

HOW LONG WILL YOU WAVER?

IS THIS YOUR MOMENT OF SILENCE?

1 Kings 18

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When faced with making the ultimate choice, how will you respond?

- **Are you with God or against him?**
- **Will you go quiet?**

1 Kings 18:1 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

Drought and famine had been so severe in the land for almost 3 years

- **Many had died**
- **There is no record of Ahab and the northern kingdom being repentful of their sins**
- **Despite this, God is preparing to end the drought by sending Elijah to Ahab to prove he will provide**

2 Corinthians 4:17 (KJV)

**For our light affliction, which is but for a moment,
worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal
weight of glory;**

Psalms 12:5 (KJV)

For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

1 Kings 18:2-4 (KJV)

2 And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.

3 And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:

4 For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.

God had worked long before this story to place Obadiah in Ahab's court

- **The Bible tells us he was a God-fearing man, who was governor of Ahab's entire estate**
- **He had an extremely powerful position for one of the most evil rulers in history**

**GOD CAN PLACE YOU AMONG THE MOST
VILE PEOPLE IMAGINABLE ON PURPOSE!!**

When Jezebel sought to murder God's prophets, Obadiah saved 100 of them

- Hid them in separate caves and gave them food and water
- Think about the courage this took knowing the consequences

1 Kings 18:5-6 (KJV)

5 And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.

6 So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

Because of the effects of the severe amine/drought, Ahab sends Obadiah on a search to find land to keep the horses and mules from starving

- **His army depends on these animals**
- **He doesn't realize God is in control of nature, not man**
- **To cover the maximum amount of territory, Ahab and Obadiah go in opposite directions**

1 Kings 18:7-8 (KJV)

7 And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?

8 And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

God arranges the events so that Elijah and Obadiah meet out on the roads

- **He humbles himself before the prophet**
- **Elijah commands Obadiah to tell Ahab to meet him**

A SIMPLE ENOUGH COMMAND TO FOLLOW RIGHT?

ACTUALLY NO!!!

**THIS WAS THE SCARIEST THING OBADIAH MAY
HAVE EVER HEARD!!!**

1 Kings 18:9-12 (KJV)

9 And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?

10 As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

1 Kings 18:11-12 (KJV)

11 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

12 And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

OBADIAH IS SCARED TO DEATH OF TELLING AHAB WHERE ELIJAH IS! BUT WHY?

- Ahab might think he has been hiding Elijah and lying this whole time
- Ahab had searched nations and kingdoms to hunt down Elijah
- The Holy Spirit might call Elijah elsewhere and not be where he is now when Ahab arrives

1 Kings 18:13-14 (KJV)

13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

14 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.

Jezebel's blood lust was another reason for Obadiah's fears

- All these reasons would mean certain death
- This is Obadiah's plea to Elijah

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DIDN'T WANT TO
DO THE JOB GOD CALLED YOU FOR?**

2 Chronicles 20:6 (KJV)

6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

Job 12:19 (KJV)

**19 He leadeth princes away spoiled, and
overthroweth the mighty.**

1 Corinthians 15:25 (KJV)

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

1 Kings 18:15-16 (KJV)

15 And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah

**Elijah reassures Obadiah, and he does
as he commanded**

**WE ALL NEED GOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT
WHEN THINGS LOOK SCARY!!!**

1 Kings 18:17 (KJV)

17 And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

1 Kings 18:17

- The face to face meeting finally happens, and what is the first thing that Ahab says?
- Calls him a troublemaker, no doubt blaming him for the famine/drought in the land
- How does Elijah respond?

1 Kings 18:18 -20 (KJV)

18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

19 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

1 Kings 18:20 (KJV)

20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

1 Kings 18:18-20

- Telling Ahab (to his face!) he is the cause of trouble and despair
- Picture Elijah's courage and boldness in this moment!!!
- Without waiting for a response, he challenges the king to gather all the 850 prophets of Baal & Asherah at Mt Carmel

Psalms 94:12 (KJV)

12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Revelation 3:19 (KJV)

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Proverbs 3:11 (KJV)

11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;
neither be weary of his correction:

Proverbs 3:12 (KJV)

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father in whom he delighteth.

THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR WHAT COMES NEXT...

AND

A QUESTION FOR ALL TIME

1 Kings 18:21 (KJV)

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

“HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS?”

HOW LONG WILL YOU WAVER?

IS THIS YOUR MOMENT OF SILENCE??

**The people do not say a word in
response to Elijah's challenge**

HOW SAD!!

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU TODAY??

Hosea 10:2 (KJV)

2 Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.

Revelation 3:15-16 (KJV)

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

James 1:6-8 (KJV)

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Now is the time to step up and step forward for the Lord

- Now is NOT the time to “answered him not a word”

1 Kings 18:22-24 (KJV)

22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

1 Kings 18:24 (KJV)

24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

Elijah versus the prophets of Baal

- Baal's followers believe he controls the thunder/lightning/storms, so this challenge is a direct assault at the heart of his alleged power

1 Kings 18:25-26 (KJV)

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

1 Kings 18:26 (KJV)

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

Accepting Elijah's terms, the Baal worshippers begin to dance and sing around the altar that is built

- This goes on for hours, from morning until noon
- No response from their mighty "god"

1 Kings 18:27-29 (KJV)

27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

1 Kings 18:29 (KJV)

29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

Elijah mocks the false god by playing into the common myths about him

- **Tells the people to shout louder because he's busy talking to someone else**
- **Tells the people he must be sleeping and needs to be awakened**
- **Their desperation makes them mutilate themselves, which is prohibited by God in the OT (Lev 19:28, Deut 14:1)**

**THIS IS HOW FAR PEOPLE WILL GO IN
THEIR FALSE WORSHIP!!!!**

Jeremiah 51:17 (KJV)

17 Every man is brutish by his knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

Habakkuk 2:18 (KJV)

18 What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

Hosea 13:2 (KJV)

2 And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

**This goes on all day and into the late
afternoon/early evening from Verse 29**

1 Kings 18:30-35 (KJV)

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

1 Kings 18:32-35 (KJV)

32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

1 Kings 18:34-35 (KJV)

34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

Elijah has been patiently waiting and watching this entire time

- Now it is time for action
- The 12 stones represent the 12 tribes of Israel and their unity, despite their physical separation and distance
- Notice the 2nd and 3rd repetition he commands of the people

1 Kings 18:36-37 (KJV)

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

1 Kings 18:37 (KJV)

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

ELIJAH'S PRAYER IS SIMPLE AND DIRECT!!!

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN PRAY/TALK TO GOD!!!

James 5:16 (KJV)

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Compare Elijah's prayer with that of Baal's followers

1 Kings 18:38-40 (KJV)

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

1 Kings 18:40 (KJV)

40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Notice how God's fire even scorches all the water they poured in the trench?

- **The people aren't silent now, they confess what they know to be true**
- **The false prophets time was up, and Elijah has them all rounded up and executed (Deut 13 mandated the death of false prophets)**

1 Kings 18:41-44 (KJV)

41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

1 Kings 18:43-44 (KJV)

43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

The drought is about to be over

- Elijah goes to the top of Mt Carmel, prays for rain, and has his assistant look 7 different times toward the sea
- His fervent prayer has been answered, and he warns Ahab to start riding before he gets stuck in the downpour

1 Kings 18:45-46 (KJV)

45 And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

The Bible tells us Elijah ran ahead of Ahab to Jezreel

- This was about 13 miles!!
- Supernatural energy from God to Elijah did this
- This was another sign for Ahab to repent

Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

HOW LONG WILL YOU WAVER??

IS THIS YOUR MOMENT OF SILENCE??

THE ANSWER HAS TO BE NO!!

**REMEMBER OBADIAH, A GODLY MAN
IN AN UNGODLY ENVIRONMENT!!!!**

DID HE WAVER IN HIS FAITH??

NO,

HE STOOD STRONG!! JUST LIKE WE SHOULD!!

**THIS FAMOUS STORY OF ELIJAH'S DOES
NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT OBADIAH!!!**

**GOD USED HIM TO PUT ELIJAH FACE
TO FACE WITH AHAB!!!**

ELIJAH QUESTION TO THE PEOPLE AT MT CARMEL
LEAVES THEM SPEECHLESS!!!!

**DO NOT BE SEDUCED BY THE
BAAL/ASHERAH/SEDUCTIONS
OF THE WORLD AND THE ENEMY!!!**

**PROCLAIM OUT LOUD THAT
JEHOVAH IS THE ONE**

AND

ONLY TRUE GOD!!!!

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