

Elijah and Obadiah

1 Kings 18:1-16

Waiting

Day - each day is important to God and each day is important to us - even though we can look back at years we live day-to-day.

"But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:8-9

El Olam - The God of Eternity - Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Isaiah 40:28-29

Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding.

The Situation

For more than three years, due to Elijah's prayer and prophecy before Ahab and his court, there had been no rain. As a result, there had been pain, misery, death, hunger, and starvation. And with that, there had also been anger, hate, feelings of revenge, all aimed at the prophet--especially by King Ahab and his court. In this regard, note Elijah's new title in 18:17. He was seen as "the troubler of Israel." He was blamed as the cause and seen as a curse.

Elijah was blamed, Ahab was seeking to kill him.

Obedience

Yet, Elijah still obeys God to present himself to Ahab.

What make is it difficult to trust God in hard situations?

What stops us from following God at times?

We can have a...

(a) fear of failure, (b) fear of rejection, and (c) fear of loss

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear), but of power and love and discipline (a sound mind)."

Elijah feared the Lord - not Ahab.

Obadiah Misses

Obadiah worked for the king's court - could have been part of Elijah's prophetic school or influence.

- There seemed to be a ***misconception*** about trials or difficult assignments. He evidently saw them as one of God's means of punishment for sin (vs. 9).
- There was a ***misdirection*** of his focus. Obadiah had his eyes on the problems rather than the Lord.
- There was a ***mismanagement*** of his mind. His imagination took hold of what terrible things could happen.
- There was also a ***misplacement*** of his confidence or faith. It seems he was trusting more in his past performance than in the ever present reality of God's presence and power.

Elijah's answers Obadiah's Fears

1. He proclaimed God's identity and character - "Lord of Hosts"
2. He pointed his call and commitment.
3. He promised not to let Obadiah down.

Helpful applications

1. Find a builder/mentor for your life. Are you facing the challenge of a ministry opportunity, but find you are fearful? Then find a mature believer and seek their encouragement and guidance to strengthen your trust in the Lord.

2. Encourage someone who is going through a tough time. Perhaps you know of someone who is facing the challenge of a ministry opportunity, but is holding back because of fear or anxiety. Then try to reach out to encourage them.
3. Evaluate what God has called you to. What has God called you to do? Are you confidently obeying him? Are you fearful of ministry opportunities? Then evaluate your thinking.
4. Walk in faith not fear, trust in the Lord - he will keep us safe.