

THE FIRE OF THE LORD FELL

1 KINGS 18

Text: 1 Kings 18:38

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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.

Introduction:

What a day this was. The day the fire of the Lord fell.

Because of the sins of Ahab Israel was now in drought because of no rain for 3 years.

1 Kings 16:28-33

So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

29And 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. 30And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. 31And 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. 32And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33And 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.

Notice Ahab:

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.

The results were 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.

The results of their wickedness were:

- Drought
- 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. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did

the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.

- Discouragement

After 3 years of no rain Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and the groves. The challenge was simple. The God who answers by fire will be the true God.

After many attempts to contact their god Ahab prayed and fire fell from Heaven and consumed the sacrifice, water, and even the dust.

If we want to see fire from Heaven there are some things that must be done.

1. Must Be Sacrifice

- A. Took two bullocks not two oxen.

- B. Pour our much water, the substance of shortage.

2 Samuel 24:24

And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

1 Chron. 21:24

And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

- We have too many today who want to see things from God who are not willing to pay the price.
- I'll read the Bible if I have time.
- I'll come to church if there is nothing else going on.
- I'll put something in the offering if I have any left after I pay my bills and entertain myself.
- Why run a bus to pick up kids it cost too much.
- Soul winning is too hard.

Without Sacrifice There'll Be No Fire

2. Must Be Sincerity

1 Kings 18:37

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.

- Wasn't praying to make a name for himself.

- Wasn't praying so that he could be advanced in the ministry.

He prayed for the fire so that the people and the world may know the God is God.

Without Sincerity There'll Be No Fire

We want to experience the fire of God, but in order to get to Mt Carmel you have to go through Cherith.

Notice with me

1. ELIJAH PROVED GOD WAS ALIVE TO HIMSELF AT THE BROOK.

A. Placement

1 Kings 17:4

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

1. "There"

B. Promise

1 Kings 17:5

So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

1. All he had was God's Word.
2. He went and did.

C. Proving

1. Though it wasn't all easy, and the brook began to dry up, God never failed to provide food and the things necessary to sustain him.

D. Passing

1 Kings 17:7

And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

In order to get to Mt Carmel there must be time spent at the brook a time of proving and preparing.

2. ELIJAH PROVED GOD WAS ALIVE TO THE SAINTS AT THE BARREL

Elijah's burden would some be used to be a blessing in the life of someone else.

- A. The poor widow woman was discouraged and was preparing to die.

1. Many would say, “Why go to that poor widow, there is no way that she can do anything to help the situation.

2. Many would say “We need to reach those who have something to offer.”

- It didn't make sense to go to such a person to have your life spared, but Elijah had already proved to himself that God is alive and well able to take care of him at the brook.
- We need to realize that God is interested in obedience whether it makes sense or not.
- We will never prove to the saints that God is alive until we have proved it to ourselves at the brook.

3. ELIJAH PROVED GOD WAS ALIVE TO THE SKEPTICAL WITH THE BOY.

1 Kings 17:17

And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

- Now the widow's son died, and she becomes skeptical and questions why Elijah had come to her house.

A. Unique situation.

- Up to this time no one had ever been brought back to life.
- Up to this time Elijah had seen to raven bring bread, and seen the barrel waste not and the cruse of oil waste not, but this is something totally different.

B. Urgent prayer (cried)

1 Kings 17:20

And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

No weeping and there will be no reaping.

Psalm 126:6

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

C. Undeniable results

- The boy was brought back to life.
- It may be difficult to prove God is alive to yourself at the brook, and there may be trials in proving God is alive to the saints, but it can't be denied when the boy is brought back to life.
- It can't be denied when a boy or girl is brought to church and sees their need of salvation and trust Jesus as their Saviour.
- It can't be denied when a man or woman or teenager trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and follow the Lord in believers baptism and love the Lord and serve the Lord that can't be denied.

4. ELIJAH PROVED GOD WAS ALIVE TO THE SOCIETY AND SINNERS WITH THE BULLOCK.

You must start at the brook to get to the bullock.

You must go through Cherith to get to Mt Carmel.

Close:

Do you really want to see the fire of God in your home and family?

Do you really want to see the fire of God in this church?

There are some things that must be done, and some place that we must go.

We must sacrifice; have biblical structure, and a heart of sincerity.

We must get to the brook, the barrel, the boy to get to the bullock.