

Minister's Message – September 2005

Rain, Rain

The hydrologic cycle is a great wonder of nature. Heat from the sun causes water in the oceans to evaporate forming clouds in the sky. These moisture laden clouds move over the land mass and in response to some trigger release their payload of water as rain. All the water we need to sustain life comes in this way – apart from a few desalination plants.

Although the weatherman can tell us when the clouds are coming and where they might drop their water, he can do nothing to control these clouds. Is there a man who can make the clouds hold their water so it does not rain, or tell the clouds to give their rain on a particular spot (cloud seeding notwithstanding)? Anyone who could do this would be in great demand!

Elijah was such a man – a man just like us – except he *prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain for three and a half years. And he prayed again that it would rain and the heavens gave rain* (James 5:17). That was a long time ago (circa 3000 years) but still worth considering. James the brother of Jesus thought so.

The Lord God declared through Elijah that it would not rain in Israel for three years (I Kings 17). This was because of the wickedness of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. They had turned away from the true God to worship other gods. They built altars and idols in the name of these so-called gods, and so provoked the Lord to anger and to withhold the rain.

Moses told the people of God when they first entered into the promised land to obey the commandments and *love the Lord your God and serve him with all your heart and with all your soul* (Deuteronomy 10:12). If they did then God would send them rain in season. But if they failed to do so then in his anger the Lord *would shut up the heavens so that there shall be no rain* (Deuteronomy 28:24).

The hydrologic cycle has not changed over the years. God has not changed. And man has not changed in his essential nature. The only thing that has changed is our trust in God, or lack thereof, and our failure to obey his commands and to pray earnestly as Elijah did.

Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon