

Never Bow to Evil

Part 2: Spirit & Power of Elijah: No Wavering Between 2 Opinions
(preached 1/9/21)

Please turn to *1 Kings 18*.

Sermon #1: Never Bow or Turn a Blind Eye.

- Evil exists because Satan is real.
- Evil has a purpose and a plan, which is to replace God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit with itself.
- Evil disciples people in its doctrine and lifestyle.
- We can never bow to it, pretend it's not there, or believe it doesn't concern us.
- When God calls upon us to do so we must resist and confront it as Jesus and the Apostles did.
- God's pattern is to raise up a prophet or leader and give him/her favor to prophetically confront the leaders and people of a nation.
- In said confrontation, the prophet would 1) qualify that it was God speaking, 2) names the evil being committed, 3) call for repentance, and 4) warn of God's wrath should repentance not take place.
- Are we too afraid of the risk to our lifestyles, relationships, jobs, businesses, and what not to speak up when we believe the Lord has prompted us to?
- Moses and Aaron refused to bow to the evil of Pharaoh and Egypt, continuing to deliver God's message despite getting lots of heat from both Pharaoh AND the Hebrew people.
- Deborah wasn't cowed by the Canaanite Army and their 900 unstoppable metal chariots bearing down on the Israeli Army. She rallied the men to victory.
- Esther didn't turn a blind eye to Haman's evil plotting to destroy her people, but risked everything by approaching the king during court, which was punishable by death, and pleading her case.
- David confronted evil when no one else in the Israeli army would, facing down a literal giant who taunted God and His people for 40 days.
- Gideon tore down the blasphemous altar of Baal, even though his own family members, including his dad, and the townsfolk where he lived were against him for doing it.
- Jeremiah continued to call out the wickedness of King Zedekiah even after spending "many days" in a septic tank.
- Jesus didn't merely love people and preach the Gospel: He called out the hypocrisy of the priests of His day, even calling them "whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones" and accusing them of "making disciples who are twice the children of Hell as they are." (Matthew 23:15).
- Jesus also confronted people who had strayed, calling them "slaves to sin" and telling them their father was the devil and not God (John 8).

- We are called upon the love people, but the love of God never never never compromises with or turns a blind eye to evil. Never.
- God's True love transforms a person from old self (flesh) to the righteous image of Jesus.
- False love affirms the flesh and the old self, perverting God's grace.
- Loving someone, or people in general, isn't mutually exclusive from a call for repentance from sin.

TODAY: ***we cannot continue to waiver between two opinions.*** Despite massive external forces which attempt to pressure, influence, and disciple us internally, we must remain standing upon the solid foundation of Christ and His Word.

- The Church is the Light of the world because Jesus is the One Who made it so.
- The rest of the world looks at us to see how we respond and what actions we take or don't.
- A wavering Church is a weak one that's not being a Light to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

DAYS OF ELIJAH? How many people remember singing the song "Days of Elijah"? The actual time of Elijah as we're told by the First Book of Kings, were similar to the way things are right now in the USA: it was a nation sharply divided.

NATION DIVIDED! Half the nation remembered the covenant they'd made with God and wanted to live that way:

- To have no other gods but Yahweh
- To keep the Sabbath as a day of rest and gathering together to worship and hear the Bible read.
- To live according to God's commands, make the proper sacrifices, and observe the holy days of feasts, etc.

PREFERRED JEZEBEL'S GODS. The other half of the nation saw those ways as outdated & old school, and liked what Queen Jezebel brought to their nation. Cancel culture existed back then too: they were trying to cancel covenant with God! Jezebel was worldly and hadn't been raised under covenant with God...she seemed "free" of all the rules and restrictions that God imposed. Her gods offered the chance the party, get drunk, fornicate, fulfill fleshly desires, and her prophets always said good things that made you feel better.

AHAB WEAK, CENSORSHIP. Even though her husband, Ahab, was king and was raised in the ways of God, he was weak and turned a blind eye to the evil Jezebel brought to their marriage, their house, and their nation. Many of the priests were corrupt and both secretly and openly worshipped Jezebel's gods and follow their ways. Like any wicked leader, Jezebel censored the true prophets of the Lord forbidding them from speaking God's word under threat of death. She killed some of the prophets, drove others from the nation, and the few who remained were allied with God but only in secret, fearing for their lives.

Any leader, organization, or company who censors the voice of opposition is not being inspired by God, but the spirit of the Antichrist.

GOD DOESN'T CENSOR. Revelation 13 states that the Antichrist will use his words to openly blaspheme Jesus, the church, God the Father, and the saints whom he martyred. Since this is in our future, he will no doubt use the powers of the MSM and Big Tech to make sure his message is being broadcast all across the globe. You know what? God allows it to happen. He doesn't send a fireball down to blow the Beast to smithereens when he says these terrible things.

TWO WITNESSES. Elsewhere in Revelation we see the two witnesses, who stand before the newly built Temple and before the Antichrist to prophesy AGAINST him. While the Bible doesn't record what they say, I believe they'll follow the same pattern God's prophets have always followed: 1) they'll call out the evil of the Beast, 2) they'll call upon the people to repent and not take the mark, 3) they'll warn of impending judgment and wrath on God's part and 4) [the Bible does record this!] they'll call down all manner of plagues upon the empire of the Beast, as often as they wish Scripture records, as punishment.

FIRE FROM THEIR MOUTHS. Do know there will be attempts to silence them? Their response is bizarre and I don't know how to take it, whether literally or symbolically, but John records that fire shoots forth from their mouths and burns up anyone trying to censor them.

KIDS. We certainly rebuke our children if they're mouthy, disrespectful, or curse...that's not censorship, that's discipline, the teaching of self-control, and good Biblical upbringing.

CENSORSHIP DEFINED. *The true definition of censorship is when an authoritative source, like a government, attempts to restrain or silence information it deems too dangerous and/or in opposition to its agenda and narrative.* Said sources have certain powers you and I do not: to pass legislation, fine, incarcerate, or lock your social media account.

FIRST KINGS. In the time of the First Book of Kings the people were at each other's throats because they were either going to remain in covenant with God, or they were going to make a new one with Jezebel's gods. The nation and its people were wavering between two roads forward.

THESE WERE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH.

ELIJAH & AHAB MEET. As of chapter 18, the Lord caused a 3.5 year draught to come upon the entire nation symbolizing the dryness of a nation that rejects the Lord, Who is life giving water as Jesus preached.

1 Kings 18:1-6 (ESV)

¹ 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.)

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.

A few things:

- Jezebel executed God’s prophets to silence them
- Obadiah, a prophet himself, ran an underground railroad to get 100 others into hiding.

1 Kings 18:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of 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.”

BLAME. Did you notice how Ahab blames Elijah for being a troublemaker? It’s time for a demonstration: Elijah vs. 850 of Jezebel’s prophets.

1 Kings 18:20-39 (ESV)

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

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

²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it.

²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.”

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first,

for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.”

²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.

²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”

²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.

²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown 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 came, saying, “Israel shall be your 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 seahs of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”

³⁴ 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 And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that 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 hearts back.”

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 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”

ONE OF TWO WITNESSE? Ironically...many people believe Elijah will be one of the Two Witnesses in Revelation I spoke to you about earlier due the last prophecy in the Book of Malachi stating Elijah will return and the fact that he was caught bodily up to Heaven and never died.

FIERY ELIJAH. My reading of Revelation shows he will be as “fiery” during the Tribulation as he was during this confrontation with Jezebel’s prophets. He will not bow to evil, but will confront it and eventually pay the price with his life.

AMERICA. I believe America stands at the same crossroads as ancient Israel in the days of Elijah: **WE WAVER BETWEEN BEING THE BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN NATION FOUNDED BY THE PURITANS AND OUR FF'S VS. BEING A GLOBAL, WORLDLY NATION THAT REJECTS GOD AND HIS WORD, FOLLOWING AFTER...OTHER GODS.** Other gods who encourage us to be shepherded by our own desires and to be gods ourselves, making our own rules and even identities.

PRAY! You and I cannot decide for the entire nation where it will go—for that we should and must continue praying His will be done, just as we did the other night.

DO WE NEED AN ELIJAH MIRACLE?

- Do we need fire to fall down from Heaven and burn up an offering so that we'll finally fall on our knees to worship the one true God?
- Do we need to see the ineffectiveness of Baal and other fallen angelic “gods” who truly aren't on the throne like Jesus is, and therefore don't have any real authority?
- Authority to decide what direction things go?

We've already had both of these demonstrations. The fiery wrath of God fell from Heaven upon the person of Jesus Christ while He hung on the Cross! Jesus absorbed the full brunt of justice upon His mighty shoulders for you and I!

NO ASHES. What's even better is that we weren't just left with ashes afterward. After Elijah's dramatic demonstration, the only thing left of the offering were worthless ashes and such was the letdown of sacrifice of the OC. The offering wasn't any good anymore. It was used up, null and void, and could give no more.

OFFERING SURVIVED WRATH. Not Jesus. He died...but He was resurrected 3 days later! In other words, the Offering survived the fire! Jesus, our Offering, still lives and death has no dominion over Him anymore! Now we see that we also received the 2nd part of Elijah's miracle: Baal rendered ineffective...to have no true authority. Jesus' death and resurrection was a major and decisive victory over Lucifer than cannot be reverse, defiled, or dampened in any way.

“If Satan is truly defeated, then why does it seem like he's winning in our country?!”

Because God allows it.

OFFENDED? If you're offended by that and thinking that God should have stopped _____ from happening, then at least be offended by something far worse: why was Jesus allowed to be rejected by His own people, beaten to a pulp, then dragged in front of Pontius Pilate to be judged? I consider that to be far more offensive than everything that's been happening recently.

Jesus was God! HE WAS GOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We rejected God! We rejected His teachings! We rejected His plan! Then we said horrible things about Him, and beat Him until He couldn't be recognized! Then we brought GOD and judged Him, crucifying Him! We tried to kill Him!

Yet what did Jesus say about this to Pilate?

John 19:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"

¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

It happened because God allowed it...not because Satan overcame or outplayed the Lord in some way.

- What if the truth were that Satan can only do what God allows, even during the Tribulation?
- I said it on Christmas Eve: God is the author of the Plan, of both the past and the future. Satan is only a character in this divine novel, not the author.
- I still believe in individual free will, yet why should we be afraid of an enemy who isn't sitting on the throne?
- Why should we bow to this enemy? Remember Psalm 23: The Lord prepares a table for us in the presence of the enemy—this is a victory table so we can rest our feet on the back of the enemy.

Colossians 2:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.