

## **Attention Getter** **(What's God Got to Do; To Get Your Attention?)**

KORAH

**Numbers 16:30-33** But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. (31) And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: (32) And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. (33) They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

**Numbers 26:9-10** And the sons of Eliab; Nemuel, and Dathan, and Abiram. This is that Dathan and Abiram, which were famous in the congregation, who strove against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they strove against the LORD: (10) And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign.

Korah and his company rose up against Moses and Aaron, Gods anointed and they paid the price for their rebellion; the ground opened up and swallowed them up. God got the attention of the people, Korah and his company became a sign, Beloved, what has God got to do to get your attention; for the need for salvation, for obedience to His will, for repentance, to get busy in doing the LORD'S work; what has God got to do to get your attention?

In this day of Grace; God still works in the lives of people and He will still operate in this present time to get the attention of people; what has He got to do to get your attention?

JONAH

**Jonah 1:1** Now the Word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. 3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah ran from the presence of the LORD as many of God's people are doing today. Are you dear friend running from the LORD? Are you running from the calling to salvation, repentance, obedience? Are you one of His but running from serving the LORD? Jonah ran because he didn't want to do what God called him to do; are you running from what God is calling you to do; are you scared to forsake the world to serve Him? What may you be running from friends?

**Jonah 1:4** But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

**Jonah 1:9** And he said unto them, I *am* an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry *land* 10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

**Jonah 1:12** And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you.

**Jonah 1:15** So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

**Jonah 1:17** Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah ran from serving the Living God; and he soon realized that you can't run and hide from God. The LORD had prepared an attention getter in the form of a great fish. Are you running from God? The sea in your life will not be calmed until you yield to the God of Heaven. What has God got to do to get your attention?

**Jonah 2:1** Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, **2** And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice.

Yes, God got Jonah's attention and in the midst of his affliction Jonah cried out to God; and GOD HEARD! Even in our afflictions God will hear our cries. It took getting swallowed by a great fish to get Jonah's attention; what beloved has God got to do to get your attention?

**Jonah 2:10** And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

**Jonah 3:1** And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, **2** Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. **3** So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

**4** And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. **5** So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

God got Jonah's attention and He bid him to go preach to Nineveh "the preaching that I bid thee" You see Jonah was sent to preach God's Word and not his own. God's message was a message of coming judgement upon the great city and Jonah was obedient to the preaching that God had put upon him; and because he was faithful in preaching what God had bid him to preach; Nineveh believed God! God knows what the heart of man needs to hear.

Korah rebelled against God and His anointed and they became a sign; Jonah ran from God and God got his attention in the belly of a great fish; are you rebelling and running from God? What has God got to do to get your attention?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

**Daniel 4:1-3** Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. (2) I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. (3) How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

We see that Nebuchadnezzar after seeing the Almighty Living God deliver Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace praised His might and majesty, and all the good God had brought him.

But it was not to last and pride got in the way; and God would have to get his attention.

**Daniel 4:28-30** All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. (29) At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. (30) The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten where his blessings, might, and power had come from; for it was God that established his kingdom. Beloved have you forgotten where your blessings come from, have you forgotten God's mercy, grace and protection?

**Daniel 4:31-33** While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. (32) And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

(33) The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

God got Nebuchadnezzar's attention; his kingdom had departed from him and he would now dwell with the beast of the field and eat grass as oxen. Friend, are you so arrogant and prideful that you have forgotten about God? Do you forget where your blessings come from, the roof over your head, the food on your table, the job you have, the clothes on your back? Has not God blessed you or have you built your own little kingdom all by yourself, as Nebuchadnezzar thought he had? Do you think God is a God afar off, and can't get your attention if needs be? What has God got to do to get your attention?

PAUL

Perhaps the greatest attention getter of all was upon Saul, a murderer and persecutor of God's people.

**Act 7:58** And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Act 8:1** And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

**Act 26:9** I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

Korah rebelled against God's anointed, Jonah ran from God's call, Nebuchadnezzar became blinded by pride; Paul was a murderer and persecutor of God's children, a religious terrorist; but God was going to get Saul's attention.

**Act 9:1** And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, **2** And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. **3** And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

**4** And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?** **5** And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

**6** And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

The LORD surely got Saul's attention on that Damascus road; Saul became the apostle Paul, a murder of Christians became preacher to them, a church destroyer became a church builder.

**Act 9:19** And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. **20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. **21** But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? **22** But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

The LORD got Saul's attention with a light from Heaven and the voice of the LORD and Saul died that day and was reborn in the spirit as Paul; beloved are you at enmity with God? Are you in rebellion against the Living God? Do you deny the Faith? There will come a time in the last days that if you refuse the salvation of the LORD you will become a persecutor of God's people!

**Jude 1:18** How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. **19** These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

**Matthew 24:9** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. **10** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Beloved, receive the salvation of the LORD while there is still time! If you don't and you are here during the tribulation you will be a persecutor of God's people if you have heard the Gospel and rejected it! God will send upon you a strong delusion and you will believe the lie. (**2 Thessalonians 2:11**) What has God got to do to get your attention?

ELIJAH

**1 Kings 18:40** And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

**1 Kings 19:2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. **3** And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself 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. 5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

The prophet Elijah had become despondent; he had a suicidal complex; fear had overcome him even after he had seen the mighty work of the LORD. Depression had set in and he was ready to give up the fight; he had become weary.

**1 Kings 19:9** And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? 10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Elijah felt all alone; he felt isolated in the work for God. He was a man on an island he thought, but God got his attention. Korah rebelled and the ground swallowed him up; Jonah ran and a great fish swallowed him, Nebuchadnezzar swollen with pride became like the beasts; Paul persecuted the church, Elijah lost faith and gave in to fear, and became despondent and God got his attention.

11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

God didn't get Elijah's attention through a mighty wind; not in an earthquake, nor in a fire; but in a still small voice. Praise God today for His unspeakable Grace; that He gets our attention often through that still small voice. Beloved, is God trying to get your attention? Is that still small voice speaking to you, for your need of salvation? Do you hear that still small voice of God calling for repentance? Does that still small voice call you for obedience to His will? Whatever that still small voice is speaking to you about, God is trying to get your attention; are you listening?

Oh, and by the way, Elijah was not alone, and neither are you.

**1 Kings 19:18** Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

What has God got to do to get your attention?

JESUS SAVES- To God be the Glory

R.E.G.

