

1 Kings Chapters 17-18 “Elijah’s Victory”

I. Elijah Proclaims a Drought (17:1-7)

- 1. Elijah proclaimed the Word of God even when it was dangerous (1)**
 - a) We can only be confident to speak against evil when we are speaking the Word of God.
- 2. God protected and provided for Elijah (2-7)**

II. Elijah and the Widow (17:8-24)

1. The woman gave the last of her bread to Elijah (8-16)

- a) The woman was commanded by God – We give to the Lord’s work because He first puts that desire in our hearts. (9)
 - ◆ This is the first step in giving abundantly to the Lord’s work: Make sure your heart is right
✎ *2 Corinthians 9:7* “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- b) The woman prepared something in advance – We give to the Lord’s work after working and preparing our finances (10-12)
 - ◆ Let us not be disorganized in giving but prepare ahead of time how we will give.
✎ *2 Corinthians 9:5* “Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.”
- c) The woman gave to God first – We give to the Lord’s work before we give to our work (13)
 - ◆ God doesn’t get the leftovers; He should get the first fruits.
- d) The woman gave in faith – We should give what God is leading us to give, even if we don’t know how we will get the money for something we need to do. (14-16)
 - ◆ This is a powerful principle. When we give to God, He always gives back.
✎ *2 Corinthians 9:6* “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
✎ *2 Corinthians 9:10* “Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness”
✎ *Proverbs 11:24* “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.”
 - ◆ Make sure you are giving to the Lord’s work and not to some charlatan out to get money.

2. The woman’s son was brought back from the dead (17-24)

- a) See that even when sin and Satan come against us God will make a way
 - ◆ They both blamed God, but was it really His fault? Even so, God still showed His mercy and brought the boy back.

III. Elijah Rebukes Ahab (18:1-19)

1. Obadiah the Man of God (1-16)

- a) God used Elijah and Obadiah in different ways. They had different callings.
 - ◆ Elijah was called to speak directly and forcefully against Ahab’s sin, and to pronounce judgment on the land.
 - ◆ Obadiah was called to work faithfully for Ahab and use tactful strategies to do God’s will. He was a special worker for the Lord in the midst of great darkness.

- b) Elijah wants him to tell Ahab that “Elijah is here”
 - ◆ Obadiah was afraid that Elijah would disappear again and he would be blamed for letting him escape.

2. Elijah’s rebuke (17-19)

- a) Ahab tried to rebuke Elijah for troubling Israel, but it was he who brought the trouble!
- b) Elijah rebukes him for following Baal and challenges the prophets of Baal.

IV. Elijah Defeats the Prophets of Baal (18:20-46)

1. The challenge: If Baal is god, follow him. If the Lord is God, follow Him. (20-24)

- a) This would be determined by which God burned up the sacrifice.

2. The prophets of Baal try to call their god (25-29)

- a) Elijah mocked them when they did not receive an answer.
- b) People do foolish things for their gods—these prophets started cutting themselves.
- c) There was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention. These prophets were sincere, but they were sincerely wrong.

3. Elijah calls on the Lord (30-40)

- a) He repaired the altar of the Lord
 - ◆ This altar represented the worship of God that used to be in Jerusalem. Revival is re-building something that was once strong and healthy.
- b) He made sure that the people knew that God was powerful by putting water on the altar.
- c) He did it all according to the word of God (not his own presumption or arrogance) (see: vs.36)
- d) The people saw that the Lord is God...sadly, this was only momentary, and true revival would not happen in Israel.
- e) The prophets of Baal were executed. This is the sad end of those who don’t follow the one true God.

4. The drought stops and Elijah runs to Jezreel. (41-46)

- a) The sending of rain was proof that it was God who controlled the weather, not Baal.
- b) Elijah demonstrates persistence in prayer.
- c) He tells Ahab to get in his chariot even though the cloud was small
 - ◆ Big things always start small
- d) He miraculously runs to Jezreel ahead of Ahab.