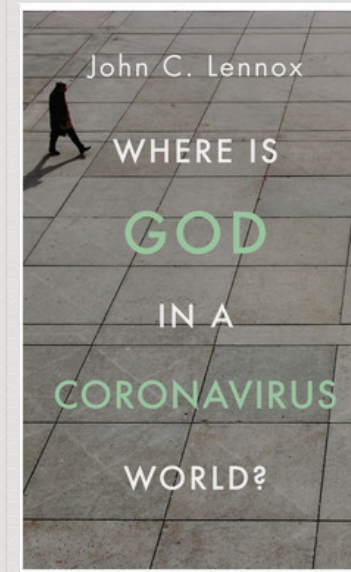




August 15, 2020 Five months after closing Woodside on March 14 - We have adapted to a new ministry setting, but when I think of the many ministries which have been on Hiatus, I grieve at the relationships missed and joys not shared. We must acknowledge that grief and share in it as we all have felt it at various stages and no age group is immune to this sadness. These character studies today show how a response to a crisis matters to our faith.

Where is God in a Coronavirus World?

John Lennox



Summary:

Heed Advice

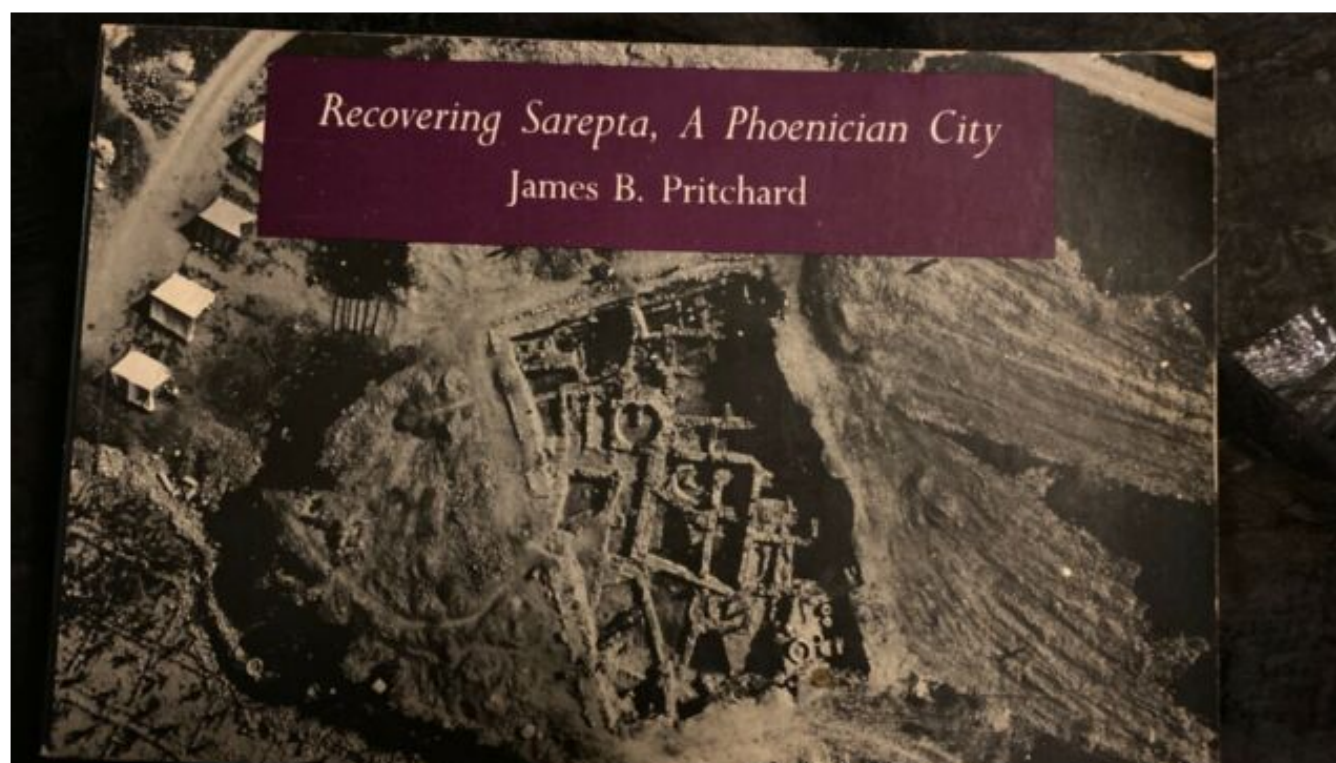
Maintain Perspective

Love Your Neighbor

Remember Eternity

The Climb

“The coronavirus and all the plagues that have ravaged the world will be no more: the crown of righteousness that will be given to those who love the Lord Jesus will never perish or fade. Peace in a Pandemic? Only Jesus can give that. That issue for all of us is this: **will we trust Him to do so?**” - Lennox pg. 61



“Excavations undertaken under the direction of J. B. Pritchard since 1969 have uncovered remains of the Phoenician and Roman town, as well as of the Roman harbor. They showed that the site had been inhabited during the latter part of the 2d millennium and most of the 1st millennium b.c. More than 20 pottery kilns were discovered, which showed that the city must have been a center for the manufacturing of pottery.”

Horn, S. H. (1979). Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary. (Revised edition.). Commentary Reference Series. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association.

A King, A Widow & A Prophet

- ✧ *Ahab the King*
- ✧ *Un-Named Widow*
- ✧ *Elijah the Prophet*



1 Kings 17 provides us with the story of three people whose response to God can help us have peace in the turmoil of the world.

Conditional Prophecies

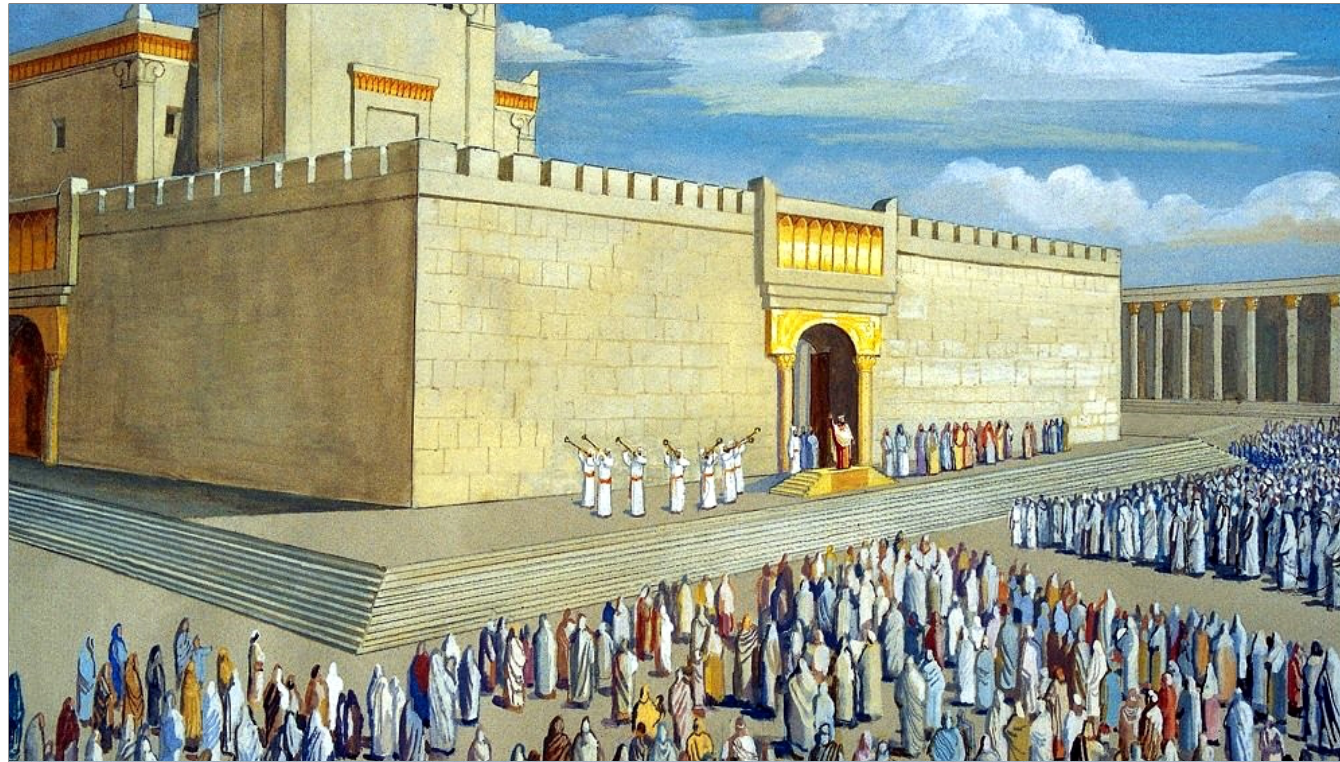
- ✿ ““Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. “Or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 11:16–17 NAS95)

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Blessings & Cursings of Deut. 28 -

Verse 12 - Promise of Rain when faithful;

Verse 24 - prophecy to withhold rain if unfaithful



““When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain, because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sin when You afflict them, then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and of Your people Israel, indeed, teach them the good way in which they should walk. And send rain on Your land, which You have given Your people for an inheritance.” (1 Kings 8:35–36 NAS95)

Ahab the King

1 Kings 16:29-33



The 8th king (if Tibni is included in the count) of the northern kingdom of Israel, son and successor of Omri. He reigned 22 years, from 874 to 853 b.c.

“Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him.

It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him. So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria. Ahab also made the Asherah. **Thus Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**” (1 Kings 16:29–33 NAS95)

“Under the blighting influence of Ahab's rule, Israel wandered far from the living God and corrupted their ways before Him.” - PK 115



“Through the influence of Jezebel and her impious priests, the people were taught that the idol gods that had been set up were deities, ruling by their mystic power the elements of earth, fire, and water. All the bounties of heaven—the running brooks, the streams of living water, the gentle dew, the showers of rain which refreshed the earth and caused the fields to bring forth abundantly—were ascribed to the favor of Baal and Ashtoreth, instead of to the Giver of every good and perfect gift. The people forgot that the hills and valleys, the streams and fountains, were in the hand of the living God, that He controlled the sun, the clouds of heaven, and all the powers of nature.” - PK 115



Ahab's Response

Anger at the Messenger

“Urged on by the queen, Ahab instituted a most diligent search for the hiding place of the prophet.” - PK 124

“When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel?” He said, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals.” (1 Kings 18:17–18 NAS95)

Widow of Zarephath

1 Kings 17:9



Un-named Widow of Zeraphath - ““Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”” (1 Kings 17:9 NAS95)

“The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:16 NAS95)



Widow's Response

Resignation

“But she said, “As the **LORD** your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.”” (1 Kings 17:12 NAS95)

✿ “This woman was not an Israelite. She had never had the privileges and blessings that the chosen people of God had enjoyed; but she was a believer in the true God and had walked in all the light that was shining on her pathway. And now, when there was no safety for Elijah in the land of Israel, God sent him to this woman to find an asylum in her home.” - Prophets & Kings pg. 129

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“Then Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son. “For thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.’”” (1 Kings 17:13–14 NAS95)

✿ “No greater test of faith than this could have been required. The widow had hitherto treated all strangers with kindness and liberality. Now, regardless of the suffering that might result to herself and child, and trusting in the God of Israel to supply her every need, she met this supreme test of hospitality by doing ‘according to the saying of Elijah.’” - Prophets & Kings pg. 130

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Elijah

1 Kings 17:1



“Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”” (1 Kings 17:1 NAS95)



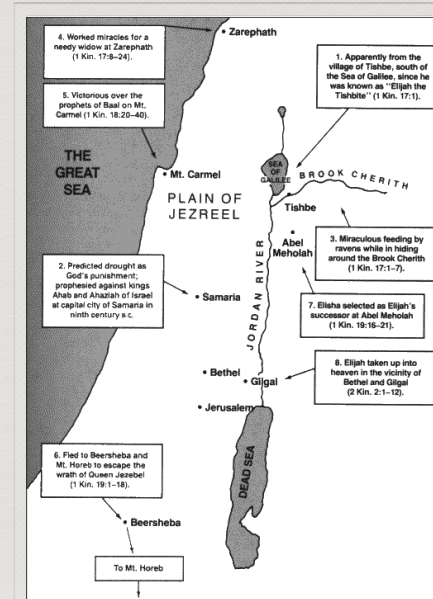
Elijah's Response

"Pray on in Faith..."

"Through the long years of drought and famine, Elijah prayed earnestly that the hearts of Israel might be turned from idolatry to allegiance to God. Patiently the prophet waited, while the hand of the Lord rested heavily on the stricken land. As he saw evidences of suffering and want multiplying on every side, his heart was wrung with sorrow, and he longed for power to bring about a reformation quickly. But God Himself was working out His plan, and all that His servant could do was to pray on in faith and await the time for decided action. - PK 132

Elijah's travels

Zarephath in Phoenician country



During Elijah's ministry, his travels took him the length of the land. God's wisdom in sending him to Zarephath helps us imagine that Jezebel may never consider to look for the prophet in her home area as she was a daughter of a Phoenician king.

✿ “Far removed from any city of renown, and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God's purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success.” - Prophets & Kings pg 119

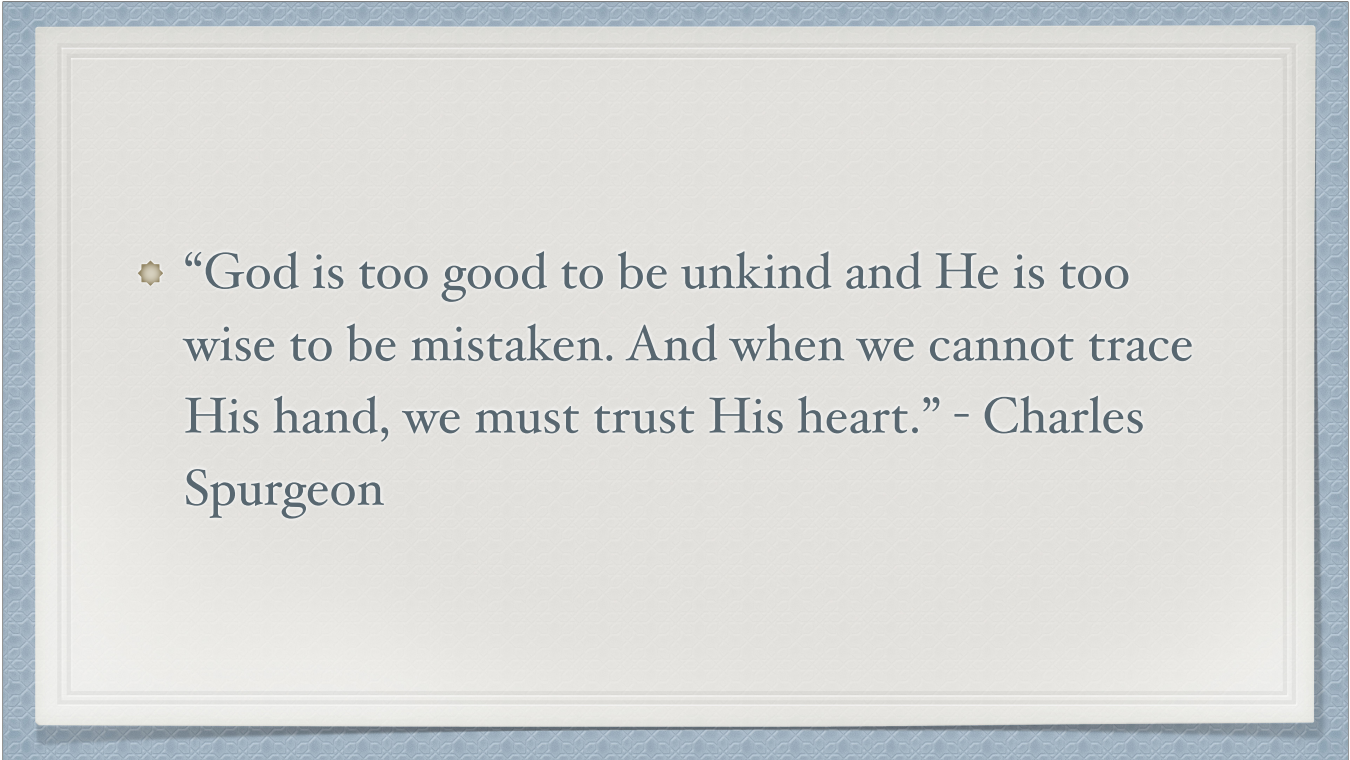
Among the mountains of Gilead, east of the Jordan, there dwelt in the days of Ahab a man of faith and prayer whose fearless ministry was destined to check the rapid spread of apostasy in Israel. Far removed from any city of renown, and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God's purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. - PK 119

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Appeal Prayer - Lord Sustain our provisions and maintain our trust in You!

Next week we review the amazing story of Carmel, not near Monterey, but the showdown of prophetic ultimatum.