

## THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

*"The God of Fire"*

**1 Kings 18:1-39**

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Israel had a spiritual problem that brought Elijah on the scene.

a) They were attracted to idols.

2. There are several reasons why the worship of Baal and Asherah was such a problem for Israel.

a) The worship of Baal involved ritual temple prostitution. (Illicit sexual behavior)

b) International peer pressure-Israel wanted to be like the other nations.

c) And Israel worshipped Baal and Asherah because of Satan's temptations and man's sinfulness. **Jeremiah 17:9**

3. Remember our definition of an idol.

a) ***"An idol is an unauthorized noun (Person, Place or thing) that you look to, to get a need met."***

b) It is something you look to as the SOURCE of having your needs met.

4. We have our own AMERICAN IDOLS: People, Power, Possessions, Prestige or whatever it is you are looking to that is the source of your provision.

a) ***Ephesians 6:4***

5. NOW WE ARE READY FOR THE SHOWDOWN

6. **Chapter 18:1-16**

7. **KEY VERSE - Vs 17**

a) ***"you troubler of Israel"*** - (troubler/snake)

1) Elijah you low life snake....you are behind all this trouble in the land.

8. **Going deeper in Boot Camp** - prepared Elijah for this moment!!

9. **Vs 18**

10. **VERY IMPORTANT:** One of the reasons we are seeing our country implode is because America has ***"abandoned the commandments of the Lord"***.

a) We have forsaken the Lord our God.

11. What we are witnessing right now in **AMERICA** is the **"PASSIVE WRATH OF GOD"**.

a) The **ACTIVE WRATH OF GOD** is when God personally sends judgment from heaven to defeat His enemies.

b) **Genesis 19:24-25**

- 1) That is active Wrath of God.
- c) Right now we do not experience the Active Wrath of God because of the Church and the Holy Spirit.

12. America is experiencing the PASSIVE WRATH OF GOD and the further God gets from us - Well all I can say is "***You ain't seen nothing yet.***"

**READY FOR THE SHOWDOWN**

**I. THE CALL**

**A. TO THE NATION**

**1. Vs 19-20**

**B. TO THE PEOPLE**

**1. Vs 21**

- a) "***limping***" - vacillating

**2. Elijah asked "***How long you going to dance between two opinions?***"**

- a) Go to church on Sunday and an idol on Monday?

**C. RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE**

**1. Vs 21c**

- a) "***And the people did not answer him a word.***"

**2. Why were they silent?**

- a) Because they were not ready to commit!!!!

**3. The People were SILENT**

**4. NOW WATCH THIS:** They were ready for a miracle!!!

**5. THIS IS BIG:** If you're not ready to commit and to stop dancing...stop searching for a blessing.

**6. They said NOTING because they were not ready to make a commitment.**

- a) And that is exactly what Elijah is calling them to do.

## II. THE CHALLENGE

### A. STANDING ALONE

1. Vs 22

2. Even though Elijah was outnumbered he was ready to take a stand.

3. **WOW!!!** God is looking for believers who even though outnumbered are willing to take a stand!!!

### B. TOTAL CONFIDENCE

1. Vs 23-24

2. Now remember that Baal was also the god of the sun.

3. Vs 25-26

4. So Elijah challenges Ahab @ the very core of their god.

a) You go first and we shall see what your god can do.

### C. MOCKING THE OPPOSITION

1. Vs 27

2. Elijah mocks the prophets of Baal!!!

3. Now the odds are 450 to 1, you better make sure you are right with God.

4. Vs 27

1) "*Cry aloud*"

5. Vs 28-29

## III. RESTORING COMMITMENT

### A. THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

1. Vs 30

a) "*and he repaired the altar*"

2. They had religion without COMMITMENT.

3. The Altar was for the purpose of making Sacrifices.

a) A sacrifice was to deal with sin.

## **B. NEVER FORGET**

1. Vs 31 WOW!!

a) Significance of the 12 stones.

1) Set 12 stones in the Jordan after you pass over.

2) Why? So when your children ask what they mean.

2. Vs 32

## **C. GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**

1. Vs 33-35

# **IV. PRAYING GOD'S PROMISES**

## **A. THE GOD OF COVENANT**

1. Vs 36

2. *1 Corinthians 2:9*

3. *Ephesians 3:20*

## **B. NOT ABOUT US**

1. Vs 37

## **C. WHEN GOD SHOWS OFF**

1. Vs 38-39