



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2011

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor; Subdeacon Daniel
J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris, Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ This Wednesday is the simple feast of St. Elias the Prophet. The vespereal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in anticipation on Tuesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please join us in prayer for travelers and operators of vehicles of travel in our parish.

+++ The annual blessing of vehicles of travel will take place after the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, July 24. Please plan on being with us for this celebration.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week: Tithe Offering, \$2,200.00; Candles, \$250.00; Special Gift \$2,000.00; Christian Fellowship, \$1,000.00, for a total of \$5,450.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, Ryan Pallas, Mary Jaakobs, Bob Gorbich, Anna Zacharyczuk and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$100.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$107,815.00. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$2,000.00 on this project to date!

+++ **The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.**

+++ We remember only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!



God Is Our Father

I thought to myself, 'I would love to treat you as my own children!' I want nothing more than to give you this beautiful land, the finest inheritance in the world. I looked forward to your calling me 'Father' and I thought you would never turn away from me again Jeremiah 3: 19.

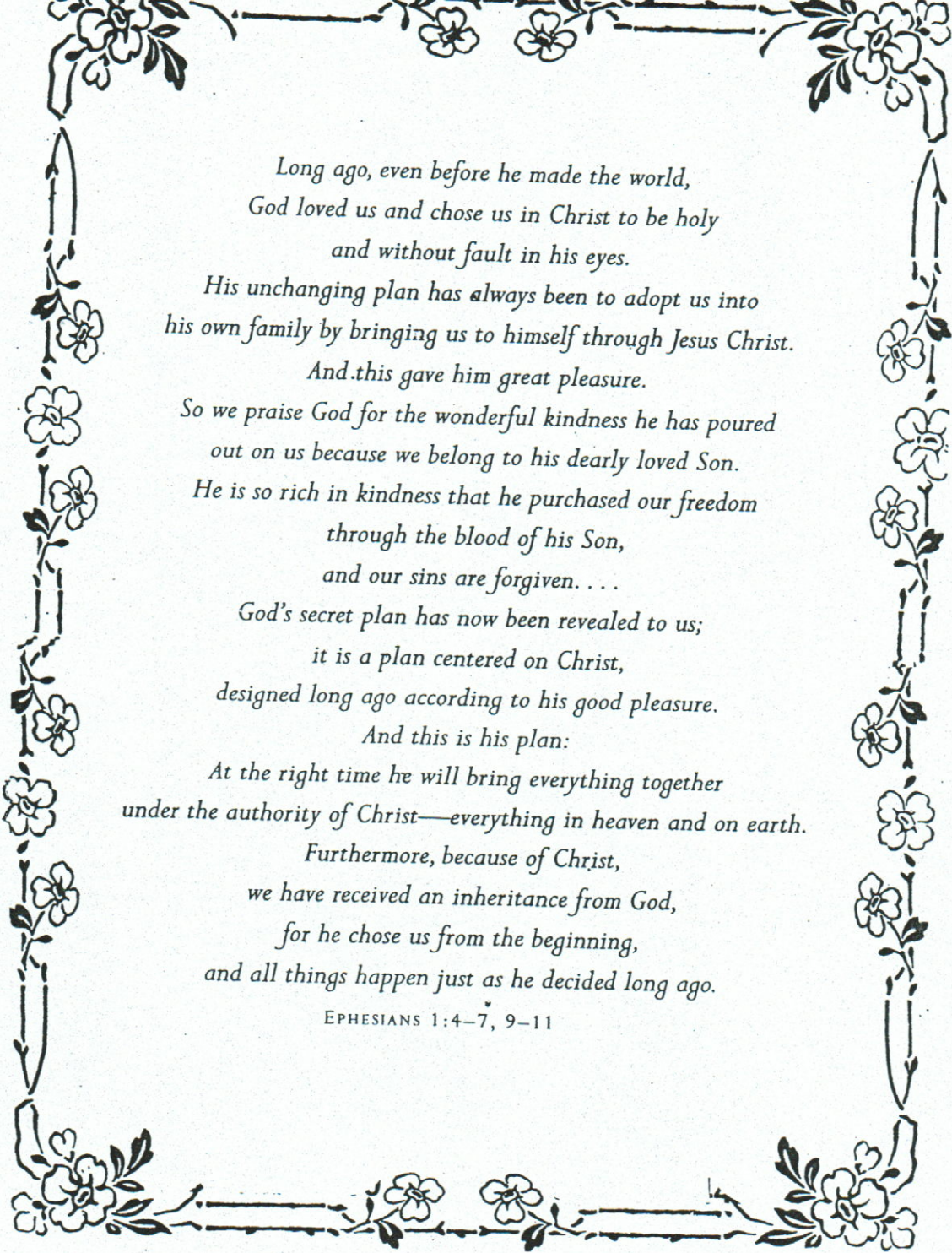
He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the beloved Ephesians 1: 5, 6.

See how much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children and we really are! But the people who belong to this world do not know God, so they do not understand that we are his children. Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we cannot even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure 1 John 3: 1 – 3.

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus Galatians 3: 26 – 28.

You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation Psalms 89: 26.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten Revelation 3: 19.



*Long ago, even before he made the world,
God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy
and without fault in his eyes.*

*His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into
his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.*

And this gave him great pleasure.

*So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured
out on us because we belong to his dearly loved Son.*

*He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom
through the blood of his Son,
and our sins are forgiven. . . .*

*God's secret plan has now been revealed to us;
it is a plan centered on Christ,
designed long ago according to his good pleasure.*

And this is his plan:

*At the right time he will bring everything together
under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.*

*Furthermore, because of Christ,
we have received an inheritance from God,
for he chose us from the beginning,
and all things happen just as he decided long ago.*

EPHESIANS 1:4-7, 9-11

What's In A Name?

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the just man runs to it and is safe Proverbs 18: 10.

Most people today, unfortunately, choose names for their children in honor of family members or because they like the sound of the word, not necessarily because of its meaning. There was a time, which the Church still honors, when children were given the dignity of a Christian saint name. The meaning of a name does not have much significance any longer and from time to time we hear names attached to people that are astounding. It is doubtful parents know the meaning of some of the names they burden their children with for all eternity.

The name of God, however, bears a direct relationship to his character and it expresses his essential nature. When He announced to Moses that his name is I AM WHO AM Exodus 3: 14, a description or phrase for which the Hebrew Yahweh is a shortened form, He calls attention to his essential, changeless self-existence. Later, God "...proclaimed the name of the Lord" to Moses and said He is "...merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin and who will by no means clear the guilty" Exodus 34: 5 - 7. To a devout Jew, the name of God meant all of that and more. God's very name conveyed an important message and reminder of the kind of relationship people might enjoy with their Creator.

In the New Covenant, our heavenly Father reveals himself through Jesus Christ, a name which means "Saviour." All that God was to his covenanted people in the Israel, He is to us now in Christ Jesus.

What is in the name of God? All that we need for life and death, for time and for eternity, for the here and now and for time to come. That is precisely why believers find it such a strong tower in which to seek protection. The name Jesus is a byword to the sinner, but heaven's password to the saint!

The Door

This term properly signifies the entrance into a house as in "...pulled Lot inside with them and closed the door..." Genesis 19: 10. It is likewise taken in a metaphorical sense because our Saviour says, "I am the door; by me if any man enters in he shall be saved" John 10: 9. Thus we come to understand that Christ is the only way lost sinners may come to God and obtain salvation. He is the only way of entrance and admission both into the Church militant and Church triumphant. It is only through him that those with a true and lively faith in him, wrought in their soul by the Holy Spirit, can be communicants of the Church of God here, and most certainly communicants of the Body of Christ for eternity.

Our Lord teaches us, "Behold I stand at the door and knock..." Revelation 3: 20. He thus indicates how ardently He waits beside the heart of the sinner in gospel dispensation, inviting him to repent and turn from evil ways. There is likewise mention made of the door of mercy, or the time or season of grace. "While they went off to buy it the groom arrived and the ones who were ready went into the wedding with him. Then the door was barred" Matthew 25: 10; Luke 13: 25.

By these parabolic expressions our Saviour uses every means and intimates that there is a determinate time, wherein sinners must, if ever, accept the offer of salutary grace and salvation which if they do not ignore and allow to pass by, they will to be able to obtain of God an entrance into the kingdom of heaven. There is a time when the door of mercy, the door of freely endowed grace, the door of heaven and glory, will be shut against them.

We also read of the *door of faith*, "...they called the congregation together and related all that God had helped them accomplish and how he had opened the door of faith to the gentiles" Acts of the Apostles 14: 24. In other words, the Lord inspired the apostles and their disciples to preach to non-Jews after which they were introduced to the mysteries of Christ and believed in him. They thus became communicants of the Church and augmented its numbers.

The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians and telling them of the special opportunity which Almighty God afforded him in doing much good by the richness of the gospel message. He explains it this way, "A door has been opened wide for my work..." 1 Corinthians 16: 9; "...the door of opportunity was opened wide for me by the Lord" 2 Corinthians 2: 12. This very same apostle speaks of a door of utterance; that God would open to us a door of saying the right thing at the right time which would so rest on the soul and heart of the listener that they would be impelled to follow after the Lord in faith commitment and seek his salvation. "Pray for us, too, that God may provide us with an opened door to proclaim the mystery of Christ..." Colossians 4: 3.

To lie at the door, "...sin is a demon lurking, at the door; his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master" Genesis 4: 7; *to be at the door*, "Likewise when you see all these things happening, you will know that he is near, standing at your door" Matthew 24:33; *to stand before the door*, "The judge stands at the gate" James 5: 9, are phrases denoting that a person, upon their repentance are finally about to achieve God's forgiveness and reconciliation. They denote that a person or objective is near at hand.

Our heavenly Father promises to give his people, upon repentance, "...the valley of Achor, as a door of hope" Hosea 2: 17. Achor was a valley in the territory of Jericho and in the tribe of Benjamin, on the very entrance into the land of Canaan.

The Israelites, fatigued and discouraged with marching and encamping for forty long perilous years in the wilderness, and coming to this valley, began to entertain hopes of enjoying the long ago promised land; in allusion to this, God promises his people, through Hosea, that He would give them some beginnings of mercy and favor, as the earnest pledges of future blessings. Thus the term door is one of encouragement and expectation.

Even David, the Old Testament king has come to grasp the awesome privilege of being at the door of God's temple when he prayerfully proclaims, "O Lord of Hosts, hear my prayer, hearken O God of Jacob! I would rather be a door keeper in the house of God than dwell in the tents of the wicked" Psalms 84: 9, 11.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the faithful women from the angel. And being freed from the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: "Dead and despoiled is death, Christ our God is risen giving great mercy to the world" Troparion, Resurrection Tone Four.

O my Saviour and Redeemer, being God, You raised from the grave men who were in chains and destroyed the gates of the Abyss; being the Lord, You arose on the third day Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Four.

How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have made them all Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Four.

O Saviour, You have absolved the penalty of disobedience, committed through the tree of Eden, by willingly being nailed to the tree of the Cross. As Almighty God, You descended into the Abyss and broke asunder the bonds of death. We, therefore, venerate Your Resurrection from the dead, and joyfully cry out to You: Almighty Lord, glory to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

O Lord, Your Nativity from the Father is timeless and eternal; Your Incarnation from the Virgin is beyond the understanding of all, and beyond the expression of our words. Your descent into the Abyss and victory over death caused satan and his angels to tremble with fear. Your Resurrection on the third day brought to mankind incorruption and great mercy Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

I have sinned against You, O Lover of mankind. May I ask forgiveness, and even more than forgiveness? Do not grant me this because of Your nature as man, but because You are more than man and higher than nature. O Saviour, beyond the laws of nature and beyond my understanding You became man. You love mankind more than the mind can grasp. Have mercy on me who have turned to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

You are glorified in the memory of Your saints, O Christ God. Through their intercession, send upon us great mercy Vesper Hymn, Tone Four.

Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

Would you like to be shown the excellence of this sacred office by another miracle? Imagine in your mind's eye, if you will, Elijah and the vast crowd standing around him, and the sacrifice lying upon the stone altar. All the rest are still, hushed in deep silence. The prophet alone is praying. Suddenly fire falls from the skies on to the offering. It is marvellous; it is charged with bewilderment. Turn, then, from that scene to our present rites, and you will see not only marvellous things, but things that transcend all terror. The priest stands bringing down, not fire, but the Holy Spirit. And he offers prayer at length, not that some flame lit from above may consume the offerings, but that grace may fall on the sacrifice through that prayer, set alight the souls of all, and make them appear brighter than silver refined in the fire. Can anyone, not quite mad and deranged, despise this most awe-inspiring rite? Do you not know that no human soul could ever have stood that sacrificial fire, but all would have been utterly annihilated, except for the powerful help of God's grace? St. John Chrysostom

Did You Know That ...

- ...if you keep conscience clear, you will never have to fear?
- ...injuring someone puts you below your enemy; revenging one makes you even with him; forgiving him sets you above him?
- ...wise men learn from others' mistakes; fools by their own?
- ...avarice and happiness never saw each other; so how can they become acquainted?
- ...the worst wheel of the cart makes the most noise?
- ...the wheel that makes the most noise gets the most attention?
- ...the wise use of money is all the advantage there is to having money?
- ...for six dollars a year, you may have use of one hundred dollars if you are prudent and honest?
- ...he who goes far to marry will either deceive or be deceived?
- ...necessity never made a good bargain?
- ...there are many witty men whose brains do not fit their bellies?
- ...as a child two precious jewels were given you, time and good advice; yet one you lost and the other you threw away?
- ...experience keeps an expensive school, yet fools will learn in no other?
- ...far more observe the Christmas holiday than keep His precepts because it is easier to keep a holiday than His commandments?
- ...he is rich who rejoices in what he has?
- ...the devil wipes his breeches with poor fool's pride?
- ...if you have something to do tomorrow, do it today?

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 4

1. We bow in worship to your life-giving cross,
O Christ our God;
We glorify your resurrection on the third day.
By it you renewed our fallen nature, Almighty
Lord.
You gave us the assurance of heaven;
You are gracious and the Lover of mankind.
2. Freely accepting crucifixion on the tree of the
cross,
You destroyed the penalty of the tree of sin.
You descended into the Abyss, Almighty
Lord.
Being God, You broke the bonds of death.
Therefore, we bow in worship to your resur-
rection;
In joy we cry out to You
"Almighty Lord : glory be to You!"
3. O Lord, You shattered the gate of the Abyss;
By your death you destroyed the power of
death.
You freed the human race from corruption;
You gave life and great mercy to the world.
4. Come, all you nations and people,
Let us praise the Savior's resurrection!
It has freed us from the bonds of the Abyss.
We have received life and incorruption :
Let us cry out :

“ O Lord crucified, buried, and now risen :
Save us by your resurrection,
For you alone love mankind. ”

5. Angels and men glorify your resurrection,
O Savior :

By it you have enlightened all the earth.
You redeemed us from slavery to our enemy.
Let us cry out in song :
O Savior, you are the mighty Giver of Life.
Save us by your resurrection,
For you alone love mankind.

6. You shattered the gates of the Abyss,
You broke it's bonds, O Christ our God!
You raised our fallen human race.
We cry to you in song :

O Lord risen from the dead : glory be to You!

7. O Lord, your birth from the Father is eternal
and before all ages;
Your incarnation from the Virgin is beyond
explanation :

No language can tell it properly.
Your descent into the Abyss is fearful
Both to Satan and to his angels.
You conquered death; You arose on the third
day;
You gave great mercy and life to the world.

8. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

Because of you, O Mother of God,
David the prophet became an ancestor of God.
Praising Him who worked wonders in you,
He foretold you in joyous song :
The Queen stood at your right hand.
You are revealed as the mother of Life.

Without a father, God chose to become
incarnate of you.
He renewed in man his image corrupted by sin.
Finding the lost sheep on the mountain, He
put it on his shoulder;
He carried it to the Father and to his will;
He numbered it among the heavenly powers.
He has saved the whole world :
He is the Christ of great and rich mercy.

At the Apostichon

1. O Lord lifted upon the Cross,
You wiped away our ancestral curse.
In the Abyss, You freed those bound for ages;
You granted incorruption to the human race.
Because of this we sing our praise to You
Glorifying your saving and life-giving resur-
rection.
2. Raised upon the cross, O Mighty Lord,
You shook the whole earth.
Buried in your tomb, You raised the dead;
You granted life and incorruption to the world.
Because of this, we sing our praise to You,
Glorifying your saving and life-giving resur-
rection.
3. Evil people delivered You to Pilate, O Christ
our God.
He condemned You to crucifixion.
They proved themselves ungrateful to their
Benefactor.
Your freely accepted suffering and death.
Being God you rose by your own power on
the third day.
You gave us eternal life and great mercy.
4. In tears, the faithful women came to your tomb:
They were seeking You.

Not finding You, sighing and lamenting, they
cried out :

“ O Savior and King of all, how were you
stolen?

Where does your life-giving Body lie now? ”

An angel appeared and said to them :

“ Do not cry but go proclaim the news :

The Lord is risen giving us joy :

He alone loves mankind. ”

5. Glory be to the Father ✚, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

O Virgin most pure,

Listen to the supplication of your servants;

Protect us from our enemy;

Deliver us from sorrow.

You are our safe and secure haven;

We have you as our advocate.

Let those who call upon you never be put to
shame.

Quickly answer those who call to you :

Hail Virgin, help of all,

Our joy, our protection, and salvation of our
souls!

THE EBB AND FLOW OF LIFE

Because of his willingness to confront King Ahab for his unrighteous and pagan ways, the Prophet Elijah often found himself fleeing for his life. In the First Book of Kings, we read how God sends him to the safety of the Brook Cherith, where he not only finds shelter, but food and refreshing waters. Elijah's fortunes change quickly, however, and soon that brook, which brought him much-needed relief, dries up and is utterly worthless to him. For the Prophet, joy had become despair.

How often do we see this happening in our own lives? How many times has our good fortune turned to bad almost overnight? Our once-thriving business suddenly fails . . . our high-value stocks suddenly plummet . . . the "love of our life" forsakes us. Yes, life is truly filled with "dried up brooks."

Yet we must believe that things always happen for a reason. As the old saying goes, **"When God closes a door, He always opens a window somewhere."** When the Brook Cherith dried up and the outlook for Elijah was at its bleakest point, we read in the First Book of Kings that the word of God came to him. God had not led him there so that he could die. No, He had other plans for him, setting Elijah on a path that would eventually take him back to the king so that he could show the power of the one true God of Israel. Elijah listened to the voice of God, and so must we. We must be receptive to what His new plan for us may be, just as Elijah was. When our world seems to be falling apart, this is precisely the time to put our trust in the Lord. When darkness engulfs us, we must seek the true Light to brighten our path. Yes, "dried up brooks" can be transformed very quickly, if we recognize the right "Source" needed to fill them!