

## Abundant Supplies

Despite years of progress against hunger, the world's leadership estimates that 1372 million people are trying to live on less than \$1.00 per day, and that there are some 925 million people suffering from persistent hunger

While weather pattern famines have brought some of this about, a poisoning of the soil has produced other famines by chemicals.

If we look at the following Scriptures, we shall see that God could produce sufficient supplies to meet the needs of the people at a particular time.

The major question is "Does God work in our lives?" The answer is "YES, but only if we let Him".

### Israel in the Wilderness

"For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing", Deuteronomy 2:7.

This is possibly one of the greatest famines in the Bible, yet it is not entirely about food, but FAITH.

All Christians have a journey to travel through life. It starts on the day of repentance, and finishes at the table of The Lamb's Marriage Supper. It is a regrettable truth that many spend much of their Christian walk somewhere in the middle.

For the Israelites the journey from Kadesh Barnea to the Brook of Zered is some fifty to sixty miles.

Even with their young children and older member's of the tribes, the journey should not have taken longer than one week, yet, because of complaining of God's supplies, it took them thirty-eight years.

### Elijah in the Wilderness

"And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God", 1 Kings 19:6-8.

Elijah, at this point is travelling in a state of despair. When he arrived at Beersheba, instead of staying in God's Promised Land, he entered the desert.

When we, as Elijah, start moving away from God, God, as with Elijah, does not give up on us.

God sent an angel to prepare sustenance for Elijah, and the journey God still required him to undertake.

God does not demand our loyalty that is our decision.

Elijah responded by eating what had been prepared, Then he started moving, this time it was the direction God wanted him to take.

The Multitude Who Followed Jesus

"And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children", Matthew 14:20-21.

Many people, even today, will look in their larder, and seeing it full of various foods, will say "What can I give to the family for its meal today?"

I would like to give two personal illustrations here,

'I was away from home on a ministry trip, and the church – whether to impress me or not, I have no idea – arranged for me to stay with a family not connected to the church.

It was a large house with not a small walk-in pantry (larder).

My hostess invited me to go with her and select what I would like for a meal.

We both walked into the pantry where there was so much food, that I did not even know where to start looking for my prospective meal.

Looking at me, she said "I do not know what we can have tonight, we will just go to the restaurant down the road!"

The second was another church where I stayed for a week with one of its families.

This time, a small larder, masses of open space on the shelves, and my hostess said "Lord, help me with what we have for a meal. Amen"

With no disrespect for either hostess, I came away from the table feeling FED!

When Jesus told the disciples to feed the five thousand, He knew that the Larders of Heaven were absolutely full, but He opted to use what was available.

In the flesh we blame others. We blame God, and in our choice, we never produce the perfect meal. All were fed, and all were satisfied.

When Jesus showed how to release faith, His Heavenly Father released the perfect solution