

Remnant Life Church
September 19, 2021
“Spiritual Warfare – Elijah’s Battle”
Pt 2

Elijah is a 8th century BC prophet of God living and ministering in the northern kingdom of Israel approximately 80 years after the kingdom divided following the death of Solomon

Elijah is hated and being hunted by King Ahab and his queen Jezebel but God has placed someone on the inside. The governor of Ahab’s palace, Obediah – a godly man

The 18th chapter tells the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel

We took with us last Sunday four things –

1. You must guard your hearts and your minds to keep God first in your life
2. We must hold to the truth of God’s laws and His word regardless of the what the culture or even the majority says
3. Even the strongest of Christians and believers must deal with the lies of satan and the animosity of the world
4. Finally, God is always present, always hears our prayers, and will have the final victory

READ - I Kings 19:1-9 (Tom)

The context of this account is important

1. Elijah is a powerful man of God
 - a. Elijah spoke the words that brought the 3-year drought (**I Kings 17:1**)
 - b. He is fed by ravens both morning and night (**I Kings 17:6**)
 - c. He speaks the words that allow the flour and oil to not run dry for 3 years to feed the widow woman and her son (**I Kings 17:14**)
 - d. God raised a young man from the dead through the prayer of Elijah (**I Kings 17:22**)
 - e. And then, in **I Kings 18**, we read of the great victory that God gave Elijah over the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel
 - f. Then, at the end of the 18th chapter we read that Elijah ran ahead of Ahab’s chariots from Mt. Carmel to Jezreel – a distance of about 20 miles
2. Elijah is blessed, he is successful, he has influence, he has power, and he has the respect of the people as well as the fear of the king
 - a. Everything about Elijah says supernatural power given by the hand of almighty, creator God
 - b. Yet, note his response to what happens next
3. Jezebel then makes threatening remarks and vows to kill Elijah

How did Elijah respond?

- By all accounts, he stood up to the wicked queen in the name of the God of Israel
- By what we know to this point, Elijah should have marched up to the palace door and demanded to see the queen

But Elijah did not do this – instead, the Bible tells us that he became afraid and ran for his life ([I Kings 19:3](#))

There are many things that we can learn from Elijah through this encounter

- One of the first is that yesterday’s victories do not guarantee the outcome of today’s battles
- Moses called down the 10 plagues over Egypt and parted the Red Sea, but he struck the rock instead of speaking to it like God told him to do at Horeb ([Num 20:8-11](#))
- David led the armies of God and defeated the enemies of the Israel, but he lusted after Bathsheba, slept with her, and made her pregnant all while she was married to another man. ([2 Sam 11](#))
- Peter followed Jesus and would perform great miracles in His name, but he still denied Jesus three times before the crucifixion ([Matt 26:69-75](#))
- But before we condemn these men, including Elijah, for their failures let’s remember one thing which is also true about you and me, we are physical beings with limitations and struggles
 - Did Elijah lack faith in God? I don’t think so
 - Was his fear caused by the fact that he believed Jezebel was greater God? Certainly not.
 - As we read on in this chapter, we discover that Elijah’s problems were 90% physical
 - He was exhausted, he was famished, and he was burned out
 - Elijah did not need to have his faith increased, he needed sleep, food, and encouragement
- The saying “He’s so heavenly minded, he’s no earthly good” is not just relevant to those who lose their spiritual perspective – it applies to your physical needs as well
- What did God do to meet Elijah’s physical needs?
 1. He revealed Himself – He made His presence known
READ – [I Kings 19:9b-11a](#)
 2. There was a mighty, powerful wind; a great earthquake; and then a mighty fire
 - a. But after each of these it says, but the Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire
 3. And after the fire came a gentle whisper ([I Kings 19:12](#))
 - a. Do you know why I think God appeared in this manner?
 - b. Because God knew that was all Elijah was able to handle at that time
 4. I believe Elijah was on the verge of a breakdown
 - a. His mental and physical exhaustion resulted in irrational fears, negativity, doubt, and defeat
 - b. Elijah was suicidal
 - c. *He came to a broom tree sat down under it and prayed that he might die. ([I Kings 19:4](#))*
 - d. And none of this was based on facts, logic, or intellect – it was emotion
 5. What do you note about this encounter between God and Elijah?
 - a. God knew exactly what he needed – food, sleep, and encouragement
 - b. Remember these words:

- i. God knows your needs and He will take care of you!
 - ii. There are times when all we need in the midst of the battle is some rest, some good food, and a little encouragement
- c. We were created by God to live in the light
 - i. Not only physical but emotional light
 - ii. There is a correlation between your psychological condition and the amount of sunshine you receive
 - iii. Cold, dark, dreary, overcast winter days put most people in a funk at some point
 - iv. You just have a depressed and sad outlook about everything
 - v. How many of you ever watched Hee Haw?
 - 1. Corny, eye-rolling, poorly acted but on the air for 23 seasons
 - 2. There was one reoccurring skit where a bunch of guys would sit around grouching and complaining about things in their life, but they sang a song first
 - 3. Gloom, despair, and agony on me. Deep, dark depression, excessive misery. If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all. Gloom, despair, and agony on me.
 - 4. Depression is not a joke but how many could sing this as their theme song?
 - 5. Elijah had been singing a chorus or two during this time
- d. We are emotional creations
 - i. Our emotions range from the very positive to the very negative
 - ii. But this why we must refuse to allow our emotions to be what governs our lives
 - iii. We surrender them, just as with everything else in our lives to God
- 6. And so, God met Elijah's physical and emotional needs but He also corrected some errant thinking on the prophet's part
 - a. In verse 14 – *I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your altars, and put your prophets to the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.*
 - b. God gives Elijah instructions regarding the next kings as well as the next prophet to take his place
 - c. Then God set things right in verse 18 – *Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him*