

Undivided

Lessons from Elijah
Sunday, March 9, 2014

1 Kings 18:1-46

I. Introduction

II. Elijah Confronts Ahab (v.1-19)

v.1 – “After many days the word of the Lord came to Elijah...”

The writer of Kings gives us a picture and a contrast into Ahab, Obadiah and Elijah. Obadiah who is over seer of Ahab’s household, feared the Lord greatly!

v.3-6 – Ahab wants water and grass for his animals and Obadiah is hiding the prophets of God and feeding them.

“Ahab was worried about grass when he should have been worried about the wrath of God.” Raymond Dillard

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 - Jesus

When Jezebel is killing the prophets of God, Obadiah hides 100 prophets and brings them food and water. Much can be said about Obadiah’s heart for God.

v.7-16 – Obadiah’s response to Elijah when he sees him!

v.17-18 – Ahab’s response to Elijah when he sees him!

v.19 – *“450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”* These 850 prophets were welcomed into the very court of the king!

III. Yahweh Confronts Baal (v.20-46)

v.20-24 – Elijah calls out the people of Israel for the undivided hearts!

“How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.”

v.25- 30 – Prophets of Baal call for him and Elijah mocks them!

v.31 – *“Elijah took 12 stones...saying Israel shall be your name.”*

v.37 – *“...O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.”*

“The goal of the events at Mount Carmel was not so much judgment in the defeat of Baal as it was grace in reclaiming Israel.” Raymond Dillard

v.38 – *“Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering...”*

God had in the past indicated his acceptance of an offering by an outbreak of fire that consumed it. The fire that so often represents divine judgment becomes also a reminder of God’s grace. He would accept a sacrifice for the sins of the people.

Judges 6:20-21 – *“And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes.”*

1 Chronicles 21:26 – *“And David built there an altar to the Lord and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the Lord and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offerings.”*

God has always received offerings that were pleasing to him. But there was one perfect sacrifice that was pleasing to God for all time. It was the sacrifice of his son Jesus on the cross. His sacrifice fulfilled the righteous wrath of God.

Romans 12:1 – *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”*

v.40 – *“And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.”* A very difficult verse to handle. Why would God kill those false prophets?

v.41-46 – God’s promise fulfilled! Rain is coming!

IV. Lessons From Elijah

- 1) Obadiah was a man of great commitment and faith, but he also lived with great fear of Ahab. Was his fear exaggerated? Are there fears that keep us from obeying, as we should? Are our fears exaggerated?
- 2) Divided allegiance is as wrong as open idolatry.
- 3) Our most effective tool is the prayer of faith
- 4) Don’t underestimate the power of one life