

Days of Elijah

Part 2

7-26-20

1 Kings 18:1 (ESV)

After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth."

Last week we looked at Elijah in 1Kings 17:1 where he told Ahab it would not rain for three years. Now in 1Kings 18:1, we see God telling Elijah in the 3rd year to go and tell Ahab that it is going to rain. As we continue to look at the "Days of Elijah" and how these accounts apply to us today, we continue to see the powerful truth of Scripture, "God still speaks!" Last week we looked at 6 Elijah Lessons. Now we continue:

Elijah Lesson #7 The more God speaks to us, the greater the challenge and greater the responsibility.

*confront
false beliefs*

1 Kings 18:19 (ESV)

Elijah told Ahab send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.

Last week we saw god personal provision. Now,
Elijah is told to confront Ahab the most evil king of Israel and his wife Jezebel the most evil woman of the Bible along with her 950 false prophets. Likewise, the lesson for us, we also will be called to face our Ahab with all the accompanying evil. Knowing that God is behind these encounters, will enable us to stand and boldly speak the truth of God.

Elijah Lesson #8 We will be called to speak God's truth clearly bringing people to a point of decision.

1 Kings 18:21 (ESV) And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you waiver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."

"How long will you waiver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." This is our message to professing Christians and the unbelieving world. **We declare God's truth which will challenge those who are lukewarm or have false beliefs.** Make a decision! **Either decision** will face a Day of Reckoning. Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Elijah Lesson #9 **We proclaim God's truth that has power and watch,** "The God who answers by fire, he is God!"

1 Kings 18:23–24 (ESV)

²³ Let two bulls be given to us and let them choose one bull to sacrifice and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. ²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and **the God who answers by fire, he is God.**

The OT and NT proclaims God as a God of power which flows through and on behalf of those who love God and trust HIM.

To live a powerless life is not the Christian life.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV)

For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

Elijah Lesson #10 Truth will expose the false beliefs, their lack of power, and lack of eternal fruit! Proclaim that the proof is in the pudding!

1 Kings 18:25–26 (ESV)

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” ²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no response, and no one answered. And they danced around the altar that they had made. But there was no response, and no one answered.

Let people time to dance around the altar that they had made.

* **There is a fanaticism to false belief systems because their God has no power and doesn't answer. No matter how intense their commitment, they will receive no response and see no one answers! Therefore, people must carry out their false belief system by fanatical human power. In reality, their false beliefs are so foolish, they deserve ridicule! Elijah's sarcasm exposed the powerlessness of a false belief system.**

** Why are there fanatics? Because their God doesn't have any power.*

1 Kings 18:27 (ESV) And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry louder, for he is a god. Either he is deep in thought, or he has gone to the bathroom, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." *not helpful to make fun.*

However false beliefs are from the pit of Hell. Be Confident.

Surprisingly many committed to false beliefs are incapable of ever seeing the truth and will go deeper into their darkness.

1 Kings 18:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸ And they cried louder and **cut themselves** after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.

²⁹ And as midday passed, **they raved on** until the time of the evening sacrifice, but **there was no response. No one answered; no one paid attention.**

We stand strong knowing that no matter how much they rave to false Gods, no one will answer; no one will pay attention.

Elijah Lesson #11 We will be required to set things straight!

1 Kings 18:30–35 (ESV) *We calmly speak TRUTH!*

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. **And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down.** ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones,

according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob,

³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD.

And **he dug a trench around the altar**, large enough to hold 24 pounds of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the

bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, **“Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”** 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. ³⁵ And the water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench with water.

The time will come when all we believe will be put to the test!
After the raving of false prophets, the truth must be spoken.
We repair the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down.
We do not rely on the physical realm and physical elements.

✓ { **We can pour water on the wood, because our power comes from God alone. We call on God and depend on HIS Word!**

1 Kings 18:36–37 (ESV)

³⁶ And at the time of the sacrifice, Elijah the prophet stepped forward and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷ **Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God.**

We stand as a witness proclaiming, **“Let it be known this day that you are God, that I am your servant, that I have done all these things at your word! We stand with God trusting what**

God has revealed to us. We say, “Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that all may know that you, O LORD, are God.”

→ Who we stand with!
Not about us?
Which leads to:

Elijah Lesson #12 We proclaim that God is "HISOWN" witness!

Fire will fall! *Don't take on too much yourself.*

Summary { We don't reveal God by human effort. God reveals HIMSELF when we are obedient to HIM! God says to HIS believers, to HIS church, "This is the Day of Elijah and you are MY Elijahs; obey HIM and see fire fall!" **God is "HISOWN" witness!**

We say, "I don't know much." Just start!

The foundational Word that God has spoken to us and the "first" word to flow off our lips preparing the way for everything else God has to say is:

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)

This truth is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.

What confidence we have!

Stand on the truth we know. GOD IS HISOWN witness.