

## PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

The last message of Amelia Earhart, the intrepid woman flier of many years ago, was sent in the midst of a tropical storm just before her radio crackled its last. It said, "Fuel almost gone. Position doubtful." A short time later she and her navigator crashed somewhere in the Pacific and were never found.

The spiritual experience of many Christians could likewise be summed up in the two words "position doubtful." Such a position is sure to end in disaster unless the halting saint gets back "on course", to prepare for Christ's soon return.



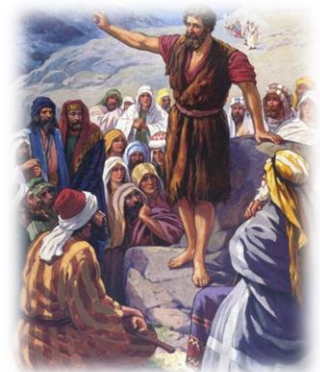
### **Flatbread** (Pocketless Pitas, Gyros)

2 cups whole wheat flour	1 cup spelt or
	unbleached flour
1 tsp salt	1 cup warm water
	1 Tbsp olive oil

Combine all the ingredients together adding more flour if necessary to avoid stickiness. Knead about 10 times. Let sit approximately 1 hour. Divide into about 15 golf- ball-sized balls. Roll each of these out on a floured surface until they are between 1/8 and 1/4 inch thick and about 6" in diameter. Cook in a skillet on the stovetop over medium heat. (This may be done in an oiled or unprepared skillet) When one side starts to bubble, flip over and cook the other side until well-baked. Serve with hummus or other filling.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29. And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor." Desire of Ages 224-225*

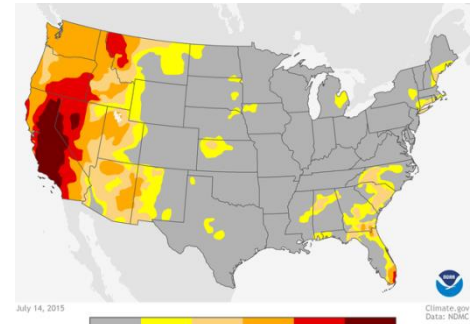


# Drought

*“And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”*

**Isaiah 30:20,21**

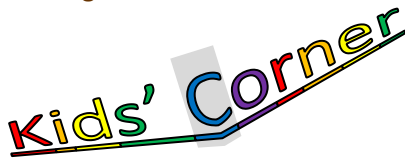
Recently, the western US has certainly had the water of affliction, or perhaps the affliction of lack of water. Washington has recorded the largest fires in state history. In other places, formerly frequented lakes are just cracked mud. As Christians, perhaps it would be well to look at the situation and see some lessons that God is trying to teach us about what happens when there is a spiritual drought causing famine in the land. Amos 8:11 warns that *“the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:”* Here are a few lessons I have learned from the drought conditions in the Northwest.



1. **It only takes a spark to start a forest fire**—Due to the drought and fire danger there are signs warning against fireworks, smoking, and even using chain saws that may create sparks. Perhaps, there should also be a warning against the sparks of wicked and false words that spread quickly, causing desolation. We are told that *“wickedness burneth as the fire...”* (Isaiah 9:18) and that *“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”* (James 3:5,6) Zephaniah prophesied of men that would say, *“The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.”* (Zep 1:12) In other words, “Do what you want, God won’t punish you.” The result of such words spoken by leaders today will kindle a fire of wickedness among the people. Without God’s doctrine and law to *“drop as the rain”* (Deut. 32:2), man will be allowed to walk in the fire of his own kindling as iniquity desolates the earth. For thus saith the Lord, *“Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.”* (Isa 50:11)
2. **Those that survive in a drought must have deep roots**—Drought and heat is much like persecution and affliction. Those who *“have no root in themselves”* may *“endure but for a time: [but] afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended.”* (Mark 4:16) and they wither away. But those who are *“rooted and built up in Him [Christ], and stablished in the faith”* (Col 2:7) will not be so easily influenced by circumstances. When persecution arises, faith, like deep roots, penetrates beneath the things which are seen, drawing spiritual nourishment from Jesus, the Fountain of life.
3. **Only God can end a drought**—No amount of bucketed, pumped, rationed water or human effort can make up for lack of running water and rain to end a drought. The Bible compares drought conditions to trusting in man. *“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”* Jeremiah 17:5-8

In His mercy and faithfulness, God often permits those in whom we place confidence to fail us, in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man, and making flesh our arm. Yet many place man where God should be and trust in man (presidents, popes, pastors or princes) to cure the spiritual drought conditions we see in the world today. The Bible says, *“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living*

waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” Jeremiah 2:13 We seek the strength of erring, finite man, when we might have the strength of the unerring, infinite God. It is time for us to take our eyes off man, including self, and place our dependence on God, for only the God of heaven can end a drought.



Written by D. Roberts age 12

Illustrated by D. Roberts age 10

## GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

The Common Raven lives in North America (even in parts of the south of Greenland), Eurasia and some of the deserts of North Africa. Ravens live about 10-15 years in the wild. The voice of a Raven sounds kind of like a croak. Teenage Ravens are among the most playful of birds. They have been seen sliding down snowbanks. They have even played games with other animals, such as playing catch-me-if-you-can with wolves, otters and dogs. They are also one of only a few wild animals who make their own toys. They have been observed breaking off twigs to play with. The Common Raven is an omnivore (eats meat and berries, etc.). Ravens like to find treasure, such as bread and crackers. Just as the Raven likes to find treasure, we should search for treasures in the Bible.



### Psalm 5:3

*“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”*



Patience liked to sing songs about Jesus and have her morning worship every day. She wanted to be ready when Jesus comes.



Passion thought she didn't have time for worship and learning about Jesus every morning. She made Jesus sad.



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## Study to Show Thyself Approved- Characteristics of the Elijah Message

**Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ's first advent.** *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."* **Malachi 4:5, 6**

Elijah= Type	John the Baptist =Type	Last Day Elijah Message=Antitype
Repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.—1 Kings 18:30	John is the second Elijah and comes "To restore all things" Matt. 17:10-13	Will "raise up the foundations" "repairer of the breach, restorer of paths to dwell in" —Isaiah 58:12
Asked people, "How long halt ye between two opinions?" --1 Kings 18:21 Told people "If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him." --1 Kings 18:21	To turn "the disobedient to the wisdom of the just" Luke 1:17 Preached "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand-- Matt. 3:2	Will "turn many to righteousness" – Daniel 12:3 Will bear the straight testimony of truth with faithfulness, regardless of the consequences -- Type+Type
"Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob" signifying turning people back to the God of their fathers. 1 Kings 18:31	To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children- Luke 1:17 Isaiah 38:19 sheds light on this concept "the father to the children shall make known thy truth" To give a knowledge of salvation and light in darkness—Luke 1:77-79 Purpose was to turn people to God and make ready a people prepared for their Lord- Luke 1:16,17	Will "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers." Mal. 4:5,6
Delivers a message of rebuke and warning of impending judgments to apostate King Ahab—1 Kings 17:1; 21:20,21	Delivers an unfaltering message of rebuke to King Herod- Matt 14:3,4	Preaches the gospel to all nations preparing people for "the hour of His judgment"--Matt. 24:14; Rev. 14:6,7
Delivers unflinching rebuke to apostate leadership- -1 Kings 18:18 Temperance reform - Rebukes seeking the god of Ekron for healing-- 2 Kings 1:2-4	Delivers rebuke especially to apostate leadership-- Matt. 3:7-9 Temperance reform – would "drink neither wine nor strong drink"--Luke 1:15	Warns of the Impending judgments/curse of God- Mal. 4:5  Delivers rebuke especially to apostate leadership--Isaiah 58:1 Warns against counterfeit healing methods and intemperance in all its forms — Type + Type
Diet—characterized by absence of gluttony (two meals a day), simple food, and water drinking—1 Kings 17:6,10,11	Diet reform- a continual fast "came neither eating nor drinking"; simple food- "locusts and wild honey"--Matt. 11:18, Mark 1:6, Mark 2:18	Diet reform—"take heed ..., lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [gluttony], and drunkenness... and so that day come upon you unawares." —Luke 21:34
Recognized by simple clothing--2 Kings 1:8	Recognized by simple clothing "camel's hair" as opposed to the fashions of the day- Matt. 3:4, Mark 1:6	"let it not be that outward adorning" "not costly array" "modest apparel"-- 1 Pet. 3:3,4 ; 1 Tim. 2:9
Education reform – Connected to the schools of the prophets 2 Kings 2:3-7,15	Education reform - Not trained in corrupt schools, but "home-schooled" Luke 1:80	Schools in the last days are to be conducted along the lines of the ancient schools of the prophets, the word of God lying at the foundation of all the education given. --Type+Type
Accused by the leadership of troubling Israel--1 Kings 18:17 Death decree by an evil/corrupt woman wed to apostate leadership -- 1 Kings 19:2	Was not recognized by apostate leadership Matt. 17:12, Matt. 21:32 Death decreed by an evil/corrupt woman unlawfully wed to corrupt leadership --Matt. 14:6-8	"all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."--2 Tim. 3:12 "Then I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus"- Revelation 17:6 ; Rev. 13:15
Translated to heaven in a chariot of fire - 2 Kings 2:11	Killed after imprisonment-- Matt. 14:8-10	Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you:--Matt. 24:9 Some will be killed, some translated— Type+Type ; 1 Thess. 4:17

## INJECTING WHAT!!!!?

*"Against the body of a healthy man Parliament has no right of assault whatever, under pretence of the public health."*

Professor F. W. Newman of Oxford

With the new bill passed in California, requiring that all school children receive vaccinations, there has been an outcry against required vaccinations. The Bible states that *"A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit..."* Proverbs 28:17 Can it be substantiated that vaccines, like snake bites, violate or "do violence" to the blood of man? Let's examine some of the reasons parents may wish to retain their right to choose for their own children in a day when children are given more vaccinations and much earlier in life than ever before in history.

**Health**—Perhaps, the foremost reason that many parents are protesting forced vaccination is health concerns. They maintain that vaccines contain toxic ingredients including mercury (thimerosal) in many flu shots, aluminum, antibiotics, carcinogenic preservatives, artificial colors, allergens, alcohol, GMO ingredients, as well as ingredients of animal and human origin. A careful look at the Feb. 2015 vaccine ingredient list from the CDC upholds these claims. <http://www.swiftrunnerministries.com/vaccination-info.php>

One health hazard found in many vaccines is the ingredient formaldehyde or formalin. According to the CDC it is found in vaccines such as the Dtap, Agriflu, Polio, Japanese Encephalitis, and many others.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety state that formaldehyde is, "... **VERY TOXIC. Fatal if inhaled. TOXIC following skin contact and/or if ingested. CORROSIVE. Causes severe skin burns and eye damage. Corrosive to the respiratory tract. SKIN SENSITIZER. May cause an allergic skin reaction. CANCER HAZARD. May cause cancer. MUTAGEN. May cause genetic defects.**" [http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/chem\\_profiles/formaldehyde.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/chem_profiles/formaldehyde.html)

Some parents suggest that we are trading diseases like chicken pox for autism and asthma. Vaccines do appear to have negative effects on the brain. A news report aired on CBN titled **Are Vaccinations Safe For Your Kids**, stated, *"Now a June survey of more than 10,000 families suggest the problems are more than speculative. It found teenage boys, vaccinated as children were twice as likely to suffer from autism, four times as likely to have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder [ADHD], and boys and girls of all ages, vaccinated as children, were more than twice as likely to have developed asthma."*



The Huffington Post reports, *"More significantly, an explosive investigation by CBS News has found that since 1988, the vaccine court has awarded money judgments, often in the millions of dollars, to thirteen hundred and twenty two families whose children suffered brain damage from vaccines. In many of these cases, the government paid out awards following a judicial finding that vaccine injury lead[sic] to the child's autism spectrum disorder."* [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-f-kennedy-jr-and-david-kirby/vaccine-court-autism-deba\\_b\\_169673.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-f-kennedy-jr-and-david-kirby/vaccine-court-autism-deba_b_169673.html)

Another concern is that vaccines may actually be **causing** the disease they are meant to protect from. The Journal of the American Medical Association article states, *"From 1973 through 1984, there were 138 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis reported in the United States; 105 (76%) were vaccine associated."* JAMA, March 13, 1987

In light of the fact that our bodies are "the temple of God" (I Cor. 3:16,17) it is distressing that one presidential candidate actually suggested that *"we should not allow allow those diseases to return by foregoing safe immunization programs for philosophical, religious or other reasons..."* [www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/ben-carson-mandatory-vaccinations-right/2015/02/02/id/622273/](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/ben-carson-mandatory-vaccinations-right/2015/02/02/id/622273/) This would remove religious exemptions for immunizations, ignoring the the freedom of religion clause in the Bill of Rights..

**Religious**— There are many reasons why people may wish to claim religious exemption from vaccines, but we will discuss only two here. Some people's religious views forbid them to use unclean animal and especially pork products. Yet according to the Vaccine Excipient & Media Summary by the CDC, gelatin is an ingredient found in many of the vaccines. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia states, *"All gelatin contained in vaccines is porcine [pork] in origin."* [http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-ingredients/gelatin#.VdybU\\_IVgSU](http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-ingredients/gelatin#.VdybU_IVgSU) This has been a concern of conservative Muslims, Jews, and Christians alike (as well as those who have allergies to gelatin, and pork, some of whom have had severe allergic reactions to it).

Those who believe in following the laws of clean and unclean as stated in the Bible will find their religious rights infringed on by the enforcement of vaccines containing gelatin. *"And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, **nor touch their dead carcase.**"* Deuteronomy 14:8

Another cause for concern is the use of aborted fetal cells for culture medium in vaccines. The CDC says, *"Vaccines also may contain very small amounts of the culture material used to grow the virus or bacteria used in the vaccine, such as chicken egg*

protein.” <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/additives.htm> And, in their **Vaccine Excipient & Media Summary** they list many of these culture materials as contained in the vaccines. Several cultures listed are animal in origin, both of the clean and unclean variety, such as, monkey kidney cells, chicken embryo, embryonic guinea pig cell cultures, dog kidney cells, etc. But human culture materials are listed as MRC-5 human diploid cells, WI-38 human diploid lung fibroblasts, human embryonic lung cultures, etc. “WI-38 came from lung cells from a female fetus of 3-months gestation and MRC-5 was developed from lung cells from a 14-week-old male fetus. Both fetuses were intentionally aborted, but neither was aborted for the purpose of obtaining diploid cells.”

<http://immunizationinfo.com/articles/human-fetal-links-with-some-vaccines/> Could those that protest abortion rely on vaccines containing materials from aborted fetuses, to keep them in health, and still effectually protest abortion? All of these reasons, and more, cause parents to fight for the right to choose for their own children.

Yet, one of the most common reasons cited for forcing vaccination is “herd immunity.” Many people believe that their health and their children’s health is at stake. If you are one of these, perhaps you should consider the following questions. Does vaccination truly protect it’s receiver from the disease? Are you and your children vaccinated? If you answered yes to the previous questions, then, using your logic, you cannot get any of the diseases you are vaccinated against, even if you are surrounded by unvaccinated people. The idea that vaccination should be forced upon people, has its basis in the idea that those who refuse vaccines might infect thoses that are vaccinated. Perhaps the only logical conclusion of this “theory” is that if vaccines need to be enforced, it is because they do not really work.

So, think about it. Are vaccines something that should be enforced upon people without their consent? Are they really as harmless as they’ve been portrayed? Chas. M. Higgins told in 1920 of “*The illegality and unconstitutionality of all compulsory vaccination*” adding that is a “*gross violation of Medical Freedom and Bodily Sanctity, which are unalienable American rights equal with Religious Freedom.*”

\* For a more complete article of vaccination facts, adverse reactions, alternatives, etc. visit our website at <http://www.swiftrunnerministries.com/vaccination-info.php>

## MIRAGE OR FACT

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” **Matthew 24:30**

As you may already know, in 1492 Columbus sailed across the Atlantic and became the man often credited with the discovery of America. In his day, men believed that the earth was flat, and that you could sail off the edge.

Columbus and his sailors believed that they were sailing to Asia, where they could find lots of wealth and riches. Now after they journeyed over fifty days from home, someone suddenly cried “Land! Land!” And all hands crowded to the side. Sure enough, they all saw it, straight ahead of them—fair green islands and lofty hills and a city with castles and temples and palaces that glittered beautifully in the sun.

Then they all cried for joy and sang hymns of praise and shouted to each other that their troubles were over. They steered straight for the shining city. But even as they sailed toward the land, behold! it all disappeared—land and castle and palace and temple and city, and nothing but the tossing sea lay all about them. It was all a mirage. They were very disappointed. With hopes again and again disappointed, the sailors grew more and more restless and discontented. Yet there were strange birds flying about the ships and floating things in the water that told of land somewhere about them, and Columbus sailed on as certain of success as before, until at last they reached land.

Today as Christ’s Second Coming draws closer, there are times that we may feel like those sailors. Counterfeit signs may be seen like a mirage, and their passing only leads to disappointment and doubt. Yet there are true signs that tell us the end is near, just as the birds and floating objects told of a nearby land that really did exist. Someday soon Christ will return to take us home, but until then, we have his promise, so that we may “sail on” through life with a certainty that we will at last reach the heavenly shore.

