

Elijah - Fighting the Battles of God

I Kings 18:20-46

ELIJAH
& ELISHA

4/2/2023 AM

Introduction:

I. ELIJAH AND THE PEOPLE (vs. 20-24)

A. First He Chastens Them (vs. 20-22)

“So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.”

“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.”

“I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men.”

B. Then He Challenges Them (vs. 23-24)

“Now let them give us two oxen...”

“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 said, ‘That is a good idea.’ ”

II. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS (vs. 25-29)

A. The Set-Up (vs.25-26)

“Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it...”

“Then...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.”

B. The Sarcasm (vs. 27-29a)

“It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said...”

“So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves...”

“When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice.”

C. The Silence (vs. 29b)

“but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention”



III. ELIJAH AND THE LORD (vs. 30-46)

A. The Fire from Heaven (vs. 30-40)

“ ‘Come near to me.’ ...And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down.”

“Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”

“At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice...”

“O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.”

“Then the fire of the LORD fell...”

“Then all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, ‘The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.’ ”

“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.”

B. The Flood from Heaven (vs. 41-46)

“Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower.”

“But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees.”

“Go up now, look toward the sea.”

“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.’ ”

“Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.’ ”

“In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower.”

“And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. Then the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.”

Conclusion:

- 1) We obey God’s commands to the degree that we believe His promises.
- 2) There comes a time when our personal faith must become public loyalty.
- 3) You need to decide who your real master is so you won’t be a prisoner of fear, torn between loyalties.

Food for Thought:

- 1) Is there any connection between natural disasters (weather, etc.) and God’s warnings to people?
- 2) To what extent do you believe Christian leaders *ought to be* “troublers” in society?
- 3) How could Elijah be so sure that God would answer his prayer for fire to come down from heaven?
- 4) What is keeping you from unqualified loyalty to Christ?