

## Elijah the Prophet

### SLIDE 1 12. Elijah the Prophet

**Background/review-** Remember God made a promise to Abraham that his descendants would be blessed, be a blessing to the whole world (Jesus) and that God would give them the promised land. The promised land was a land of wicked people and they were to kill everybody in the land that would be called Israel. Why would a God of love say kill everybody in the land? Because God did not want His people Israel to be influenced by these wicked people and their ways and worship their false gods and idol worship.

Remember God said, "When I bless you don't forget me". Often when things are going good people forget God because they think they don't need Him. Joshua & Caleb took the land, but in time the people decided not to obey God fully and they left the wicked people in the land. In the blessing of God they forgot God. We looked at the time of the judges where "each man did what was right in his own eyes". So God would allow wicked people to rule over them until they were ready to repent and the judge of that time would lead them to victory over the wicked people, then they would fall back again to false idol worship. The Bible in 1 Corinthians 10 said learn from Israel.

**SLIDE 2** Now we will look at a few of the prophets. Prophets of the Old Testament would speak for God, do miracles and in general would warn people of coming judgment and called them to repent. They also would comfort God's people while in the judgement of God, usually captivity or being ruled by a wicked person, and then when they obeyed God, He would bless them again. Today we will look at Elijah the Prophet.

**God would have His message to be proclaimed through prophets. Prophets would give the kings messages and sometime the people;** one of those kings was Ahab who married outside of Israel - a wicked woman named Jezebel who had the prophets of God killed. Ahab did not worship God instead he worshipped the false gods of Baal and Asherah.

Baal was the god of rain so God sent Elijah to pronounce a drought (1 Kings 17) to try to get God's people to turn back to Him, to prove He is God. This made king Ahab very mad at Elijah. But this did not turn the people back to God.

**SLIDE 3** (1 Kings 18) So then Elijah said to bring the people of Israel here along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table.

**NLT 1 Kings 18:20-29** So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel. Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent. Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only prophet of the LORD who is left, but Baal has 450 prophets. Now bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without setting fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it. 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. Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls, and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood." So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had made. About noontime Elijah began mocking them. "You'll have to shout louder," he scoffed, "for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!" So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out. They raved all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was no sound, no reply, no response.

- Idols have a mouth, ears and eyes but they cannot speak, hear or see for they are man-made and satanically inspired.

**SLIDE 4 1Kings 18:30-37** Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down. He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the LORD. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood." After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench. At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant. Prove that I have done all this at Your command. O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that You, O LORD, are God and that You have brought them back to Yourself."

- He had to repair the altar, because the people stopped worshipping God.
- The 12 stones represented the 12 tribes of Israel, he hoped this would bring

them back together and back to God. The nation had divided after King Solomon's death. The northern part was the ten tribes of Israel that had moved further away from God faster. Two of the tribes - Judah and Benjamin - were in the south.

- Elijah put water on the wood and sacrifice so there would be no doubt that he represented the true God.
- Simple prayer
- His heart was that the people would turn back to God so they could experience God's blessing.

**SLIDE 5** 1Kings 18:38-40 Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The LORD—He is God! Yes, the LORD is God!" Then Elijah commanded, "Seize all the prophets of Baal. Don't let a single one escape!" So the people seized them all, and Elijah took them down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there.

- God has gone through great lengths to reveal Himself to you today. We have the written Word, and Jesus was raised from the dead. How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord be God follow Him.

## **SLIDE 6 APPLY IT**

What is the most important thing in your life? If it is anything other than God it is an idol in your life. How long will you waver between two opinions, if the Lord be God follow Him.

Have you created a god in your own image? That is idolatry. Turn to the true God.

**God is patient with you, so don't confuse His Patience with acceptance of your sin.** Realize God will not bless you the way He would like to if you continue in your disobedience, and that there will be consequences for sin that can last a lifetime and affect others around you. [God gave us an owner's manual for living called the Bible. To enjoy God's best for your life read it and do what it says.](#)

**Beware there are false prophets and teachers today,** not every church is a good church to go to. Learn to test all things you hear through the **filter** of God's Word. *(Use a filter as an illustration, putting it up in front of your head as a picture of filtering everything you see, hear or read. Especially on social media and googling stuff thru the filter of God's Word!)* But you have to read God's Word to know it. So find a Church or youth group when you leave here, but check to see if what they are saying is of God. Sometimes you won't know until you are there a while, so check with someone you

*trust if possible. (One of San Antonio's largest churches has a major false teaching in it. They are in every major city and most cities, so discern by the Spirit of God and prayer.)*

**Such popular false doctrines to watch out for are:**

That **Jesus is not God** come in the flesh

**Prosperity doctrine** - that if you are not rich you are in sin, that poverty is a curse.

**Positive confession** - that you can speak things into existence like God.

Then there are churches which just seek to be popular by watering down the Word of God so as to appeal to a wider audience, because they think a large church defines your success. ***Basically you could live in sin and be comfortable in these churches.***

**Transition to the gospel**

**SLIDE 7** Are you following God and His Word or are you following something else? The ways of the world perhaps, maybe popular opinion maybe, or maybe you have created a god in your own image and are following your own ways. Like Elijah I will say how much longer will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord be God follow Him, if something else then follow it. *But think about this, what proof do you have?*

God sent prophets in the Old Testament to speak to try to get people to turn to Him. But now in our times, the time of the New Covenant, God sent His only Son to show us His love for us and what God is like.

Jesus died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sin, the penalty was death. Jesus died in your place so you do not have to and paid the penalty of death for your sins. Sins are the things we do against God's Word. But Jesus rose from the dead to prove He has victory over sin and death.

To be forgiven of your sins so you can be right with God and begin and begin a relationship with God and have the hope of heaven and eternal life this is what you have to do.

**Realize** that you have sinned

**Believe** that Jesus died for you and took the penalty for your sins

**Repent** - change your mind about your sins and in doing this you are agreeing with God that you are wrong.

Bow your heads and close your eyes. Choose this day what God you will serve?

**Anybody ready** to believe upon Jesus and change your mind about your sins so you can have your sins forgiven, have the hope of heaven and begin a relationship with God today?

### Questions

1. **What was the name of the King?** Ahab
2. **What was the name of the prophet featured today?** Elijah
3. **What was the name of the King's wife?** Jezebel
4. **What was the name of the false gods featured here today?** Baal & Asherah
5. **How many prophets did Baal and Asherah have?** 450 Baal 400 Asherah
6. **What did the god of Baal represent?** The god of rain
7. **What did Elijah do to prove that the Lord is God?** Whichever God could prophet could get their God to answer by fire, that would be the true God.
8. **What did Elijah do to His altar that would prove beyond any doubt that the Lord is God?** Covered the altar with water
9. **What did Elijah do to the prophets of Baal and Asherah?** Killed them all