

MISGUIDED ZEAL AND AUTHORITY (Part 1)

We are currently studying the first phase of the Life of Elijah taken from (1 Kings 17-19). It covers the ministry of Elijah during the reign of Kings Ahab, the 8th king of Northern Kingdom (10 Tribes of Israel).

This period covers the 3 ½ years of drought sent by God to cause a spiritual awakening and a spiritual reformation from idolatry of Baal worship back to worship of Lord God of Israel.

In our last study we learned that God selected three men to lead the Spiritual Reformation: national prophet, Elijah; national statesman, Obadiah; and King Ahab.

These three men met and agreed upon a contest to be held on Mt. Carmel between the 850 prophets of Baal and ONE prophet of the Lord God of Israel - **WINNER TAKE ALL**. (Ref. to the Cross of Christ - Shadow Christology) (Heb.10:1-10) (Heb. Chs. 8-10).

Only the Lord God of Israel could do it and He did it in amazing speed and wonder! (1 Kings 18:30-40)

(1 Kg.18:38) “Then the fire of the Lord fell and **consumed** the burnt offering and the wood and the stones (12) and the dust (dirt of trench), and licked up the water that was in the trench.”

The Lord God of Israel won a spectacular victory that no one could dispute. It was not even close!

Elijah won it by the Work of God’s amazing grace through faith. Then Elijah lost it in the same moment by works of the flesh through Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus - Worldly Thinking (Eph.4:31).

This lesson is part one that will study four aspects of Elijah’s Misguided Zeal and Authority.

(1 Kings 18:40) “Then Elijah said to them (Israelites), ‘Seize the prophets of Baal, do not let one of them escape.’ So, they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon **and slew them there.**”

In this one act, Elijah killed the Spiritual Reformation and any hope of reuniting the Priest-Nation of Israel. Within 150 years, these 10 tribes will disappear from biblical history of Coming of Christ.

- 1. Elijah might have thought Ahab was such a weak king that he would not go against Jezebel to rid the nation of Baal worship. But it is not up to Elijah to play god or king any more than Jezebel.**

It was a matter between King Ahab and God who establishes all governments of the earth for His **purpose and Plan (Gen.10-11; Rom.13:1-7; 1 Pet.2:13-17; and 1 Tim.2:1-7).**

(Rom.13:1) “**Every person** is to be in subjection to the governing authority. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

Elijah had done his job to move the Israelites from spiritual awakening to spiritual reformation as the prophet to the Divine Agency, custodians of the Word of God and evangelism.

Now it was an issue between the Divine Authority between the King. Elijah and Israelite’s job were prayer:

(1 Tim.2:1) “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgiving, be made on behalf of all men.”

(1 Pet.2:16) “Acts as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil but use it as bond slaves of God.” (Gal.5:1, 13)

(1 Pet.3:17) “For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what right rather than for doing what is wrong.”

2. Doctrinal principle: Whenever the government legislates evil against Divine Institutions and the Divine Agency, believers are left with a decision of how to oppose evil without opposing God’s authority structure (chain of command).

Elijah is struggling with this doctrinal issue. Ahab and Jezebel’s influence of evil over him with their evil instituted policies.

He must understand that God has a Divine Chain of Command in every Divine Institute: Freedom (volition); Employment (ownership/ management); Marriage (husband); Family (parents); and **Nation** (government).

(Rom.12:2) “Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God, and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.”

In Elijah’s case, it was a Divine Monarchy form of government authority which God established (Rom.13).

(Acts 4:19-20) “But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘**Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge**; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.’”

3. Esther and Mordecai are one example of believers living under foreign rule for the Lord (Esther 4:13-17).

(Esther 4:16) “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. **And thus, I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.**” (She was all in; She had skin in the game!) Be sure to read the 10th chapter.

Another example would be Daniel and his friends also living for the Lord under foreign rule (Dan.1-3).

4. As the prophet of The Lord God of Israel, Elijah was called to lead a spiritual reformation that could reunite the 12 tribes into one Priest-nation of Israel (12 stones of altar - The cross of Christ).

Elijah was called to be the spiritual spokesman for the God to Israel. John the Baptist was a type of a national messianic prophet like Elijah.

(John 1:23) “voice of one crying in wilderness,’ make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” (Isa.40:3; John 1:19-23)

(John 1:25) “They asked him, and said to him, ’Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, **nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?**’”

(Matt.27:46-47) “About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying ‘**Eli, Eli,** lama sabachthani!’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’ And some of them who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, ‘This man is calling Elijah.’” (Matt.27:49; Ps.22:1)

It was believed that Elijah would suddenly return to earth at the coming of Christ. (Matt.17:1-13) **Moses and Elijah at Christ’s Transfiguration - The 2nd Coming principle.**

Doctrinal Principle: God had bigger plans for Elijah in Messianic history as a spiritually mature believer. He would be reference in both the First and Second comings of Christ.