

ELIJAH THE TISHBITE. MIND BOGGLING LESSONS FOR TODAY! (PART II)

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WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN TODAY FOR OUR POLARISED AND UNGODLY WORLD!

In this Part II edition:

The text of 1 Kings 18!

Comments in *italics*

Elijah's Mount Carmel Victory

God bless you! The first thing to say is that we are continuing our 3-part series about Elijah.

We have now got to the drama end of this incredible story!

So much happened in chapter 17, a drought was proclaimed by Elijah and we saw how amazingly God provided for him during this time to keep him and his widow sponsor alive!

Elijah's Message to Ahab.

1 Kings 18

And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, **"Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."**

There had already been a drought-cum -famine in the land for 3 years. God's Word is now coming!

2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.

I love it, how the great prophets always obeyed God down to the minutest detail.

3 And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly.

4 For so it was, while Jezebel **massacred** the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

 *'Jezebel' will always try to massacre the prophets of God. Beware of the **spirit of this** woman, it is a woman who never repents. (Revelation 2:20-23)*

*Even under the Jezebel or the Hitler, Stalin and Mao ZD, or many others, **there will always exist an 'Obadiah' or a Schindler, or many others unknown to us today, who will rise up and protect to some degree God's Jesus-loving people. Praise the Lord.***

5 And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock."

 ***Obadiah was also a high level official in the evil kingdom, how amazing!*** *However this is common in history and throughout scripture.*

6 So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

7 Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he

recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?"

8 And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.' "

9 So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?"

10 As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, 'He is not here,' he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.

11 And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here"'!

12 And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth.

13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

14 And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here." ' He will kill me!"

15 Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today."

! Elijah met Obadiah. Poor Obadiah, he did have some faith, but he had to be **very** convinced by the prophet of God that he was not going to be killed!

Finally he 'got it' and did the business, and survived, I might add!

How will you react when a true prophet comes in front of you and tells you what to do?

That greatly depends on whether you have helped and sacrificed and risked your life for God's people at least to a hundred of them, like precious Obadiah. Call your sons Obadiah. He was great.

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

17 Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah that Ahab said to him "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

! Wicked politicians, bullies and other reprobates, always and immediately shift blame into some form of accusation against you, as an act of deflection. But Elijah here below didn't say; 'Oh, my golly gosh! I am so and deeply sorry, it was all my fault, I have caused this famine, don't kill me, I'll make it up to you O great King. What was I ever thinking of!?'

No, he didn't. And neither should you in such a case!!

18 And he (Elijah) answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals.

! **Oooh! Elijah flipped the script here!**

That's what you need to do if you are called of God and have a clean heart before Him. Don't accept the accusations of your enemies not even for one second. They have their agendas. You see this all the time on TV interviews. The **ungodly, secular and wicked people** ask the righteous a question designed

to shake them or you completely off balance.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we will not even answer these accusations, but will proclaim the Word of the Lord. Please be sure to do that!

19 (Elijah speaking): Now therefore, (you, King Ahab) send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

! Elijah was not finished though! Here, Elijah had the plan already, presumably, and I think definitely, from God Himself. There were going to be a total of 850 'prophets' of Baal and Asherah++invited to Mount Carmel by Elijah.

Mount Carmel was an ideal negotiation location. ... Who knows what King Ahab thought? He was in control, his prophets had overwhelmed the country. He was living the high life. **Nearly all Israel worshipped Baal and Asherah. What could possibly go wrong?! Nothing.**

But God has timings for everything. He has timings for the birth of a certain 'special', (and really all children are special, of course). He has timings for His plans to move forward and He has plans for the end of the world, the Rapture, the Second Coming, the Millennium and the New Heavens and the New Earth! He had of course that special time, 'the fullness of time' when Christ was born and fulfilled His mission on earth. **Timing is Key to God**, and was to Elijah and should be something we can learn and should learn ourselves.

It also seems like Jezebel had unlimited resources to provide food and lodging for such a vast amount of 850 false prophets/people on a daily basis, other benefits, trip back home to Sidon and who knows what else. I would imagine some of them were migrants from Sidon looking for work in Israel. Jezebel was from Sidon. I'm sure they had 'sincere' believers also to lead them.

Elijah's Mount Carmel Victory



From the Latin: Elijah the prophet arose like a fire, and his word was like a burning torch. (Carmelite Monastery on Mount Carmel)

20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

! **King Ahab really thought he was up to it! It was a no-brainer as far as his carnal,**

earthly, demon -worshipping, lazy, disobedient-to-God mind and 'it's always been this way and how can I lose' attitude was concerned. He was going into this Mount Carmel thing as the overwhelming favourite!

21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

 ***Elijah may have said this as both fact, yet also as a tactic to stir up his enemies. He was also of course challenging God's very backslidden people at the time, who could not even say an 'amen!'***

23 Therefore let them (*the enemy*) give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

 ***'Go for it' in modern language at the moment.***
The enemies of God and those who control this world, pretty much always have far more resources than God's **true** people!

25 Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

 ***(Yes, I think this is true, Elijah happily acknowledges here that his enemies have more resources and numbers)***

26 So they took the bull which was

given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

 ***We should learn to mock the devil, his people and his system, but we don't unfortunately. Learn to do it in small ways. Practice today. Get wise.***

28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, **as was their custom**, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

 ***'As was their custom' is a significant phrase! The system world we live in today has their very established and entrenched customs, many of them going back hundreds or more years. Six to nine hours of chanting, praying, dancing and cutting themselves and no result!***

All looked great for the established system; Now I won't comment much until the end. Pay attention to the amazing event itself!! Praise God

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he

made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

 ***The Lord had turned the people's hearts back to Him; they had seen the uselessness of Baal up there on Carmel and his ineffectual priests and leaders. They started calling on the One True God after the massive fire fell from above. A huge miracle they could relate to, just as they had heard from former generations of the power of their God.***

40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape?" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.



Well, Elijah didn't want to miss this golden opportunity to 'get rid' of Baal's main guys. Elijah and God had just gotten rid of the grip of Baal over the entire nation but now Elijah knew he had to kill those same prophets to exorcise those demons inside them. This happened a couple of times in the Old Testament, of the righteous literally murdering the wicked.

Elijah killed them all, 850! Their demons would then have to leave those bodies, perhaps even the whole nation and go elsewhere.

The Drought Ends

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea."

So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said,

"Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"

45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

46 Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.



This famous passage of scripture has helped millions of believers over the centuries. God was going to send the rain, but he needed the prayer to consummate the deal. We know persistence in prayer and unwavering faith were the key. Once that tiny man's-fist cloud started rising, Elijah knew the drought was finished ALREADY! Praise the Lord. Can you see the man's fist in your life already? If not keep praying for it if you know that is God's will. The time between the man's fist and the deluge of blessings is very short!

Elijah's great victory was plain to see for all peoples. Even his enemies.

Next time, God willing we will be looking briefly at Elijah's next stop, which was going to be meeting a fiery chariot pulled with flaming horses. I also hope to look at Elijah in the New

Testament! Don't miss it.

God bless you.

Until next week,

Jerry for the WCF Team

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