

8 – AHAB & ELIJAH – PART 1 (1 KINGS 16:29-18:19)

I. The Wickedness of Ahab (1 Kings 16:29-34)

A. The Nature of Ahab's Reign (1 Kings 16:29-30)

- In the 38th year of Asa's reign as king of Judah, Ahab became king over Israel.
- Ahab ruled as king over Israel for 22 years.
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord and it was more than the kings before him.

B. The Worship of Baal and Asherah (1 Kings 16:31-33)

- He went beyond the sins of Jeroboam and married Jezebel, daughter of the King of Sidonians.
- Ahab served Baal and set up an altar in the Temple of Baal in Samaria.
- Ahab also made a wooden image that provoked the Lord to anger.

C. The Rebuilding of Jericho (1 Kings 16:34)

- Ahab also gave permission to Hiel of Bethel to rebuild Jericho.
- The rebuilding of Jericho cost Hiel the lives of two sons.
- This was in accordance with the curse Joshua placed on any who rebuilt Jericho after its fall.

SCRIPTURE Joshua 6:26

Then Joshua charged *them* at that time, saying, "Cursed *be* the man before the Lord who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

II. The Prophet & The Drought (1 Kings 17:1-19:21)

A. Elijah Appears Before Ahab (1 Kings 17:1)

- The prophet Elijah came from Tishbe in Gilead, east of the Jordan.
- Nothing else is known about the origin of Elijah.
- Elijah told Ahab that it would not rain for a period of time until he spoke the word.

B. Elijah Flees to Cherith (1 Kings 17:2-7)

- The Lord told Elijah to flee to the Brook Cherith in the east as it flows into the Jordan.
- The ravens brought bread and meat in the morning and in the evening.

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- He remained by the brook until it dried up because there was a drought in the land.

C. Elijah Sent to Sidon (1 Kings 17:8-24)

1. The Widow in Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16)

- The Lord sent Elijah to a poor widow and her son in Sidon.
- The widow had only one final meal to eat when the prophet found them.
- She protested when Elijah told her to feed him.
- Elijah told her bin of flour and jar of oil will not run out until the drought has ended.

2. The Widow's Son (1 Kings 17:17-24)

- Sometime after these things, the son of the widow became seriously sick and died.
- The widow accused Elijah of being there to bring her sin to remembrance.
- Elijah took the son and went to the upper room and laid him on the bed.
- Elijah pray and asked the Lord why he brought tragedy on the widow.
- Elijah prayed that the boy's soul would come back and the Lord heard him.
- The boy revived and Elijah brought him downstairs to his mother.
- The woman proclaims that she now knows that he is a man of God and his words are truth.

D. Elijah Confronts Ahab (1 Kings 18:1-19)

1. Obadiah (1 Kings 18:1-16)

- In the 3rd year of the severe drought, the Lord told Elijah to present himself to Ahab.
- Obadiah was in charge of Ahab's house and he feared the Lord.
- When Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, Obadiah hid 100 prophets and fed them.
- Because of the drought, Ahab sent Obadiah in search of water for the animals.
- Elijah met Obadiah and he fell on his face before the prophet.
- Elijah told Obadiah to go tell Ahab that he was there.
- Obadiah stated that Ahab had searched everywhere to find Elijah.

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- Obadiah was afraid that he would be killed because the prophet might disappear again.
- He proclaimed that he had served the Lord from youth and had hidden the prophets.
- Elijah proclaimed that he would appear before Ahab, so Obadiah met and told Ahab.

2. Elijah (1 Kings 18:17-19)

- Ahab saw Elijah and asked if he was the troubler of Israel.
- Elijah stated that Ahab and his father's house have troubled Israel.
- Elijah pointed out that they had forsaken the Lord and followed the Baals.
- Elijah told Ahab to gather the prophets of Baal and Asherah to him on Mount Carmel.