

Standing Alone with God

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Intro:

A. Intro prayer.

1. Father our need is not partial but total.
2. We can do nothing with out Jesus.
3. We thank you for the faithful teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.
4. Make is teachable, responsive and sensitive to the Spirit.
5. Amen

B. Elijah has been called the greatest and loneliness man in the Bible. (1 Kings 18)

1. He had contact with the widow and Elisha.
2. A leader's life is often lonely.
3. This is especially true in time of apostasy.
4. The people who saw Jesus' miracles thought he was Elijah.
5. Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ on the Mt. of Transfiguration.
6. Tonight we want to examine a dramatic scene between Elijah and the prophets of Baa.
7. Jehovah verses Baal and winner takes all.

C. The structure of this conflict is clear.

- A. Events before the conflict. (1 Kings 18:1-15)
- B. Events during the conflict (1 Kings 18:16-40)
- C. Events after the conflict (1 Kings 18:41-46)

I.) First, let's look at the events before the conflict. (1 Kings 18:1-15)

A. How do you bring revival to people that are spiritually backslidden and removed from Jehovah?

1. What kind of a leader could do this?
2. Who could God call on?

B. Three characters are prospects in this chapter.

1. Among the three prospects Elijah is included.

- a. Elijah spent several years in hiding with the widow.
- b. Finally God told him to show himself to Ahab.
- c. God speaks and Elijah hears.
- d. Elijah probably left the widow's home reluctantly.
- e. This new assignment was more threatening.
- f. He was probably shaken a bit.
- g. The challenge was inviting but scary.

2. Among the three prospects Ahab is included.

- a. Ahab was a "This Life Only" man.
- b. He was materialistic.
- c. He looked for grass to save the animals.
- d. You can tell the size of a man by what bothers him and by what concerns him.
- e. This king should have had the concerns of the people on his heart but he's concerned with animals.
- f. Ahab also followed his wife's leadership, and she was wicked.
- g. Ahab troubled Israel more than all others before him.

3. Among the three prospects Obadiah is included.

a. I am impressed by this man but he is strange.

b. He was the governor of the king's house, Prime Minister.

c. He arose to prominence and was strategically important.

d. Obadiah feared the Lord greatly.

e. I do wonder, however, if he did not fear Ahab more than he feared Jehovah.

f. He might have been the founder for the preservation of prophets.

g. Prophets are expendable, however, as God can always get more.

h. No one is indispensable in God's work.

i. In this godless time he was well adjusted, but adjusted to whom?

j. He might have been maladjusted in the spiritual realm.

k. He seemed to not want change for the better.

l. There are a lot of Obadiah's in church; they believe but they have limited devotion.

m. Obadiah thought Elijah would get him killed by representing Elijah to Ahab. (1 Kings 18:9)

1. He had a limit to his devotion.

2. Do you have a limit?

3. Obadiah feared that Elijah would deceive him. (1 Kings 18:12)

4. Obadiah reminds Elijah of his past faithfulness. (1 Kings 18:13).

5. An elder in my church had the same testimony for 20 years.

6. Elijah had to solemnly promise to show himself to Ahab today.

II.) Events during the conflict. (1 Kings 18:16-40)

A. Victory is in sight.

1. Elijah meets Ahab and sparks fly.
2. Ahab accused Elijah of troubling Israel.
3. Elijah is not intimidated but turns the tables on Ahab.
 - a. Ahab has forsaken the commands of Jehovah and followed Baal.
 - b. Elijah knew he was God's prophet.
 - c. Elijah issued a challenge for the prophets of Baal to gather on Mt. Carmel.
 1. It was a national holiday in Israel.
 2. It was as fabulous location.
 3. The king came in his pomp.
 4. Elijah stood as a lonely figure.
 5. Elijah had the power to command fire because he was not alone; he was with God.
4. Elijah demonstrates that God is in control by a series of seven statements.
 - a. Elijah preaches a sermon; how long will you vary between Jehovah and Baal. (1 Kings 18:21)
 1. Elijah declared the exclusiveness of God's religion.
 2. In Japan Christianity has had a hard time.
 - i. Fifty percent of new converts are lost within one year.
 - ii. Ninety percent of new converts are lost within ten years.
 - iii. Why?

iv. Japanese have a difficult time with the exclusiveness of Christianity.

v. If Christianity were just one among many religions in Japan it would have flourished.

b. Elijah preaches a second sermon; telling Israel that following Jehovah is exclusive.

1. He issues the challenge of making sacrifice by fire (1 Kings 18:23-24)

2. God must be addressed face to face.

3. The people agreed this was a good idea.

4. Baal was called Lord of heaven.

i. They thought Baal brought rain and fire.

ii. Elijah's test of fire was a challenge to Baal.

c. Elijah gives Baal's prophets first chance to draw fire. (1 Kings 18:22-26)

1. No voice answered their cries.

2. Elijah mocks them. (1 Kings 18:27)

i. Baal may be on a journey.

ii. Baal might be asleep.

iii. Baal's prophets cried all day long.

iv. Israel is watching this show.

d. Elijah tells the people to draw near to him and watch. (1 Kings 18:30-32)

1. He prepares his sacrifice.

2. He believed God.

e. Elijah drenches the sacrifice with water. (1 Kings 18:33-36a)

1. Where did he get water in time of drought?

i. A liberal questioned this and I wondered.

ii. Mt. Carmel is located on the sea.

iii. Elijah used sea water.

2. Elijah put obstacles in the way of God because his faith was strong.

f. Elijah prays to God for a sacrifice of fire to prove his truthfulness.

1. Elijah's prayer took minutes while Baal's prophets prayed long.

i. Pray long in private.

ii. Pray short in public.

2. The fire fell, consuming the sacrifice.

i. The fire was intense.

ii. The people cried, "The Lord he is God."

g. Elijah had the prophets of Baal ceased and he killed them.

1. In the morning the nation was apostate.

2. By evening the nation had turned to God.

B. People today are concerned about the events of our time.

1. To what extent is this Problem mark of faith?

a. Communism moves in.

b. Our own government languishes.

c. God is still in control and doesn't need tomorrow's newspaper to know what's happening.

2. One person with God is always a distinguished majority.
 - a. God looks for a man who communes with him.
 - b. God looks for a man with no rival in his heart.
3. Obadiah was afraid of his own neck.
4. What can one man do?
 - a. Here is the answer.
 - b. Elijah was a man like us, with limitations.
 - c. One man met the needs of an entire nation.
 - d. I'm convinced that God is looking for a man or women who will be completely committed to him.
 - e. We can all share God's message with others.
 - f. One man can share with one man in the office or home.
 - g. One man can be sold out to the living God.