

Elijah

The man who took a stand!

I Kings 17: 1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers,^[a] said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"

2.18.24

Taking a stand means to "Adopt a firm position about an issue". dictionary.com

A few terms.....

Elijah

Ahab.....

Jezebel

Baal

- I. Taking a stand
- A. Elijahs "stands"

The pronouncement of drought

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The personal confrontation with Ahab

18:16¹⁶ Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him. Then Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, the one ruining Israel?"

¹⁸ He replied, "I have not ruined Israel, but you and your father's family have, because you have abandoned the LORD's commands and followed the Baals.

The confrontation of the people of Israel

18:21²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions?^[a] If the LORD is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word.

The confrontation with the prophets of Baal

18:22²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The God who answers with fire, he is God."

The pronouncement of the future of Ahab and his family

21:20

He replied, "I have found you because you devoted yourself to do what is evil in the LORD's sight. ²¹ This is what the LORD says:^[a] 'I am about to bring disaster on you and will eradicate your descendants:

- B. What are our "stands"?
- C. Common denominators in taking a stand

--We must take stands based on scripture.

17:2² Then the word of the LORD came to him:

Convictions are not merely beliefs we hold; they are those beliefs that hold us in their grip.

Albert Mohler

--We must place doing over feeling.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding;

The presence of fear does not mean you have no faith. Fear visits everyone. But make your fear a visitor and not a resident.

Max Lucado

II. The aftermath of taking a stand (For Elijah and us)

Anger and aggression by others

19:2² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don't make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow!"

Fear

19:3 Then Elijah became afraid^[a] and immediately ran for his life.

Loneliness

19:4 but he went on a day's journey into the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. He said, "I have had enough! LORD, take my life, for I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree.

Many who convert to Christianity as Muslims are lonely!

Depression

19:4 He said, "I have had enough! LORD, take my life, for I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree.

Self-pity and over exaggeration

19:10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of Armies, but the Israelites have abandoned your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are looking for me to take my life."

Close:

The Lord delights to surprise us with His goodness, if only we will unlock the door of obedience with the key of faith - which He has given - and then push it open and walk through.

Charles R. Swindoll