

## PROPHET VS. KING. 1 KN. 18:1-16. 2/26/23. #48.

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**18** And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was* a severe famine in Samaria. And Ahab had called Obadiah, who *was* in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock." So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?" And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'" So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?" As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, 'He is not here,' he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you. And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here"!' And it shall come to pass, *as soon as* I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here." ' He will kill me!" Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today." So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

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### 1. The period of chastisement

- a. After 3 years, Elijah is sent to Ahab
- b. God is going to end the drought
  - a1. God does not end the drought because either Ahab or Israel had repented
  - a2. God had preset a period of 3 years as the period of judgment (we see this same # in Jonah in the fish for 3 days & Jesus being in the bowels of the earth for 3 days)
- c. In God's mercy & grace, he limited the drought for 3 years so all life would not die
  - a1. God's goal was to demonstrate his power & righteousness so there would be ample evidence for repentance
  - a2. There was no question that this was from God & that it was sent because of sin
- d. God typically set periods of time for judgment
  - a1. 70-year exile
  - a2. Nebuchadnezzar was mad for 7 seasons
  - a3. It rained for 40 days & nights

### 2. Obadiah (not the prophet), a man used of God

- a. Ahab had his household manager, Obadiah, help him look for grass for the horses
  - b. Obadiah was a godly man
    - a1. Like Joseph in Potiphar's household, Ob. probably held his position because he was trustworthy & capable
    - a2. He was not of the same nature as Ahab or Jezebel (godless rulers)
    - a3. Ob. had hid 100 prophets by fifties in a cave & took care of them
  - c. God places his people in strategic locations to influence those in power (a little girl in Naaman's house, a king's servant who saves Jeremiah, servants who share the Gospel in Caesar's house, Joseph & Daniel...)
  - d. Elijah goes out to meet Obadiah
    - a1. He tells Ob. to bring Ahab to him
    - a2. Ob. feared that God would snatch away Elijah, then he would be killed for lying
  - e. Ahab had searched for Elijah throughout all the surrounding lands
    - a1. He could not find El. & made each king swear that he had not seen him
    - a2. Ahab blamed Elijah for the drought
  - f. Elijah swears to Ob. that he would meet Ahab today
- ### 3. Preparation for a showdown
- a. Ahab refused to acknowledge that he was being punished for sin
    - a1. He would not humble himself or repent
    - a2. Even when under extreme pressure, pride keeps a man stubborn & alienated from God
  - b. Rev. 16; 20 men will stay prideful & defiant to the end, much to their own hurt
  - c. Elijah is going to challenge the priests of Baal to a contest between them & God
    - a1. The winner of the contest is the real God
    - a2. Yet, Israel & Ahab will not turn from their stubborn rebellious ways