

Remnant Life Church
October 3, 2021
“Spiritual Warfare – Elijah’s Battle”
Pt 3

Elijah is a 8th century BC prophet of God living and ministering in the northern kingdom of Israel approximately 80 years after the kingdom divided following the death of Solomon

Elijah is hated and being hunted by King Ahab and his queen Jezebel but God has placed someone on the inside. The governor of Ahab’s palace, Obediah – a godly man

The 18th chapter gives the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel

The 19th chapter begins by telling us that Elijah is filled with fear and flees Jezebel into the mountains and hides in a cave.

The context of this account is important

1. Elijah is a powerful man of God
 - a. Elijah spoke the words that brought the 3-year drought (**I Kings 17:1**)
 - b. He is fed by ravens both morning and night (**I Kings 17:6**)
 - c. He speaks the words that allow the flour and oil to not run dry for 3 years to feed the widow woman and her son (**I Kings 17:14**)
 - d. God raised a young man from the dead through the prayer of Elijah (**I Kings 17:22**)
 - e. And then, in **I Kings 18**, we read of the great victory that God gave Elijah over the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel
2. Elijah is blessed, he is successful, he has influence, he has power, and he has the respect of the people as well as the fear of the king
 - a. Everything about Elijah says supernatural power given by the hand of almighty, creator God
 - b. Yet, note his response to what happens next
3. Jezebel then makes threatening remarks and vows to kill Elijah

How did Elijah respond?

- Did he stand up to the wicked queen in the name of the God of Israel?
- No, instead the Bible tells us that he became filled with fear and ran for his life (**I Kings 19:3**)
- Yesterday’s victories do not guarantee the outcome of today’s battles
 - But the reverse of this is also true
 - Yesterday’s failures or loses do not dictate what happens today
- And so, before we condemn Elijah, those we read about who failed, and even each other, let’s remember one thing, we are physical beings with limitations and struggles
 - Did Elijah lack faith in God? I don’t think so

- Was his fear caused by the fact that he believed Jezebel was greater than God? Certainly not.
- As we read on in this chapter, we discover that Elijah's problems were 90% physical
 - He was exhausted, he was famished, and he was burned out
 - Elijah did not need to have his faith increased, he needed sleep, food, and encouragement
- And so, God met Elijah's physical and emotional needs but He also corrected some errant thinking on the prophet's part
 - a. In verse 14 God gives Elijah instructions regarding the next kings as well as the next prophet to take his place
 - b. Then God reminded Elijah that he was not alone but one of 7000 that were still serving Him

Based on what we see with Elijah, I would like for you to consider several things to keep in mind as you face the spiritual battles each day:

- A. Get some rest and eat right!
 - a. I realize that life is busy, but you have more control over that than what you are willing to admit
 - b. If you don't rest, if you don't eat right your body will suffer and that will always negatively impact your thinking
 - i. The first thing that Elijah did when he got to Beersheba – he went to sleep
 - ii. Then God sent an angel to bring Elijah food and water
 - iii. He did it a second time
 - iv. The God came to Him personally to encourage him
 - c. This was the primary struggle Elijah was having that caused him to be afraid and run.
 - d. It was also a major contributor to his depression and thoughts of suicide
 - e. You must not neglect your physical needs
- B. Get into the Word of God
 - a. Nothing drives away the feelings of despair and hopelessness faster than the truth of God's Word
 - b. The enemy wants to rob us of our hope
 - c. What brings us hope?
 - d. *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*
 - e. Once we have tended to our physical needs we need to remind ourselves of God's promises
- C. Be grateful – Give thanks
 - a. It is impossible to feel joy, love, hope or any good thing when your heart is filled with dissatisfaction which leads to grumbling and complaining.

- b. Few things “irritated” God quicker than when the Israelites started to grumble and complain
 - c. Look at the what the Bible very clearly says about being grateful
 - i. *always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20*
 - ii. *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18*
 - iii. *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17*
 - iv. *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4*
 - d. The old song “Count Your Blessings” is a perfect reminder
 - i. Count your blessings name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God has done.
 - ii. What are you choosing to focus on your life?
 - iii. That is what will so often determine your level of gratefulness
- D. Finally, perhaps one of the most important elements of preparing yourself for the daily battles
- a. *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5*
 - b. In these two verses Paul tells us what the key to divine power is as well as how to destroy the strongholds of the devil...
 - c. **Take every thought captive!**
 - i. How do you do that?
 - ii. Certainly through discipline and prayer
 - d. But then, give your thoughts the “Jesus test” the moment they come into your thinking
 - i. Does this thought glorify Jesus?
 - ii. Would Jesus be pleased that I am thinking this way?
 - iii. Would others see Jesus in these thoughts?
 - e. **Our thoughts cannot control us unless we allow them to**
 - i. With God’s help we must be in control of our thoughts
 - ii. Our thoughts must also be centered on the godly, good things of life
 - f. *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8*

You have a choice in all these things

- Choose to take care of yourself; choose to be grateful; choose to surrender your thoughts and all of who you are to Jesus

- God is a good God. He is a God of love and joy, and He wants you to experience His goodness. But He has given you free will. You will live the way you choose.
- Elijah started off poorly when confronted by Jezebel
- But once he had his physical, emotional, and spiritual needs addressed he was ready to do battle
- You might be saying to yourself, “Does this really work?”
 - Consider the fate of the king, queen, and prophet
- Ahab and Jezebel lost their lives because of their great sin before God ([I Kings 22:29-38](#); [II Kings 9:30-37](#))
- Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind in a chariot of fire ([II Kings 2:11](#))

The spiritual battles are fought in the heavens, but your participation is a spiritual, emotional, and physical one in your everyday life

- Guard your heart
- Guard your tongue
- Keep your eyes set on the Father
- Take care of yourself
- The war has been won but the battles continue everyday
- You are on the winning side, so live that way and walk in the fullness of who and what God has created you to be!
- What is that?
 - To be more than a conqueror!