

AND HE REPAIRED THE ALTAR OF THE LORD 1 KINGS 16-18

Text: 1 Kings 18:30

(1 Kings 18:30) "And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down."

Introduction

We have in our text what I consider one of the most exciting, and revealing stories recorded in the Old Testament. The setting is one of drought, despair, death, and discouragement. The region had not seen rain now for three years, and things for the most part had dried up and died or was on its way there.

I believe that there was a greater problem than all the drought, despair, death, destruction, and discouragement. There were those trying to worship on broken altars.

I believe today we have folks that are worshipping in the wrong places in the wrong way on broken altars.

Notice

1. THE CAUSE (1 KINGS 16:28-33)

(1 Kings 16:28-33) "So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead. {29} And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. {30} And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. {31} And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. {32} And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. {33} And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."

A. Reason

1. Did evil in the sight of the Lord
2. It was a light thing to him to walk in sin
3. Married a wicked women

4. Served idols (Baal)
5. Built an altar for Baal
6. Did more to provoke God than all the kings of Israel.

B. Results

God caused it not to rain or even dew to fall

(Numbers 32:23) "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

1. Drought
2. Death (17:8-16)

(1 Kings 17:8-16) "And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, {9} Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. {10} So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. {11} And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. {12} And

she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

3. Discouragement

C. Reaping

1. Not only did he reap the results of his sin, but those around him did as well.
2. Others will be affected by your sin.

2. THE CONFRONTATION

After much distress God once again sends the prophet to Ahab and challenges him to choose God.

A. Deliberate.

1. Sought for Ahab

B. Directed

1. God's direction

C. UN-debatable (vss 17, 18)

(1 Kings 18:17-18) "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? {18} And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim."

1. The world will always want to blame God or those that speak for and follow Him for their problems.

3. THE CHALLENGE

(1 Kings 18:21-24) "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. {22} Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. {23} Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: {24} And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken."

A. Note the events that followed in worshipping on a broken altar and the results thereof.

1. They called from morning till noon, but there was no voice. (vss. 26)

(1 Kings 18:26) "And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made."

2. They then leaped on the altar. (vs 26)

3. Elijah began to mock them (vs 27)

(1 Kings 18:27) "And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked."

4. It becomes such a frenzy that they cried even louder and began to cut themselves. (vss 28-29)

(1 Kings 18:28-29) "And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. {29} And it came

to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded."

a. Sincere but was sincerely wrong!

B. Notice what Elijah did.

1. The first thing that he did was to repair the broken altar.

2. He then took the substance that was of most value, "water" and soaks the sacrifice.

a. There are those that are not willing give up those things most precious to them in order to meet the Saviour.

3. He then prayed to the true God. (vss 36-38)

(1 Kings 18:36-38) "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. {37} Hear me, O

LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. {38} Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench."

4. THE CELEBRATION (VSS 39-40)

(1 Kings 18:39-40) "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. {40} And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there."

Close:

There a lot trying to worship on broken altars today. Some of those broken altars are:

1. Works salvation
2. Compromise
3. Ecumenicalism

The results are the same, no response.