

THE PLACE CALLED THERE

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**“And the word of the Lord came to him:
‘Depart from here and turn eastward and hide
Yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of
The Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and
I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.’”**

† 1 Kings 17:2-4

**“Then the word of the Lord came to him,
‘Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to
Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have
Commanded a widow there to feed you.’”**

† 1 Kings 17:8-9

**“Now there was a famine in the land ...and
Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the
Philistines. And the Lord appeared to him and said,
‘Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which**

I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with You and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father ...And Isaac sowed in that Land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained More and more until he became very wealthy.”

† Genesis 26:1-3, 12-13

Are you in the “place called there?” I pray that you are. If you read carefully the scriptures listed above and meditate on them you will see a pattern that we find in hundreds of other scriptures in the Bible—God has a provided way to care for His children and He’s obligated by covenant to take care of us just as a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. But if we’re disobedient to the Lord either through rebellion or just a sheer inability to hear His voice, then we will miss the “place called there” where He has already provided the provision and blessings stored for us.

My heart breaks every day when I see so many Christians who simply do not understand this concept and do not know the Lord very well. They have been provided for with healing, finances, etc., but they don’t know *how* to receive this provision—they are not in the place called *There*.

This morning as I was reading in Genesis again this month the history of Isaac I thought about how the Lord graciously led him to the place called There—the place the Lord had prepared a great blessing for him and his family—a hundredfold return in one year! And he didn’t get it by “sowing a seed” with the Balaam Boys on *unchristian T.V.*, did he?

I thought about how important it is today—and I think about this often and tell young ministers all the time that this is the most important thing for you to understand—to learn to follow the Holy Spirit. He never makes any mistakes

and if you can learn to follow Him and “move with the Cloud” when the Cloud moves, He will always without fail lead you to the place called There.

As George Strait sings in his song, “Blue Clear Sky,”

**“You swear you've had enough, you're ready to give up
On that little lie they call love, then out of the blue clear sky
Fallin' right into your hands, like rain on the desert sand
It's the last thing you had planned out of the blue clear sky.**

**Here she comes a walkin' talkin' true love
Sayin' I been lookin' for you love
Surprise your new love has arrived
Out of the blue clear sky.”**

when I went to preach in Kingman, Arizona, for the first time in 1991 it was “the last thing I had planned” to find my future wife—the woman that the Lord had set aside for me to marry. Had I not been sensitive to the Spirit and gone we would not be married today and our two children, Brandi and John, would not be around.

Next to help for deliverance and finances, one of the most frequent requests we get at the ministry each day is from men and women who are 40 years old, etc., and not yet married. They're lonely and discouraged that God has not provided them with a wife or husband. So let me encourage those of you who are looking for the godly man or woman that the Lord has for you—go to the place called There and you will find them already *there* waiting for you like I did in Kingman, Arizona.

And had we not decided to purchase the home we have in Colorado back in 2007 under direction of the Holy Spirit, we would not have been in the place called There and would not have given birth to John and impacted his life as well as our own and the lives of others because when we raise godly seed it impacts thousands of lives.

As a loving Father, God has a great future prepared for each of us and many loving surprises along the way *if* we are in the place called There where He has those provisions set aside. If not, then we will still be blessed but just not to the extent that He had planned. Oh how important it is for us to develop a close relationship with the Holy Spirit and learn to follow His direction even when, like in the case of Joseph, it leads to temporary pain and futility.

We just returned from ministering at a church Michigan. For the first time, John who is now 7 sang a solo; it is one of his favorite songs that he sings often from the movie, "Joseph, Prince of Dreams," titled, "You Know Better Than I." Ev wrote a blog earlier this year about this song; it's very anointed and he was anointed while singing it at the worship service even at age 7—many people in the church were moved to tears and commented on the anointing after he sang the song.

Often as I read Genesis each month I wonder what Joseph was thinking during the 12-13 years he was in prison. Did he think as we often do, "God, what have I done wrong? I followed the plan I thought you had for my life" but as the words of the song John sang go—"that road brought me here!" He was in prison all those years being falsely accused and having committed no sin so what was he thinking? "God, where have I missed it? I must not be in the place called There."

But for Joseph, Egypt was "the place called There" and like Ev and I have learned over and over in this life, often with God it's not a question of whether we missed it—we didn't— but it's simply a question of timing! I've learned in ministry that timing is very important to the Lord. If He wants you to minister at a certain church then timing is important. Remember, you and I aren't the only ones involved with God's plans for our lives—there are others and often it's a question of precise timing in order to bring forward to completion the plan of the Lord for your life if your desire is to be in His perfect will. If we throw timing out the window then we will always be living in God's "good" or "acceptable" will and never in His perfect will. Truth is we should strive to be not just on the

same page as the Lord but also the same exact sentence and word as He. The better you can follow the Spirit the better you will be at bringing this to pass. Another thing we should take away from the testimony of Joseph's life is that just because there are hardships, suffering, attacks of the enemy, false accusations, being made to "do time" for sins we did not commit or in the words of the Scriptures, being made to "pay" a debt you did not owe doesn't mean you're not "There." We've had to do this many times. But just because those things exist doesn't mean you are out of God's will—it doesn't mean you're not in the place called There.

Remember, and I tell Christians this all the time, Jesus never said it would be easy. In fact He said, "In the world you shall have tribulation." Where on earth have so many Christians gotten the idea that because they're encountering obstacles and enemy attacks that God has forsaken them? I don't think they got that from Joseph's testimony or David's or Jesus' for that matter. Like I tell people all the time, "What does the Word say?" And if you don't know, you'd better find out or the devil will defeat you in spiritual warfare.

Now another fact we need to understand from these scriptural testimonies—the place called There can change. In fact, it normally does. We see this with Elijah. What you prophesy affects you just like it does everybody else. He'd prophesied a great drought to get the king's attention that the nation had departed from the Lord and judgment was coming. So even though God was providing for him at the Brook Cherith with meat from Ravens and water from the brook due to the drought the brook eventually dried up.

But notice this important fact from the Scriptures—and it's a very important principle of God I first learned from Noah many years ago—just because the brook dried up didn't mean Elijah should move, did it? But brother Timmons, you can't live without water. Yes, don't you think God knows that? But remember this important fact that trumps everything, what was the Word of the Lord to Elijah? God said He would provide for him at the brook Cherith. Just because there was now no water doesn't mean that the place called There had

changed; like Elisha after him, God is able to provide streams in the desert if He so chooses so it's not for us to be led by what we see, is it? In fact, that is the undoing of most Christians. Instead of walking by faith and not by sight they do the opposite—they walk by sight and not by faith. Two important facts I share with Christians all the time are these: 1) We don't tell God *how* to do it, 2) We don't tell God *when* to do it. Our part is to believe and walk by faith; it's the Lord's part to fulfill His promises to us and He will in His perfect timing if we don't get ahead of Him/

No! Remember this important point as long as you live. God is obligated to keep His Word—He is “not a man that He should lie.” So He is obligated by His Word to provide for Elijah at Cherith any way that He chooses. And He's obligated to provide for you at your place called There until He sends you elsewhere like He did Elijah. So just because the brook dried up Elijah didn't leave, did he? No! It wasn't until the Lord changed the place called There and told him to go to Zarephath that Elijah got up and left the brook Cherith.

Now I want you see something very important from this testimony; it's something most of the Church doesn't understand because our society today is so selfish and focused on ourselves—it's another trait of the world that's gotten over into the Church and shouldn't be there. It's also another proof text of timing being important to the Lord. Notice the condition of this widow woman that the Lord had “commanded” to provide for Elijah. She and her family were on the verge of starvation and death, weren't they? Hey, God, you said you had commanded this woman to provide for me “There” but she can't even provide for herself much less her son and me. Do you think that's what Elijah muttered to himself? Of course not! Remember, Elijah stood before the Lord and when you stand before the Lord you get to know Him pretty well. Elijah knew like we should today—something I tell Christians all the time. You show me something that you don't like or want and I'll show you something I can change with my faith.

No, Elijah knew the situation; in fact he was amused by it! You know why? Here Jezebel was looking for him to take his head off and the Lord sends him to hide out in her own home country—what irony!

But Elijah also knew something else; he knew God wanted to provide for her. Just because she wasn't a covenant woman from Israel didn't mean that the Lord didn't love her and want to provide for her—Jesus is always moved by compassion.

So the Lord used Elijah's gifting of the spiritual gift of Working of Miracles to provide for her and her son and don't forget this part—if Elijah hadn't been there this woman's son would not have been raised from the dead. So what a blessing this man of God was to the poor widow and no doubt brought her spiritual salvation as well as physical.

With the US presidential election only a few weeks away, so many Christians still cannot "see" God's hand on Donald Trump because of his flaws and often juvenile attitude but the only perfect man God ever used was Jesus. Maybe The Donald is just copying some of these "juvenile" pastors I see on T.V. occasionally who dress like 7th graders with rolled up jeans and PF flyer shoes.

Remember, the Lord cares about the world; He expects to use His covenant people like He does Elijah here to minister to a sin-sick, sighing, crying world that needs Jesus. Even if they didn't have a direct word from the Lord as I did in June, 2015, about Donald Trump they should be able to figure it out by the fact that the Lord has greatly used him as a trumpet to uncover all this corruption in our government and shine a bright light upon it. This is none other than the prayers of the saints for justice in our land. Yes, the Lord cares about the lost and the sinners. The question is: what are you doing about it? And the Lord is still asking every day, "Whom shall I send for us and whom shall I send?"

So remember, no matter what the external circumstances or visual perception to the physical eyes, do not leave the place called There until the Lord tells you to. Otherwise, you are going to miss out on God's best for you.

FINDING THE PLACE CALLED THERE

So in closing you might say, "Okay, Brother Timmons, I see this truth from the Scriptures but I'm having trouble in my own life *finding* this place called There for me and my family. How do I do that?"

Well, I thought you'd never ask. It's quite simple really though most Christians have a problem simply because they don't lead disciplined lives—they're not disciplined in the Word and prayer. If you will make a change in your life and spend more disciplined *time* each day in the Bible and prayer—especially praying by the Spirit—then you will know where the place called There is for you.

So if you really are sincere about wanting change in your life then follow this regimen for 90 days and you will see a big difference. Make a quality decision that you will devote an extra 90 minutes a day to praying by the Spirit and an extra 90 minutes meditating in the Word, especially reading 5 Psalms and the Proverb for the day. This will take you through the Psalms and Proverbs once each month. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit for instruction and guidance; make notes in a journal to mark your progress. Now remember, this is in addition to the regular time you were spending in Bible study. This is a time for meditation and allowing the Lord to speak to you. After you read the 5 psalms and proverb for the day, just follow the Spirit and spend the remainder of your 90 minutes wherever He directs you to in the Word. I guarantee He will speak to you.

And by praying by (in) the Spirit an extra 90 minutes a day you will be developing your spirit and becoming more sensitive to the Spirit of the Lord. The Holy Spirit told me back in 1980:

“Spend much time praying in the Spirit and as you pray in the Spirit you will walk in the Spirit and spiritual things will become more real to you.”

So in actuality, praying by the Spirit is not just a special means of praying—though it is and is very powerful because when we pray this way the Word says that we are praying the perfect will of God. But it is also spiritual exercise that develops your spirit and allows you to exercise your prophetic anointing that is resident in your spirit by the Holy Spirit.

**I encourage you to make the decision today to change your life forever. This will allow you to more easily find the place called There for you and your family.
Praise the Lord!**

Maranatha!