

Elijah vs. the False Prophets

Introduction

- In 930 BC, the northern tribes (Israel) broke off from the southern tribes (Judah) after the death of King Solomon
- Israel had evil kings who led the people to worship false gods
- Baal was a Canaanite false god
 1. A pagan god of storms and fertility
 2. Associated with the false goddess Asherah
 3. Worshiped throughout the ancient Middle East
 4. Associated with self-mutilation, ritual prostitution, and infant sacrifice
- King Ahab and his wife Jezebel promoted this false worship
- Elijah the prophet preached against this false worship in 865 BC
- He proclaimed a drought against apostate Israel (1 Kings 17:1)
- It did not rain in Israel for three and one-half years (James 5:1-18)

Notes:

King Ahab called Elijah “the troubler of Israel” (1 Kings 18:17-19)

- When a nation decays, whose fault is it?
 1. Some blame believers since we condemn the sinful beliefs and practices of the culture
 2. In reality, Israel was being judged for her paganism
- Today, Christians are being considered the “trouble-makers” because we condemn as sin abortion, gay marriage, sex changes for children, sexual immorality, and the deification of the state

In the midst of a pagan culture, don’t compromise (vv.20-21)

- Don’t hesitate or falter in your decision
- Choose which side you are on (Joshua 24:15; Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- You can’t have one foot in the church and one foot in the world
- Like Elijah, we must proclaim God’s truth in a culture of lies

The true God is all-powerful and sovereign (vv. 22-24)

- The God who answers by fire, He is God
- The true God will win (Job 19:25)
- We must tell our culture, “My God’s bigger than your god!”

Notes:

False gods often sleep or destroy (vv. 25-29)

- Is your god silent or sleeping?
 - Francis Schaeffer’s book “He is There & He is not Silent”
- False gods often sleep and cannot deliver (Isaiah 41:21-24; 42:8-9)
 - they often forsake their followers
- They might give some temporary, deceitful benefit
- But, in the end, they leave their followers battered and beaten
- The false prophets cut themselves
- False religion destroys people’s lives (John 8:43-44)

Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord that had been broken down (vv. 30)

- No repentance, no revival
- We must rebuild what has been torn down
- In our families, our churches, and (if possible) our culture

God answered in fire—despite the water (vv. 38-39)

- Our God is not a God who sleeps
- He is a God who sees and a God who hears
- And, at the perfect time, He is a God who acts
- He is a miracle-working God

The false prophets are executed (v.40)

- In God’s perfect time, His enemies will be judged
- Revelation 6: 9-11; 19:11-21

The drought ends (vv.41-46)

Conclusion—Be an Elijah

- We must speak truth to a culture of lies
- We must call others to repent in our families, churches, and culture
- We must not hesitate between two positions—we must not compromise
- We must worship Jesus alone and obey His Word
- We serve a God who hears our prayers and answers according to His will
- We must repair that which the enemy has torn down
- We must trust God to do what is right and believe in His power to intervene
- We must trust God to judge the wicked when Jesus returns
- We might not be able to save America, but there is a remnant