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I Kings 18:21-39

21. “Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people did not answer him a word.

22. Then Elijah said to the people, ‘I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men.

23. ‘Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it.

24. ‘Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.’ And all the people said, ‘That is a good idea.’

25. So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, ‘Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.’

26. Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, ‘O Baal, answer us.’ But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made.

27. It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, ‘Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.’

28. So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.

29. When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

30. Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down.

31. Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, ‘Israel shall be your name.’

32. So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.

33. Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood.

34. And he said, ‘Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.’ And he said, ‘Do it a second time,’ and they did it a second time. And he said, ‘Do it a third time,’ and they did it a third time.

35. The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

36. At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice,

Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word.

37. ‘Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.’

38. Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, ‘The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.’”

Oh, I get excited thinking about Elijah; how he called the false prophets of his day onto the carpet, and publicly displayed the power and authority of the one true God, Jehovah.

You know, in Luke chapter 9 James and John wanted to deal down fire from heaven because some Samaritans were not hospitable to Jesus. Jesus rebuked His disciples saying, “The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” Christians today are called by Jesus to the ministry of reconciliation--not a ministry of condemnation.

Jesus calls the true preachers of His Kingdom to

unsheathe the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God and prove what the will of God is--that which is good and acceptable and perfect. By that Word, which is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces as far as the division of soul and spirit--this Word which is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of people's heart--we are to use to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. And by that same Sword of the Spirit pierce the hearts of the unbelieving, that they may repent--to die to themselves--and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gentlemen, call upon your God.