

The Life of Elijah

Elijah - the Message

1 Kings 18:1-46

*Elijah - we think of fire from heaven, raising the dead, miracles
But Elijah wanted to communicate a message*

Israel was serving the Lord but also following Baal - the wicked god of the ancient Canaan and Phoenicia nations - Worship of Baal included human sacrifice (usually first born son) and perverted sexual acts.

The Message was all about the true God of Israel

I. God is active in the world today - He is Alive

Elijah identified Him as the one "before whom I stand"
He is and has always been - "I AM"

II. God reigns over heaven and earth - He is Sovereign

At His word the heavens refused to give rain or dew
In His power fire fell from heaven to reveal who He was

III. God is the only one deserving of worship - He is Jealous

Exodus 34:14 You must worship no other gods, for the LORD, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.

He is not jealous because He wants but because He loves us
Elijah's message placed the focus on their choice. *1 Kings 18:21*

IV. God responds to those who follow His ways - He is Faithful

Elijah's challenge - *Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!*
And all the people agreed. 1 Kings 18:24

Elijah did this all at the Word of God - not his own ideas **18:36**

V. God always does the right thing - He is Good

He responded to the prayers of His servant

A. The fireless altar

450 prophets of Baal - numbers not important
Prayed for 4-6 hours - length of prayer insignificant
Danced about and prayed loud - passion is not the key
Cut themselves - commitment and devotion not enough

Result **"no voice, no one answered and no one paid attention"**

B. The faithful altar

Open to all - He called them near to see
12 stones - the whole nation belonged to God
Wood and sacrifice according to the plan of God

Water - what is impossible with man is possible with God
Prayer for the glory of God and the restoration of the nation

Result **1 Kings 18:34**

VI. God always rewards true worship - He is Loving and Just

In His love He condemns false religion

In His love He keeps His promises - rain was restored to the land

Elijah's first prayer - for fire - 62 words in English/27 in Hebrew

Elijah's second prayer - for water - He prayed and sent his servant to look for the answer 7 times

Notice the way Elijah prayed

1. He acknowledged who God really was

"O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"

2. He acknowledged God's power - **prove today that you are God**

3. He humbled himself as a servant - **that I am your servant.**

4. He gave all the glory to God and Him alone

5. He prayed for the sake of the nation

6. He prayed for the forgiveness of God - **back to yourself."**

What is the Message for us today?

1. **We must serve and worship God alone**

Jesus reminded us that we cannot serve God and money

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

James warned us about "dancing" between two opinions
Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

2. **Each person must make a choice**

No hesitating "dancing" between two opinions

Christian home is not enough - God has only Children

Orthodox creed is not enough - **Titus 1:16 Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live.**

Embracing all religions is not enough

Sincerity and passion is not enough - Lip service is not enough

Joshua said it this way -

".. then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15