

July 2025

Greetings, Brethren, from God's Church in Kenya:

In this newsletter, I would like to address what happened in Israel when the whole nation turned from God and served other gods. It was the same with our church history when the whole ministry decided to abandon the God of the Bible and turn to scholars for spiritual instruction.

It was the darkest time in the northern part of Israel. For half a century, six wicked kings had fought for power. Solomon, David's son, had started out with such great promise. He was seen as a person who would follow in his father's footsteps to keep Israel close to God. *His kingdom was unsurpassed in glory and fame*, but, as an old man, Solomon loved many foreign women who stole his heart from God. His heart was divided, which then led the kingdom to be divided into two after his death.

Then came Jeroboam, who led the northern tribes out of the confederacy and covenant with Judah and Benjamin. He replaced the temple worship in Jerusalem with a counterfeit. At Bethel and Dan in northern Israel, he made two golden calves.

Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt (1 Kings 12:28).

The tide of evil continues to rise through the ungodly reigns of five kings. One of them was King Omri, this king did worse than all others.

But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him (1 Kings 16:25).

Omri had a son, Ahab, who was more wicked than he. Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal (man of Baal). This woman brought all the gods that they worshiped in Lebanon into Israel. They built the altar of Baal in Galilee, as well as Ashera poles (their version of totem poles). They sacrificed children and practiced prostitution and homosexuality.

Jezebel instituted a reign of terror and murdered the prophets of God. Ahab and his wife did much evil to provoke God.

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him (1 Kings 16:30–34).

Then entered a man with a mission. During all of those terrible times, a lone man appeared on the scene. He was a rugged man from the wild mountains of Gilead, wearing a leather belt and a rough, short cloak thrown over his shoulder. It was the mantle of prophets—the man was Elijah. He had words for a decadent nation from the Lord God of Israel. He had a mission with the power of His Word, not his own.

What was the message? It was a coming drought. This was a curse upon those who did not keep the covenant, and God often used it for idolatrous Israel.

And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass (Leviticus 26:19).

And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron (Deuteronomy 28:23).

Elijah looked at Ahab and told him:

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word (1 Kings 17:1).

Elijah had a close relationship with God. Because he was close to God, he knew the One he was serving. He trusted God in all his ways. During Elijah's time, children were being sacrificed to gods. Nowadays, they are likewise killed through abortion. American hospitals lead the West in abortions. Doctors routinely crush the heads of babies to do this.

We, too, are to raise our voices as Elijah did and condemn this. Do we read these signs of the times? This end-time Church of God is to stand up because we are approaching the end of the age. Deception is rampant in the world. Even those who were in the church were open for deception from liberal ministers. It is time that we join Elijah, taking a stand with God in these defining hours.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love (Ephesians 1:4).

After the encounter with Ahab, the word was out about the prophet Elijah. The prophecy of the drought came to pass, and God told him:

Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan (1 Kings 17:3).

Elijah was to leave his place of prominence and publicity and return to his place of seclusion. He was to hide himself from the world of Ahab. He was to be in the secret place of recuperation. He was to be alone with God, and to be restored by God before he was released again. God took him to the brook where there was flowing water, which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there (1 Kings 17:4).

Elijah did all that God commanded him to do:

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan (1 Kings 17:5).

In the church today, we can find some Ahab-like people. Many are not practicing the Truth in their homes. People who are Ahab-like have set idols in their hearts. They are not deep into the Word of God. They attend church year in year out, but there is no real change in their lives. They are sermon proof—they do not hear and grow spiritually. They are unteachable, always defensive, and excusing themselves rather than confessing their sins and repenting.

When Elijah returned to Samaria, Ahab treated him as the troubler of Israel. Ahab was expert in blaming others. He was good at accusing the prophets of God, just as wicked men always do.

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words (Amos 7:10).

Paul and Silus, too, were accused:

And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city (Acts 16:20).

And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down and come hither also (Acts 17:6).

Jesus was accused, too: "And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place" (Luke 23:5).

God's true people must speak the truth no matter what anyone will say against them. In our time, Mr. Raymond Cole stood tall to oppose the wrong doctrines that were coming into the church. Many did not agree with him and people said many negative things about him, yet he stood his ground.

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake, Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets (Luke 6:22–23).

Elijah, too, told Ahab and his father that they were the cause of Israel's trouble:

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim (1 Kings 18:18).

Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. 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 2:11–13).

Now it came to be that Elijah organized a public encounter between Jehovah and Baal. It was there that God answered with fire, which proved He was the true God. Mt. Carmel became known as the place of burning.

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken (1 Kings 18:24).

Baal worshipers were challenged to call upon their god to appear and show power, and yet nothing happened. In his day, Mr. Cole stood firm on God's side against apostasy. Today, we, too, must stand on God's side to defend the Word of God as it was handed down to us. We must not allow "Ahab" to take us away from the true God to follow other gods.

When all other ministers accepted false doctrine and did not stand up to defend the Truth of God, one in particular stood up to defend that Truth—Mr. Raymond Cole. He became the "One Man Stand." Mr. Cole did not recruit others to follow him and support him, he simply stood alone on God's side. He did not organize a coup to take over the church, but he stood firm for the Truth.

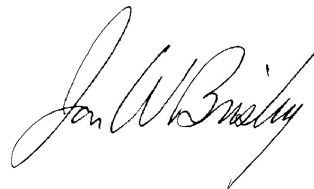
He chose to preserve the Truth, and you know that defending the Truth is like crossing through a minefield. He stood grounded in God's Way and kept that truth till it was the time God decided that he should rest and wait for the resurrection. This was the one man in our day, who, like Elijah, stood tall in the face of King Ahab and the large number of Baal prophets. Elijah was on God's side holding onto the Truth. We, too, should be like that one man, holding onto the Truth of God, rather than just running with the majority.

If the river (the world) is going downstream, we are to go upstream, we are not to go with the current. We have to remember how we began, and where we are going.

Yours in His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaya owak', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Isaya owak

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon W. Brisby', written in a cursive style.

Jon W. Brisby