

ELIJAH & ELISHA



Serving Faithfully
Behind Enemy Lines

Faithful Behind Enemy Lines

Background

- ✦ State of Israel
 - ✦ Ahab is King
 - ✦ He is Super Evil
- ✦ Elijah is a prophet
 - ✦ Tishbite from Tishbe
 - ✦ Elijah has prophesied no rain, only by God's word
 - ✦ Elijah Goes into Hiding
 - ✦ Ahab is hunting Elijah down!



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1 Kings 18 1-16

After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth."² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.³ And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly,⁴ and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)



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⁵ And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals." ⁶ So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself.



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⁷ And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?" ⁸ And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'" ⁹ And he said, "How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?" ¹⁰ As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you.



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And when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you.¹¹ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here."' ¹² And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.¹³ Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I



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hid a hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water? ¹⁴ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here"' ; and he will kill me." ¹⁵ And Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of



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Israel?" ¹⁸ And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."



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1. It says Obadiah “feared the Lord Greatly”

Keep in mind...

- Obadiah lived in a perverse culture
- He was trusted and respected by Ahab

Obadiah did what was right, not what was easy.

- This is out of his fear of God



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2. Obadiah puts God's desire before his fears

- Obadiah is fully aware of the consequences of going to Ahab
- Upon the oath of Elijah, He goes
- Obadiah's fear of God was greater than his fear of man

This shows the tremendous courage of Obadiah



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3. Ahab is an example of lacking the fear of God

- Ahab blames Elijah for troubling Israel
- We need to be careful not to dismiss the wisdom of others
- Ahab has been deceived into believing that other gods can save him



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So What?

Obadiah and Ahab are contrasted

1. Humility comes from a healthy revering-fear of God as seen in Obadiah

- To lose the fear is to be deceived like Ahab



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2. This fear may pose a risk

- Culture says to take the path of least resistance.
- With Obadiah the right thing for him was counter cultural
 - He obeyed God and didn't submit to the culture



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3. Don't push the world away!

- Ahab sought to get rid of the messenger to get rid of the message
 - We can push people away who are giving us great wisdom and warning



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3. Don't push the world away!

- Ahab sought to get rid of the messenger to get rid of the message
- Obadiah never cuts himself off from Ahab
 - Christians can be known for legalism and in turn sever all ties with the world... "We don't associate with them"

