

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
MOVING FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY
1 KINGS 18:24, 36-46

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I. VICTORY IN THIS SHOWDOWN CAME NOT BECAUSE OF WHO ELIJAH WAS, BUT BECAUSE OF WHO THE LORD GOD IS! (Vs 24, 36-39)

A. Note That This Showdown Was NOT Between Elijah And The Prophets Of Baal!

The Prophets of Baal may have thought that it was!

But Elijah knew that it wasn't! Elijah was just a servant of the LORD (Vs 36) being obedient to the Word of the LORD! (The LORD showed Himself mightily in response to Elijah's obedience to Him!)

Remember that it is not "US" versus "THEM" in what is happening in this world!

Our LORD will show Himself mightily as we are obedient to Him that He might get the glory!

The Prophets of Baal may have relished in the fact that they outnumbered Elijah 450 to 1! (But being in the majority doesn't mean diddly! They could have had any number of prophets they wanted to dance and prance on the offering to Baal and it wouldn't have made their idolatry right or turned out any differently!)

These Prophets of Baal had their pride on the line...and that is why we saw the performance they gave for their "do nothing" idol! (Listen, any and all activity in the wrong area and for the wrong cause is nothing more than just wasted effort in the end!)

Their pride also meant that they didn't want to be shown up by this Elijah person in front of their king!

With all the water Elijah had poured on the sacrifice and altar, they may have figured in the very least they were looking at a draw!

After Baal didn't respond, I'm sure that is what they were hoping for! ("There is no way that's going to burn!")

A draw would have meant that their Baal was at least as good as the LORD God!

These prophets didn't know it at the time, but their very lives were on the line here!

That is the really sad part about those who continue down the same old paths of sin and idolatry!

B. Note That This Showdown Was Between The LORD God And Baal!

Of course we know that Baal was just a dead idol!

Any god and every god that anyone may worship and serve other than the One True God, is just worshiping and serving something that is dead and in whom there is...no...hope!

In fact, this was literally a "no contest" contest!

Baal was NOT going to show himself, because he was nothing!

So we have a powerless "do nothing" idol versus the LORD God Almighty!

And in the end, these prophets of Baal went out into eternity without the LORD in their lives! Without God and without hope!

C. This Showdown Was For The Purpose Of The LORD Turning His People Back To Him! (Vs 24, 37, 39)

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- II. WHEN GOD SHOWED HIMSELF MIGHTILY IN ANSWERING BY FIRE, THEIR WAS ANOTHER YET ANOTHER VICTORY NEEDED!**
There is still the problem here of a 3 ½ drought in the land!
The drought was caused by sin and especially idolatry in the land!

The people may have thought that their greatest need was rain!
In reality, their greatest need was to get back to God!

Sometimes we may think our greatest need is for a change in our circumstances! But we need to stop and ask, why has the LORD allowed these circumstances?

Sometimes it may be because of sin as we see here!
Sometimes it may be to grow us in our faith! (Many examples)
Other times it may be that the LORD might get the glory out of our trust dependance upon Him in spite of our circumstances! (e.g. Job)

Mankind's greatest need (and even our greatest need as Believers) is the LORD God Himself in His rightful place in our lives!

So, now that the LORD has answered by FIRE and the people have had their hearts turned back to Him, Elijah doesn't stop there!

- A. The Past Had To Be Dealt With! (Vs 40)**
Notice how Elijah got the people to deal with these prophets of Baal. If these prophets had not been dealt with there is a good possibility that they would have continued to undermine the LORD God in the lives of His people and have drawn them back into idolatry!

When we experience Revival, of necessity there are some things that have been a part of our lives that must be dealt with!

We need to put to death those things that caused us to turn from the LORD to begin with lest we turn away from Him again!

The Past Had To Be Dealt With...

- B. The Present Had To Be Dealt With! (Vs 41)**
What was wrong with the present? The drought! Dryness! When you have been away from God for so long it brings a dryness that needs to be dealt with by the Spirit of God!

Though Revival had begun with the LORD showing Himself mightily in the midst of His people, there was a need for some showers of blessing to end the dryness!

When we have seen the error of our ways and we have begun to have Revival, there is a need for the Spirit of God to soften our dry spirit with His refreshing!

- C. Elijah Dealt With The Dryness Based On God's Word By Prayer! (Vs 1; Vs 42)**
We're not told what Elijah prayed when He talked with the LORD here. Possibly something like this...

"LORD God you said you would send rain upon the earth, your people have turned back to you oh LORD, we're looking for the rain you have promised, now please send the rain that you promised according to your Word!"

We don't know what he prayed, but whatever he prayed it was effectual and fervent!

James 5:16-18 "16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. 17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

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D. Elijah Was Persistent In His Praying! (Vs 41, 43-44)

1. Elijah Had Ahab To Prepare For Rain Even Before There Was Ever A Storm Cloud To Be Seen! (Vs 41, 44b)

2. Elijah Began His Preparation And Prayer Based On Only A Sound! (Vs 41)

I believe this was a sound based on His faith that God said He would send the rain!

(I say that because there was no cloud present at the time nor even one on the horizon!)

Yet the rain coming was just as real to Elijah as if it was already coming down!

“...for there is a sound of abundance of rain!”

3. Elijah Combined Persistent Prayer With Faith And Expectation! (Vs 43-44)

He was expecting the LORD to answer his prayer and send the rain He promised!

E. God Responded To Elijah’s Persistent Prayers Of Faith By Sending His Abundant Showers Of Blessing! (Vs 45)

In *verse 41*, Elijah said *“...there is a sound of abundance of rain.”*

Elijah was persistent in His prayers of faith and *verse 45* says, *“...there was a great rain!”*

Conclusion

Do we believe what God speaks to us in His Word in such a way that we are persistent in our praying or do we fall short in our praying?

(1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing.”)

Are we full of faith or full of doubt? May God help us to pray persistent prayers according to His Word looking to Him to do what He says He will do!