

## 1 Kings 18

“Elijah: The Man of Highs and Lows - Answers at the Altar”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO 1 Kings 18...

**LET'S PRAY -**

**INTRO -**

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: ***“Answers at the Altar”***

IN THIS SERIES WE'RE LOOKING AT THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF ELIJAH'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

- This chapter is the pinnacle of his life

HERE IS THE PICTURE:

- In the last chapter Elijah said there will be no rain until he gives the word
  - This was a direct attack on Ahab's false god Baal
    - We have our own idols today...

BUT DURING THESE YEARS OF DROUGHT GOD PROVIDED FOR ELIJAH

- The Ravens
  - The Flour and Oil
    - And this drought lasted for 3 ½ years until Chap 18

**(READ V 1-6 NKJV)**

**IDEA 1 - Dealing with False Accusations**

AFTER 3 ½ YEARS GOD SPEAKS TO ELIJAH

- Elijah was a man of prayer and action
  - Often times when we pray we just list off our needs and continue on in our lives without allowing the Lord to speak into our lives
    - God desperately wants to speak to us and answer our prayers but we seldom take the time to listen.

● **Jeremiah 7:13 NIV**

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■ [FINLAND PHONE ILLUSTRATION]

IN OUR STUDY WE ARE INTRODUCED TO THIS MAN OBADIAH

- If this was England he would be the lord chamberlain
  - The bible tells us that he is a man who fears the Lord
    - Maybe that describes you in your employment
    - Galatians 1:10 NLT

AND WE ALSO SEE WHERE AHAB'S PRIORITIES LIED

- He wasn't concerned about food for his people but his livestock

(READ V 7-19 NKJV)

NOW HERE AHAB FINALLY FINDS ELIJAH

- A question we can ask here is why didn't Ahab just kill Elijah now?
  - 1. He likely thought he could bring the rain back
  - 2. The bible says that the heart of the king is in the Lord's hand

WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT AHAB BLAMES ELIJAH FOR THE DROUGHT

You troubler of Israel

- Duet 11:16-17 NLT
  - Ahab does something called blame shifting
    - This is a natural response for when someone does not want to take ownership of their problems
      - My encouragement to you is to know your bible.
    - When a person doesn't have the truth on their side they often become defensive and begin to attack.
      - James 1:2 says, “Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials”

**IDEA 2 - Elijah's BBQ and Smokehouse Grill**

(READ V 20-21 NKJV)

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### HERE ELIJAH CHALLENGES THE PEOPLE TO MAKE A CHOICE

- The word ‘Falter’ means ‘to limp, hop, or dance’
  - It's a call to get out of the grey area of your life.
    - Joshua 24:15 NLT
- Sadly when Elijah said this the people stayed quiet
  - They neither responded with repentance or with defense because they wanted to continue to live unexamined lives

### MOUNT CARMEL LITERALLY TRANSLATES TO VINEYARD OF GOD

- But because of this drought it likely just looked like a wasteland
  - This mountain was believed to be the place where Baal lived
    - And the whole nation is invited to watch this happen

(READ V 22-29 NKJV)

### ELIJAH IS GIVING THESE PROPHETS EVERY ADVANTAGE IN THE BOOK

- They are doing this challenge on their territory, they got to pick the bull, there was 450 of them compared to 1 Elijah and he even let them go first
  - They were at this from the morning until the evening in the hot sun
    - They had all of these theatrics
      - God's desire is to draw close to us, we don't need all of the theatrics
        - These people had a lot of zeal but without truth and so their zeal profited them nothing
  - High emotions in churches and church services but lacking any power

### ELIJAH EVEN BEGINS TO MOCK THEM

- The NKJV cleans up the language a little bit but I like how the NLT puts it
  - V 27
    - Literally saying your gods in the bathroom
      - It's sad when you have a god who sleeps
        - Psalm 121:4 NLT

### THESE FALSE PROPHETS STARTED TO CUT THEMSELVES FOR BAAL

- There is always a destructive aspect to pagan worship
  - Because you are made in the image of God

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- Jesus describes the character of Satan in Luke 10:10
  - “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy...”

### NOW ELIJAH GAVE THEM PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

- And you can do the same thing when speaking with unbelievers...
  - And look at the hopelessness of it all...
    - From morning until Evening they were screaming and dancing for fire to come down from heaven
      - Verse 29 says, “there was no voice, no one answered, no one paid attention.”
        - This is one of the saddest verses in the whole bible

### ELIJAH SAYS COME HERE AND I WILL SHOW YOU HOPE

- Now it's Elijah's turn!

(READ V 30-39 NKJV)

### GOD GAVE ELIJAH VICTORY INSTANTLY IN THIS CHALLENGE

- Elijah rebuilt the altar to the Lord, he didn't build a new one for the first time
  - Maybe it's the altar of worship in your life?
    - Maybe you need to rebuild the altars of integrity and purity
      - God was the one who brought the fire, and Elijah's only responsibility was to rebuild the altar
        - You want God to answer in your life? Be faithful at the altar and watch him do the work

### WHAT DID ELIJAH POUR OVER THE ALTAR?

- It was in the middle of a drought where water was a precious commodity
  - This was a display of sacrificial worship
    - David went to purchase a threshing floor to sacrifice to the Lord and when he was offered the land for free this is what he said...
      - 2 Sam 24:24 NLT
        - True worship is sacrificial

### THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO TURNS THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE

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- No amount of well crafted human words can convince someone’s heart to change, it was to be the power of the Lord
  - Some of those watching would have repented and followed the Lord
  - Another thing that I love is that the fire didn't fall on the people
    - This is a beautiful picture of Jesus
      - And its God who provides the fire and the means in which we can worship him

(READ V 41-44 NKJV)

### *IDEA 3 - The Sound of Abundance*

ELIJAH TELLS AHAB THERE IS THE SOUND OF ABUNDANCE OF RAIN

- This was Elijah's faith in full display
  - If you ever got to Israel we take you to this very place
    - Elijah is not full of pride because of what he accomplished, he is going humbly to the Lord because he knows it's nothing that Elijah did but God.

HERE IS THE LESSON FOR US...

- Elijah Prayed for rain and then he watched.
  - He told his servant 7 times to report back what the sky looked like.
    - When you are praying according to God’s will are you then waiting and watching expectantly for him to answer?
      - Jeremiah 33:3 ESV
      - And he showed a persistence in prayer

NOW WHAT EXACTLY WAS THAT EVIDENCE?

- It was a cloud the size of a man’s hand rising above the horizon
  - Can you imagine what the servant was thinking when Elijah passed on the message to Ahab - “Get out of here before the torrential downpour!”
    - Over the last couple of weeks have you seen the crazy rain in Colorado?

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HERE IS MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU

- **Zechariah 4:10 NLT** “Do not despise these small beginnings”
  - Don't despise the day of small beginnings in your life...
    - The new habits you are trying to nurture
      - Maybe your not quite where you want to be but you wont get there unless you take those first steps
        - God also promises In Philippians 1:6 that Whatever good work he starts he is faithful to finish

[Welsh revival of 1904]

- So don't despise the day of small things!

**(READ V 45-46 NKJV)**

SO GOD GAVE ELIJAH SUPERNATURAL SPEED TO MAKE THIS CROSS COUNTRY RUN ALL THE WAY TO JEZREEL

- This would have been a 14 mile run where Elijah beat Ahab's Chariot
  - So that Ahab couldn't control the narrative to Jezebel

WHILE THIS WAS A HIGHPOINT OF ELIJAH'S MINISTRY AFTER GREAT VICTORY OFTEN COMES SPIRITUAL ATTACK

- This is why we can't live on experience
  - We need to learn not to depend on our feelings but walk by faith

**CALL THE WORSHIP TEAM UP**

**APPLICATION**

I SHARED THIS WITH YOU LAST WEEK...

- James 5:17-18 NLT

**PRAY**

IF THIS MESSAGE HAS SPOKEN TO YOU...