

Elijah – A Man Like Us?

Jas. 5:16-18



Jas. 5:16 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.

Original Word: ὁμοιοπαθής

Transliteration: homoiopathés

Definition: of like feelings or affections

Usage: of like feelings, having similar passions and feelings, of like infirmities. **(like passions)** <https://biblehub.com/greek/3663.htm>

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? **We also are men of like passions with you**, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Remember....Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

We will pick up the narrative from that point in 1 Kings 18:1:

1 Kings 18:1 And it came to pass *after* many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the **third year**, saying, **Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.**
2 **And Elijah went** to shew himself unto Ahab. And *there was* a sore famine in Samaria.

I. THE COMMAND TO CONTINUE, 1 Kings 18:1-2

A. The Plan, 18:1b – “...Go, shew thyself unto Ahab...”

B. The Promise, 18:1c – “...and **I will send rain** upon the earth.”

C. The Performance, 18:2a “...and Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab...”

II. THE CHALLENGE TO COMMUNICATE, 1 Kings 18:2-16

A. Obadiah’s Faithfulness, 18:3-4

1 Kings 18:3 And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of *his* house. (Now **Obadiah feared the LORD greatly**:

4 For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that **Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.**)

B. Obadiah's Fear, 18:6-13

1 Kings 18:6 So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

7 And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, **Art thou that my lord Elijah?**

8 And he answered him, **I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.**

9 And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant **into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?**

10 As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, *He is not there*; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

11 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, *Elijah is here*.

12 And it shall come to pass, **as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me:** but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

C. Obadiah's Faith, 18:14-16

1 Kings 18:14 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*: and he shall slay me.

15 And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, **I will surely shew myself unto him to day.**

16 So **Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him:** and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

III. THE CONFRONTATION AT CARMEL, 1 Kings 18:17-46

A. The Challenge Issued, 18:17-20

1. The Phony Accusation, v. 17 – "And it came to pass, **when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?**

2. The Prophet's Assertion, v. 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.**

3. The Proposal Addressed, vs. 19-20

1 Kings 18:19 Now therefore **send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel,** and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.
20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

a. The People – "...all Israel..."

b. The Prophets – "...and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty..."

B. The Contest Initiated, 18:21-25

1 Kings 18:21 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.

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress *it* first; for ye *are* many; and call on the name of your gods, but **put no fire *under*.**

1. The Thoughtful Challenge – “...How long halt ye between **two opinions?**”

2. The Two Choices – “...**if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him...**”

3. The Test Criteria

18:23 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.**

4. The Time to Commence

18:25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, **Choose** you one bullock for yourselves, and **dress it first**; for ye *are* many; and **call on the name of your gods**, but **put no fire under**.

C. The Caustic Intimidation, 18:26-28

1. The Exercise of Futility, 18:26

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. The Elaborate Farce, 18:27

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.**

3. The Emotional Frustration, 18:28

1 Kings 18:28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

D. The Convincing Incident, 18:29-39

1. The Meticulous Organization, 18:29-35

1 Kings 18:29 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.**

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.**

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

32 And with the stones **he built an altar in the name of the LORD:** and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34 And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

- The Ruination – Giving the opponents opportunity, v. 29
- The Request – Calling to the people, v. 30a
- The Repair – Repairing the altar, vs. 30b-32
- The Resistance – Soaking the materials with water, vs. 33-35

2. The Miraculous Operation, 18:36-39

- The Prayer, vs. 36-37

1 Kings 18:36 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.**

- The Power, v. 38

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.

- The Praise, v. 39

1 Kings 18:39 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.**

E. The Completion Implemented

1 Kings 18:40 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.

41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a sound of abundance of rain.

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

1. The Elimination of the Deceivers, v.40

1 Kings 18:40 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.

2. The End of the Drought, vs. 41-45

- The Contrast – Ahab eats and drinks while the man of God prays, vs. 41-42

1 Kings 18:41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a sound of abundance of rain.

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

- The Consistency – Elijah prays and expects rain.

1 Kings 18:43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, ***There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.***

- The Confidence – Warn Ahab that rain is coming.

1 Kings 18:44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, **Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.**

- The Confirmation – “...there was a great rain...”

1 Kings 18:45 And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and **there was a great rain.** And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

3. The Energy for the Distance, v. 46

1 Kings 18:46 And **the hand of the LORD was on Elijah**; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

- The thrill of victory is especially sweet to those who fought the fight.

On April 23, 1910, Theodore Roosevelt gave what would become one of the most widely quoted speeches of his career. Roosevelt delivered a speech called “Citizenship in a Republic,” which, among some, would come to be known as **“The Man in the Arena.”**

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/63389/roosevelts-man-arena>

Conclusion

2 Tim. 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Jas. 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord,** forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.