

INTRODUCTION

We have been studying together the life of Elijah, and now we come to a consideration of this third passage that is before us in I Kings 18. We have noted thus far that he has been asked to go the palace, and he makes a very serious pronouncement before king Ahab in saying that there will not be rain or dew upon the earth till there is a command by his word.

The Lord then commands his servant to go and hide by the brook Cherith where he is sustained by the ravens with bread and meat in the morning and the evening, and he is to drink from the brook. The effects of the famine begin to be felt because the brook dries up, and then the Lord sends Elijah across the country to the coast where he is to go the city of Zarephath which is between Tyre and Sidon right in the center of Baal worship, the home of Ethbaal, king of the Phoenicians and also father of Jezebel, and there a widow is to sustain him. When our prophet arrives on the scene, the widow is in dire straits. She and her son are preparing to eat their last meal and die, and through her obedience to the words of the prophet they are sustained for the next two or two and a half years miraculously by a provision from the hand of the Lord for oil and meal, and yet in the midst of this time of blessing from the hand of the Lord and protecting them and providing for them, the son of the widow dies unexpectedly and we see that the death of this widow's son has been a trial that the Lord uses: first to prepare his servant, the prophet, for the work that he has for him to do on Mt. Carmel; and it also accomplishes his purpose in the life of the widow herself because she says in verse 24, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

what's it going to take!

Method

Few of us would dare to question the Lord's message in dealing with us as his children to prepare us for that which is ahead and in the lives of those who do not know him to present himself to them as a faithful God who keeps covenant, and what he has promised he will fulfill.

These introductory observations now bring us to a consideration of the passage which is before us in I Kings 18:1-18.

Verse 1: "Now it came about after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, 'Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth.'"

Just as the word of the Lord came to Elijah after completing his palace assignment, to go to Cherith, and as the circumstances of the drying brook precipitated another word from the Lord to "rise and go to Zarephath." Now as the prophet is in the center of the will of God and in the path of obedience, "it came about after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying."

There comes a time when the trial is over

The reference to 'many days' refers to the provision which the Lord made for Elijah, the widow and her son in verse 15. "So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days."

The length of time involved here is probably in excess of two years.

"many days" = living a day at a time. Ps. 90:12 "So teach us to number our days and to apply our hearts to wisdom."

mingled feelings of sadness & delight in leaving Zarephath

Obedience
Blessing

2nd

① Death & Res. of her son!

② Ahab & Jez. Economic Crisis

③ Prodigy! Came to his senses!

1 yr. to 18 mos. Brook

2 + yrs. widow

Copyright © 2017 by Bible Teaching Resources by Don Anderson Ministries. The author's lecture notes incorporate quoted, paraphrased and summarized material from a variety of sources, all of which have been appropriately credited to the best of our ability. Quotations particularly inside within the realm of fair use. It is the nature of lecture notes to contain references that may prove difficult to accurately attribute. Any use of material without proper citation is unintentional.

STUDY NUMBER FOUR
I Kings 18:19-46

TEXT

- v.19 "Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."
- v.20 So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel, and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.
- v.21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.
- v.22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men."
- v.23 "Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox, and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it."
- v.24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people answered and said, "That is a good idea."
- v.25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."
- v.26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made.
- v.27 And it came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."
- v.28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.
- v.29 And it came about when midday was past, that they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.
- v.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 which had been torn down.
- v.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."
- v.32 So 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 measures of seed.
- v.33 Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."
- v.34 And 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.
- v.35 And the water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.
- v.36 Then it came about at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word."
- v.37 "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that Thou, O

- Lord, art God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again."
- v.38 Then fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.
- v.39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."
- v.40 Then 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 slew them there.
- v.41 Now Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower."
- v.42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth, and put his face between his knees.
- v.43 And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back seven times."
- v.44 And it came about at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'"
- v.45 So it came about in a little while, that the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.
- v.46 Then the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

INTRODUCTION

We have been tracing the biography of the life of Elijah. We have noted in our first study that his responsibility was to go to the palace and confront Ahab and the nation with God's judgment for their idolatrous practices by telling them that there would not be rain upon the earth for the next three and a half years. Following this dissertation, our friend the prophet is hidden by the Lord at the brook Cherith where he is provided food and water until such time as the brook dried up. Our prophet remains faithful at the brook until he hears a new word from the Lord to arise and go to Zarephath. Zarephath is through the central part of the country to arrive on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea between Tyre and Sidon, not far from Mt. Carmel. He is miraculously sustained here in Zarephath in the home of a widow as the Lord provides for their needs as a household. It is during this time that the widow's son dies and the Lord miraculously restores him to life, and through this experience, the woman is brought to know that the word that the prophet speaks is truth. After the three and a half years of famine, a new word comes from the Lord, and it is the word to arise and go reveal himself to Ahab. In our discourse last week, we noticed the three men in the passage: the fragrant servant Obadiah who served in the court of wicked king Ahab, and then we have the confrontation of Elijah and Ahab.

Super Bowl Sunday

We have two powerful personalities, and as they come together naturally sparks are going to fly upward. The first words are spoken by Ahab. "Is this you, O troubler of Israel?" Elijah is equal to this accusation by placing the blame where it belongs. He says, "I have not troubled Israel. It is you, Ahab, who is responsible for all that has gone on in the judgment experience because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed after the worship of the god Baal."

*Elijah
+
Ahab **

From these early statements, you can tell that Elijah is in control of the situation.

① In dividing the passage under consideration today, I have noted in verses 19-24 that we have the problem and the proposition. In verses 25-29, we have the prophets of Baal, and in verses 30-40, we have the prophet of God, and then in verses 41-46, we have the persevering prayer and the promise. Study #4

19-24 #1 Problem + Prop
25-29 #2 Baal
30-40 #3 God
41-46 #4 Prayer + Promise

We begin our study today by picking up in our text at verse 19.

Verse 19: "Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

Elijah realizes what needs to be done and therefore takes command of the situation by telling Ahab what to do. This whole problem of a nation moving away into idolatry is a problem of leadership, and therefore it is time for the leaders to come together to see which is true and which is false.

Press Networks

It probably took Ahab several days to make these arrangements and get everyone notified that this event was going to be taking place. During this time, Elijah the prophet is probably in isolation preparing himself before the Lord, and seeking wisdom and guidance from the Lord with regard to the game plan.

Ahab is busily involved in notifying all of the local newspapers as well as the television stations so that he can get the widest coverage possible.

Verse 20: "So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel, and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel."

What a crowd of people this must have been. This is the Carmel Convention. This is the superbowl to determine the final victor and who really is God. The home town stands are packed full of fans who want to see what's going to take place, and with all this spectacular array of color, pomp, and ceremony, we are prepared for the big event to get underway. We are somewhat concerned by the fact that there is only one man standing on the other side, and his stands are empty, that is of those who can be seen.

Heb. 12:1

II Chron. 32:7, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria, or because of all the multitude which is with him, for the one with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battle."

Comes to the Microphone w/ opening word!!

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

Here Elijah the prophet as he comes near to the people and begins the confrontation, it is with the opening statement, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions?"

- ① Star Spangled Banner
- ② Invocation
- ③ Toss of the Coin.

#1
Number on His Jersey
Probably the
Tear away kind just
in case
a priest of Baal gets carried away

Pol's Show Baal is The heavy Favorite! All The Media is in the Tank For Baal

In this question, he is revealing the dilemma.

There are really three types of people who are witnessing this drama. First, there are those who are for Jehovah God, and there are those who are against him, and there is a vast host of those who are undecided. It is to this third group that Elijah poses his question.

How long will you lean to both sides. If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if it is Baal, follow him. The people said nothing to him.

Silence in the Stands!!

Oh what a piercing question. How long will you go stumbling between two? Can't you by now see the utter impossibility of such a thought?

What a pathetic picture we have here, and Longfellow in Hiawatha has described it. "All the earth was sick and famished, hungry was the air around them. Hungry was the sky above them." Cultivation had ceased. Cattle, sheep, and goats had died. This was a time of national distress. "How long are you going to go on experiencing God's judgment?"

The time had come for the nation to be arrested in its attempt to mingle Jehovah and Baal worship together, and for the nation to be compelled to choose between the two issues that presented themselves.

History has proved that man has an instinct for religion. If he does not have a god, he'll make one. Man has often found the worship of only one god a rather dull affair. Why not have the Lord and something else in addition? Many of the people were swept into this state by this very reasoning. Look what Baal has to offer. Why can't we have both?

Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other."

God said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." It is either Jesus Christ or another, but never both. In the cross, God has clearly shown for every generation of mankind how impossible it is to try to be neutral toward the totalitarian claims of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ alone can be your Lord.

God's reaction to this state is seen in His letter to Laodicea. Rev. 3:15 and 16, "I know thy works that thou are neither cold nor hot. I would that thou were cold or hot, so because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth."

Neutrality is like sitting on a barbed-wire fence. You just can't stay there very long and be comfortable.

Joel 3:14, "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision. For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

How long will you go on wavering between the two opinions. It is said in the record, "But the people did not answer him a word." It is the experience of the Lord Jesus in Mark chapter 3 that when he turns to the religious leaders in the synagogue to ask them about whether it is right to do good or to do evil on the Sabbath to save a life or to kill, that they answered him not a word, and it says of the Lord, that he looked around at them angrily, and

1-For
2-Against
3-Undecided
Wait until After
The debate!

OKlahoma
Indian
Chief Running
water
Two daughters
cold & hot
son named
luke

then was grieved for their callousness of heart. Obviously, through these trials and circumstances that the children of Israel had been through in the last three and a half years had only created a hardness of heart toward God, and many of them wavering between God and Baal now are going to have a fully visible manifestation of the fact that Jehovah, He is God, and He is alive, and it is He before whom we will eventually stand.

Verse 22: "Then Elijah said to the people, 'I alone am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.'"

Here are the statistics. We have one man against a nation. Do not fear for Elijah. He needs no sympathy. He stands in the presence of the one to whom the nations of men are as grasshoppers.

Paul

If God be for us, who can be against us. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For David against Goliath he did not fear, for on his lips were the words, "The battle is the Lord's." It was 85-year old Caleb in Joshua 14, when challenged with the battle to gain his inheritance in Mt. Hebron, he simply said, "It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I shall drive them out."

It is amazing how our perspective changes when we figure God into our assets. It was William Carey who said, "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God."

How good, how great, and how gracious is God to those who are willing to trust Him for big things.

Verse 23: "Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put on fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox, and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it."

Here Elijah describes for us the contest and acting as a referee also spells out the rules for the game.

Verse 24: "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people answered and said, "That is a good idea."

Elijah won the coin toss & Elects to punt & will take the ball in the second half.

Elijah throws down the challenge here that the God that answers with fire, let him be God. This is a very fair proposal to these priests and representatives of the worship of the god Baal because the god Baal was the god of the sun, and Elijah has perfect assurance that God would not fail him. Was it to be supposed for a moment that God would prepare his servant, push him forth, and give him the promise that He's going to send rain, and in the front of the battle, to forsake or to leave him? Fear not for Elijah. The Lord his God is with him all the way.

Thundering Applause! deafening cheer!

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

When You Are Playing For A Winner You don't have to sweat it!

I'll punt + you can receive!

We now see Elijah turning to the prophets of Baal and telling them to go first because there are a lot of them and there's only one Elijah. You guys go first and show us what your god can do. And now the story turns to the prophets of Baal. *

Verse 26: "Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made."

30yd. Line South
" " " North

Once the prophets of Baal had prepared their sacrifice, they began to cry to their god, and they cried from 9:00 in the morning until noon with the prayer, "O Baal, answer us," and we have the tragic statement that there was no voice, nor any that answered, and they leaped about or upon the altar which was made.

Psalm 115:2-8, "Why should the nations say, 'Where, now, is their God?' But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them."

Having made their preparations, they started calling upon Baal, "O Baal, hear us. Baal, are you there? We would like a little fire down here." This went on for several hours as they leaped about the altar. What a pitiful sight, but is this not a picture of paganism today around the world, bowing for idols that represent a figment of the imagination? There was no voice, nor any that answered.

Verse 27: "And it came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, 'Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.'"

Elijah deals out a little sarcasm to give them a little encouragement here. "Look boys, you're going to have to cry a little louder. I don't think you're getting through. Maybe he's got his mind on something else, and you have to get his attention. Maybe he stepped out for a few minutes and you'll just have to wait until he gets back. Maybe he took a long journey, and this is the reason that he isn't answering. Maybe he sacked out up there and he's just a heavy sleeper. You boys are going to have to hustle if you're going to wake him up and get him into action in time to get some fire down here to consume your sacrifice.

* "Hey you guys, it's half time, and you haven't scored yet. Your spotters up there must be asleep."

The Lord is longsuffering to us who are not willing that any should perish, but these have laughed and mocked at God. They had rejected him. They had laughed at God, mocked his existence, resisted his spirit, rejected the offer of grace through obedience. Now the time has come where Psalm 2:4 says, He

that sits in the heavens shall laugh." It is now time for the axe of judgment to fall.

Verse 28: "So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them."

They really responded to Elijah's sarcastic remarks by whooping it up and trying all the harder. Now they were mad, and to prove their commitment and dedication, they fell into the ritualistic practice of cutting themselves, and showing their devotion by the shedding of their own blood.

*** If sincerity saves, these guys sure should have made it. The only problem is, they were sincerely wrong, and the day was going to prove the fact that they were in the wrong camp.

Verse 29: "And it came about when midday was past, that they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention."

They were frantic for 3 more hours. Baal must answer, and yet there was no voice, No one answered, no one paid attention, and they must have fallen completely exhausted from their feverish activity to bring fire out of heaven, but all of this to no avail.

Now our passage turns from the prophets of Baal to the prophet of God, and in verses 30-40 we see Elijah step on the scene as God's man to bring the people back to Jehovah God.

Verse 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 which had been torn down."

You All Get back in Your Seats for the main Attraction!!

Everyone had gotten sort of tired and for six hours they had seen very little action apart from the priests who were trying to get fire out of heaven. A number of the people had probably wandered away at a distance where they could be more comfortable in the shade while they waited the continuing drama to unfold. And so when Elijah is prepared to move into action, his first call to the people is to come near to me. He wants them to see what is going to take place, and what he is about to do. And now the prophet of God moves into action, and he repaired the altar of the Lord which had been torn down. This altar had been torn down as a result of the edict from Jezebel that the places of worship to the Jehovah God should be destroyed, and the prophets killed.

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

Elijah is following the specific commands of the Lord here in the building of the altar in anticipation of the Lord's answer.

Verse 32: "So 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 measures of seed."

Hung in
There For
6 hours in
All!!

Refresh-
ment
stands
etc.

First, the stones are laid in place, and then a trench is placed around the altar.

Verse 33: "Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, 'Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.'"

Several of the fellows who were assisting him went down to the sea and got some of the salt water which is bad for cattle but great for dousing wood and brought it up and poured it on the burnt offering and on the wood.

Verse 34: "And 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."

12 Buckets of Gator-aid!

Elijah is not satisfied with the amount of water as a result of the first soaking, so he has the fellows get four more jars, and when they pour it on the sacrifice a second time, he checks and feels that it still needs more, so he tells them to do it a third time.

Verse 35: "And the water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water."

There was so much water that is not only completely soaked the sacrifice, but there was a pool of water filling the trench around the sacrifice.

Verse 36: "Then it came about at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, 'O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word.'"

Here we get to enter the throne room with Elijah as he prays, and he prays to the God of Abraham to whom the promise of the nation Israel was made, and his son Isaac, and his son Jacob, or Israel. His prayer request is that today he might let it be known that He is God in Israel, and secondly that Elijah is His servant, and thirdly that all he has done has been done in accordance with God's word.

Verse 37: "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that Thou, O Lord, art God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again."

He's asking the Lord to do for him what the Baal prophets were unable to have done, and that is that he might receive an answer, and the reason he makes this request is so that the people may truly know, like the widow at Zarephath knew that Thou, O Lord, art God, and that secondly you have turned their heart back again.

Verse 38: "Then fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench."

Oh what victorious words recorded here in this 38th verse, "Then the fire of Jehovah fell."

*Douse it
Good!
Bucket
Brigade
12 Buckets*

Fire the Cannon
Bring on the Pep Squad - Yeah! God
Strike up the band
Time just ran out - -9-
Final Score God - 7 - Baal - 21

Eph. 3:20, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

It was the calm face and the quiet prayer that God honored.

Verse 39: "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, 'The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God.'" Two bits, Four bits, Six bits, A dollar . . .

What a moment of great victory this is. What a turning point in the history of the nation Israel. It is bringing the people back from their wayward path of idolatry to recognize once again the true and living God, and the fact that they are His people.

Verse 40: "Then 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 slew them there."

Elijah is a spiritual surgeon representing the living God, and there has been a growing malignancy in the nation for some time, and now Elijah performs the surgery to purify this nation of its idolatry.

God has the right to take away life even as He gave it in the first place, because men by their sins have given up their right to it, and their mockery and rebellion against the one who has given it.

Christ was severe in John 2, "But the temple must be cleansed." It is not only a confession with our lips, but a clearing out of our lives of all that is incompatible to the lordship of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is Lord, then every idol must cast down, and everything that is antagonistic to His lordship must be attacked. As the apostle John concludes his first epistle in chapter 5, his last warning is, "My little children, keep yourselves from idols."

Elijah knew what we all need to know, that God himself can only bless the land or heart which no longer shelters within its borders rivals to himself.

Verse 41: "Now Elijah said to Ahab, 'Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower.'"

Now that judgment had been executed, Elijah by the ear of faith, can hear the sound of the roar of a heavy shower as God is preparing to answer and to fulfill His promise to send rain upon the earth.

Elijah tells Ahab to go on up and have his after-game dinner and celebrate because now Jehovah God is going to send the rain as a result of the cleansing.

Verse 42: "So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth, and put his face between his knees."

Fire from heaven can convince of the reality of the living God, but it cannot feed a hungry nation and restore their devastated fields. Israel is to

God just Scored
what a man now
He will reap
Killed Prophets of God

what in Your life is withholding God's blessing!!
Jacob: If I have bereaved! I'm bereaved!

Is Your All on the Altar?

How much You missed because You were hanging on to what You Should have Turned loose of.

lisha A. Hoffman

Elisha A. Hoffman



1. You have longed for sweet peace, and for faith to in-crease, And have ear-nest-ly,
2. Would you walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, And have peace and con-
3. Oh, we nev-er can know what the Lord will be-stow Of the bless-ings for
4. Who can tell all the love He will send from a-bove, And how hap-py our

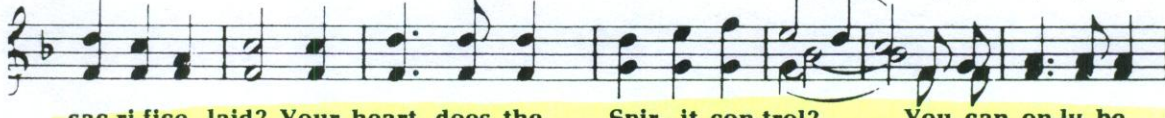
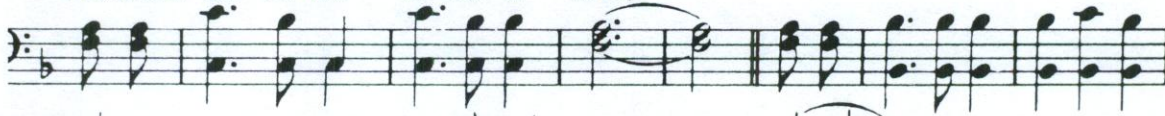


fer-vent-ly prayed; But you can-not have rest or be per-fect-ly blest
 tent-ment al-way? You must do His sweet will to be free from all ill,
 which we have prayed, Till our bod-y and soul He doth ful-ly con-trol,
 hearts will be made, Of the fel-low-ship sweet we shall share at His feet

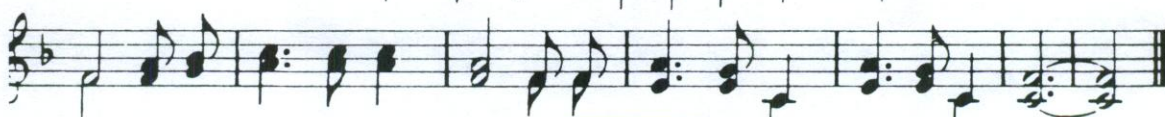
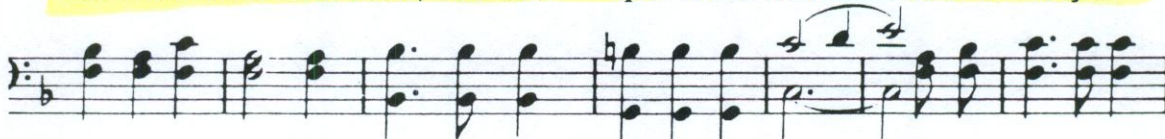
*Refrain*

Un-til all on the al-tar is laid.
 On the al-tar your all you must lay.
 And our all on the al-tar is laid.
 When our all on the al-tar is laid?

Is your all on the al-tar of



sac-ri-fice laid? Your heart, does the Spir-it con-trol? You can on-ly be



blest and have peace and sweet rest, As you yield Him your bod-y and soul.



learn again this day that the God who sends fire to convert their heart will also send rain to refresh and feed their bodies.

Verse 43: "And he said to his servant, 'Go up now, look toward the sea.' So he went up and looked and said, 'There is nothing.' And he said, 'Go back seven times.'"

Jer. 29:11-13

I'm sure Elijah's prayer is similar to the prayer of the Lord Jesus in John chapter 17 when he prayed at the conclusion of his task. Elijah's prayer probably went something like this: ① "Father, I'm here before you asking for the rain you promised." He then sends the servant up the hill the first time and he sees nothing. Elijah returns to prayer ② "Father, I have glorified Thee on earth. I have finished the work you gave me to do. The rain is all that is left to be done." And he sends the servant back a second time, and he sees nothing ③ "Father, you answered in fire, now refresh this people with showers of blessing," and he sends him a third time, and there is nothing. ④ "Father, I have given Thy words which you gave me. They have received them now. Come and honor Thy word with the rain," and he sends him the fourth time and there is nothing ⑤ "Father, the hour is come. Glorify Thyself in sending the rain," and he sends him the fifth time and there is nothing ⑥ "Oh Father, I plead with Thee for the promised showers. Send them now lest thy people fail to see that thou art God," and he sends him the sixth time and there is nothing ⑦ "Father, I know thou hast heard my cry and the rain is on the way," and he sends him the seventh time.

Verse 44: "And it came about at the seventh time, that he said, 'Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea.' And he said, 'Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'"

We have just a little token that the answer is on the way. The Lord, in faithfulness to His promise is going to send rain, so as a man of faith, he immediately gives instructions to Ahab to get his chariot ready and to get down from the mountain because the rain could stop him before he gets back home again.

I Thess. 5:23 "Faithful is the one who calls you who will also do it."

Verse 45: "So it came about in a little while, that the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel."

Flash Flood warnings . . .

It is not only fire to prove that God is alive, but rain to refresh the people in fulfillment of His promise. It was the fire of God's judgment that fell on Calvary one day, and it fell on our substitute, Jesus Christ, that you and I might be refreshed with the rain of the resurrection and the blessings of His Spirit from the hand of a gracious God.

Verse 46: "Then the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel."

Because the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, he ran ahead of Ahab's chariot all the way to Jezreel still displaying his submission to Ahab's leadership and the trust that now, even in the palace, a spiritual work was going to be

Know a little of intercessory prayer. Early church prayed 10 days. Preached 10 3,000 souls saved. Today. Pray 10 min. Preach 10 days. 20 souls saved we think we have pentecost all over again.

done to bring this man back to the ways of God.

marathon men making music

I'm sure that as Elijah was jogging along he was singing, "I've seen fire and I've seen rain," and not from a drug trip either. Fire to burn up the junk and rain to refresh us.

How often times does God put us in the fiery trial, that he might consume the dross and test our faith, and then, having gone through the test, He showers us with blessings of His abundant grace.

CONCLUSION

What lessons can we learn from this passage? The first and most important lesson is seen in the question, Who is your God? How miserably the followers of Baal saw their god fail them in the hour of their need. How long are you going to hop between two opinions? Perhaps you've got a problem with pride or peer pressure. You are afraid to take your stand, so you act like a moral chameleon taking your color from the last environment you crawled across. Pride in yourself in being a pious politician, being able to be at peace with everyone because you stand for nothing. It is Joshua in Joshua 24:15 who says, "Choose you this day whom you will serve." II Cor. 6:2, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Acts 26:28, "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.'"

close only counts in horseshoes & hand grenades...

To the Christian, how long are you going to go on endeavoring to enjoy the best of two worlds, failing to follow the admonition of Romans 12 to present your body a living sacrifice, holy, that is completely, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service, and not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. If the Lord is speaking to you about this, recognize the fact that Galatians 6 is very true. God is not laughed at, for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

Another great lesson we can learn from this passage is that the Lord will always be faithful to fulfill the promises which he has made to us as we have seen it in the life of Elijah.

Thirdly, the prayer life of the prophet is something beautiful to behold. His prayers are definite, they are earnest, and they are based on the promises of God. "When for a purpose I had prayed and prayed until my words seemed worn and bare with arduous use, and I had knocked and asked and knocked and asked again, and all my fervor and persistence brought no hope. I paused to give my weary brain a rest and ceased my anxious human cry. In the still moment after self had tried and failed, there came a glorious vision of God's power, and lo, my prayer was answered in that hour."

Ahab
Obadiah
Elijah

Jabab's Funeral

IV. Cleansing Must Precede God's Blessing. II Cor. 7:1

V. Turn loose so God can triumph