

The New Testament Church
You go First: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
September 27, 2020 – 1st Kings 18-19
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I The Church (Elijah) is to have a **prophetic word** to the culture (Ahab)

- A. Elijah to Ahab – 1st Kings 17(famine); 18:1-2 (rain after three and a half years)
 - 1. Ahab and Jezebel – a reflection of the nation
 - a. Ahab – a passive leader who conveniently makes covenant with death
 - b. Jezebel – an evil, conniving, manipulative woman empowered by the demonic
 - 2. “There shall be no rain” – a famine – Ahab searching for him
 - 3. Now, a new word – “there shall be rain”
- B. Elijah to Obadiah – 1st Kings 18:3-16
 - 1. Obadiah hid the prophets – *are you kidding, show myself to Ahab?*
 - 2. The remnant is always hidden by God – but we go in order to come out!
 - 3. Example of the caven of Adulam...
- C. Elijah to Ahab – 1st Kings 18:17-19
 - 1. Ahab accuses Elijah – *“is that you, O troubler of Israel?”*
 - 2. Elijah – *“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.”*
 - 3. Baal (lord of...) worship (bull or ram) – dates back to Egypt, worship of nature, orgies, and child sacrifice but also evolves to Zeus and Jupiter with the Greeks...

II **Gather** all the people and the prophets of Baal (but prophets of Asherah didn’t show)

- A. Elijah – *“now therefore, 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”* – 1st Kings 18:19
- B. Ahab (civil) gathered a sacred assembly – people and prophets
- C. Elijah then addressed the people – *“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.”* – 1st Kings 18:21
- D. But Elijah said *“I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men.”* – true in that place, but a revelation of the enemy of pride...

III **You go First** – the *God of Ambush*

- A. Prepare two altars and two sacrifices – but put no fire under them...
 - 1. *“Then you call on the name of your gods...”* – 1st Kings 18:24...
 - 2. *“The God who answers by fire, He is God”*
 - 3. They called on the gods of Baal all day long – but he was silent... (v. 25-29)
- B. God is the God of the Ambush – *the garden, the temple, the wine, the cross*
 - 1. Make the altar of God as impossible to be answered – only a miracle will do
 - 2. They poured water three times on the altar – v. 30-36

IV The God that Answers by Fire!

- A. *"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."* – v. 37
1. The fire came down – licked up the altar and even the water!
 2. His intervention is a combination of judgment and mercy
- B. *"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."* (v. 40)
1. *"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!'"* (v. 39)
 2. Revival is accompanied with justice – prophets of Baal killed (by law in Israel)
 3. *"Then Elijah said to Ahab, 'Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of abundance of rain.'* (v. 41)
 - a. Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, put his head between his knees...
 - b. Any cloud? The seventh time... *"cloud the size of a man's hand"* (v. 44)
 - c. The rain came – and Elijah outran Ahab's chariot 17 miles! (v. 45-46)

V God has a Remnant!

- A. Jezebel threatened Elijah's *"so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."* – 1st Kings 19:2
1. He ran for his life – to Beersheba, leaving his servant there (100 miles!)
 2. Then, he went a day's journey (25 miles) to sit under a broom tree, praying *"It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"* – v. 4
 3. An angel awakened him to give him food twice, for the journey ahead which could have been as much as 1,000 miles to Mt. Sinai or Horeb where the ten commandments had been given hundreds of years before...
- B. God's prophetic word for Elijah and ourselves as His people today!
1. *"What are you doing here? Asked God... Elijah responded: the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life."*
 2. *"Then He said 'Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord... the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."*
- C. God's word to Elijah – 1st Kings 19:15, 18
1. Learn to hear God's still small voice – we must be **still and "small in our eyes"**
 2. *"Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus... continue to prepare"*
 3. *"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."* – **you are not alone!**