had to admit that Baal was a false god, while the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was real. The 850 prophets of Baal were rounded up and slain with the sword by Elijah, an action that would have demanded supernatural strength. **verses 39-40**

PRAYER OF FAITH

There was no rain for three years and suddenly the rains came back. **verses 41-45; James 5:17-18**

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Elijah still retained enough strength after the grueling victory on Mount Carmel that he arrived at Jezreel ahead of King Ahab who traveled by horse. **1 Kings 18:46**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?