

The Great Deception

*How To Keep From Falling Away in the Last Days
(Part 6)*

By Pastor Grant Williams



2 Timothy 3:1 KJV

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times (spiritually difficult times) shall come.

2 Timothy 3:1 AMPC

1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous (spiritually difficult) times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

Satan has been and will continue to use: Government/laws, education, media and the deceived/duped church to influence culture. As followers or imitators of Jesus Christ we need to keep up our guard, not live in fear or worry, but live in such a way that we don't fall away and finish the race strong!

Matthew 10:16 KJV

16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16 AMPC

16 Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and [without falsity]) as doves.

Why would Jesus say this? Remember, Paul told us it would be spiritually difficult to be a Christian and Jesus tells us, I need you to be My witness and make disciples but know, it will be difficult so you need to know the characteristics of the enemy.

Matthew 10:16 wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and [without falsity]) as doves

The serpent is a very sharp sighted, cunning creature, and uses various strategies for its own preservation, and especially of its head; it is to be imitated by the followers of Christ, as to make use of all proper methods to preserve themselves from the insults and rage of men, and not expose themselves to unnecessary dangers: they should be careful to give no just occasion of offense, or irritate, to avoid all snares and traps that are laid for them; and, at the same time, maintain the innocence and harmlessness of the dove, being free from all wicked cunning and craftiness, without bitterness, hate and wrath; not meditating and seeking revenge, but meek (long-suffering or patient) and humble (low estimate of one's own worth - God's will and not my will or pride be done) in their deportment (manners and behavior), leading inoffensive lives, and proceeding in the course of their calling, though liable to many insults, and much oppression.

Remember, satan is crafty, he is subtle. Adam and Eve were physically walking and talking with God daily and they were deceived.

Genesis 3:1 AMPC

1 Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?

One of the things that we are going to be getting into in a few weeks which I would like to lay down a little ground work tonight is, don't be known for just pointing out bad fruit, but be known for having good fruit yourself! And that good fruit is not derived from just pointing out the bad fruit.

Matthew 7:12-29 KJV

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:12-29 AMPC

12 So then, whatever you desire that others would do to and for you, even so do also to and for them, for this is (sums up) the Law and the Prophets.

13 Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and many are those who are entering through it.

14 But the gate is narrow (contracted by pressure) and the way is straitened and compressed that leads away to life, and few are those who find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves.

16 You will fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

17 Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration], but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit.

18 A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration].

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.

20 Therefore, you will fully know them by their fruits.

21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

23 And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].

24 So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them] will be like a sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock.

25 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man who built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great and complete was the fall of it.

28 When Jesus had finished these sayings [the Sermon on the Mount], the crowds were astonished and overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His teaching,

29 For He was teaching as One Who had [and was] authority, and not as [did] the scribes.

We need to watch out for one another but also lift each other up. Even the pastor, whose job it is to make sure that the Church is growing spiritually, is to utilize the same methods. They are to be preaching meat, preaching sin, judgment, righteousness and about the things to come to prepare the Church for the promise!

Not just everyone or everything is bad (no faith) or everything is wonderful and just keep a smile on your face (false hope). We need to teach, preach and live the whole counsel of God's Word.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 AMPC

11 Therefore encourage (admonish, exhort) one another and edify (strengthen and build up) one another, just as you are doing.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 AMPC

1 I charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by (in the light of) His coming and His kingdom:

2 Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold,

4 And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.

So, we need to be mindful, wise, not afraid, & fruitful which is all possible through the power of the Holy Spirit - Jesus said we could do all of these things. He wouldn't command us to do something that we couldn't do. He is not a liar. (Number 23:19)

The Church, government/laws, education and media play a key role in the development or the growth of our seed (good or bad seed). The Holy Spirit will guide us (the whole armor) into all truth in all of these areas.

Luke 6:45 KJV

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth (flings) that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Luke 6:45 AMPC

45 The upright (honorable, intrinsically good) man out of the good treasure [stored] in his heart produces what is upright (honorable and intrinsically good), and the evil man out of the evil storehouse brings forth that which is depraved (wicked and intrinsically evil); for out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart his mouth speaks.

What we feed on, what we take in, what we meditate on must be through the filter of God's Word. The soil, the areas that the seed or His Word (heard and read) needs to be in softened by the environment of the Holy Spirit. His Word is Truth...not sometimes but all the time, not yesterday or for another time, but always.

John 17:17 AMPC

17 Sanctify them [purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy] by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.

We need to speak God's Word in the midst of the chaos, the wickedness that we see now and that is still to come as a promise from God's Word so we know to get prepared and not scared.

Proverbs 18:21 AMPC

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].

Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

4 Where the word of a king is, there is power:

Ecclesiastes 8:4 AMPC

4 For the word of a king is authority and power

Micah 4:9 KJV

9 Now why dost thou cry out aloud? is there no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

Micah 4:9 AMPC

9 Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king among you? Has your counselor perished, that pains have taken you like a woman in labor?

We have been looking at Jezebel and the spirit of or characteristics of Jezebel in regards to these areas of influence, these areas where the seed can be influenced. Our thoughts, actions, fears or faith - we choose what to do with the information, faith without action leads to death. (James 2:26)

I want to show you in God's Word what happened to the never wrong Prophet Elijah when encountering Jezebel. This evil wicked person Jezebel (or spirit of) can and will attack not just when everything around us is bad and wicked but going through a victorious season in your life. From job promotion, newborn child, marriage, first home, miraculous healing, etc. We all have different seasons in our lives and we need God's Word.

We need to recognize how the enemy works. Just as we studied how Jesus was tempted by satan with government, education, media and religion while He was fasting and praying or humbling himself (Matthew 4) before He began to fulfill the reason why He came to earth.... You and I need to do the same, For Such A TIME AS THIS!

When tempted to believe something else, to go along with the crafty and subtle ideology and word of satan, He replied, IT IS WRITTEN. The Bible also says that satan left and came back to try at a more convenient time. Satan comes back around, so don't take off your armor because you and I are going through a triumphant season. A "take off your mask season", eat at restaurants at full capacity season, summer in Michigan, 15 month mandate of business and social distancing has lessened...

Luke 4:13 AMPC

13 And when the devil had ended every [the complete cycle of] temptation, he [temporarily] left Him [that is, stood off from Him] until another more opportune and favorable time.

Biblical Definition of *the (a) Remnant*:

...what remains when the others have left

God has and is training and raising up a remnant to put a stop to anything that is against the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Elijah was a remnant. The remnant are those who survive calamity, that survive battles, that survive false teachers. The remnant keeps on standing when others don't, that keep surviving when others won't. The remnant is bold when others won't even open up their mouths.

At the time of Jezebel, when she was killing off the seed of the prophets, there was still a remnant that did not fall.

1 Kings 19:18 AMPC

18 Yet I will leave Myself 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.

1 Kings 19:18 MEV

18 Still, I have preserved seven thousand men in Israel for Myself, all of whose knees have not bowed to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

That remnant may have been temporarily hiding in a cave but they still have not bowed. They might have been afraid of Jezebel (she was killing the men of God) but they still would not compromise the Word of God - that is the remnant.

At the time of Athaliah, who was the daughter of Jezebel, the Bible says that she killed or destroyed the royal seed.

2 Kings 11:1 KJV

1 And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

1 Peter 2:9 KJV

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

1 Peter 2:9 AMPC

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Websters Dictionary 1828

(definitions based on God's Word)

PECU'LIAR, adjective

[Latin peculiaris, from peculium, one's own property]

1. Appropriate; belonging to a person and to him only. Almost every writer has a peculiar style;
2. Singular; particular;
3. Particular; special;
4. Belonging to a nation, system or other thing, and not to others.

There are many people in the United States along with the current administration and many pastors, preachers, teachers, authors and Christian college professors/presidents, that wish that the true Church of Jesus Christ or the Remnant would just go away. They are constantly asking/stating why don't you get out of here?

Just as a reminder to everyone, we will be leaving, just not on their time table!

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

In our past studies, I have shown you in the Bible where there are cycles that keep repeating themselves prophetically over and over again. When you start with the first Jezebel in the Bible, there is an Elijah there and when you go to the book of Revelation at the End of Time, there is a woman riding a beast, who is called a harlot.

Revelation 17:3-6 KJV

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

That spirit of Jezebel was slaying and murdering saints in the Old Testament and we have this harlot in Revelation who is drunken with the blood of the saints. We know that the spirit of Jezebel is coming on stronger, and just like the prophets or the remnant had to rise up in the Old Testament, God is and will raise up His remnant at the End of Time to come up against the false spirit that is trying to tear down the Church.

So, what happened to Elijah? How does he parallel our lives as we face the Jezebels today? First, I want to give you a little background on Elijah in Chapter 17 which is the set up for this story in 1 Kings 18.

Elijah - The Drought

Elijah appeared in the land of Israel at a crucial time. The land of Israel was then divided into two kingdoms: the kingdom of Judah and the kingdom of the Ten Tribes.

On the throne of the latter sat King Ahab, but the true ruler of the land was his wife, queen Jezebel, originally a Phoenician princess who never gave up her Phoenician way of life. Her influence was very great, not merely over her husband but throughout the kingdom.

As a result, the worship of the Baal, the god of the Phoenicians, spread with ever greater force, and was the cause of the trouble in the land of Israel. One day the Prophet Elijah and King Ahab (i.e. church) met. The never wrong Prophet Elijah warned the king of the divine punishment that would be visited upon his land if he did not abolish idol worship and did not cause a general return of all Israel to God.

Ahab scoffed at the idea, saying: "Didn't Moses already warn us in the Torah that the rain would cease and the land would not give forth its produce, if we should worship other gods? Yet, nothing happened as yet!"

2 Peter 3 scoffers and mockers will come saying...Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly as they did from the beginning of creation.

"God has been patient with you, but you don't seem to realize it. Now you will see that not merely shall Moses' words be fulfilled, but mine also. I tell you in God's name that as from today there shall be no rain until I shall say the word!"

From that day years of drought and famine began in the Land of Israel. The famine spread even abroad, beyond the borders of the land, so that no bread could be purchased for its weight in gold!

Elijah - The Ravens Feed Elijah

God told Elijah to withdraw to a deserted place, by the brook of Cherith near the Jordan. "Of the brook you will drink, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you", God promised him. Twice daily, in the morning and in the evening, the ravens came and brought him bread and meat from the royal table of the King of Judah.

Imagine the king's surprise when the ravens swooped down upon his table and disappeared again with part of his meal! When this became a regular occurrence the king ordered that a special portion of bread and meat be served with his meals, and the ravens never failed to pick it up.

1 Kings 17:5-7 GNT

5 Elijah obeyed the Lord's command, and went and stayed by Cherith Brook.

6 He drank water from the brook, and ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening.

7 After a while the brook dried up because of the lack of rain.

Some time elapsed, and God's Word came to Elijah commanding him to go to the land of Sidon, where a noble Jewish woman would provide his food.

When Elijah reached the gates of Zarephath in the land of Sidon, he saw a woman gathering sticks. Elijah called to her, "Please bring me a little water and a morsel of bread".

"All I have," answered the good woman, "is a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a cruse. I was just going to prepare the last meal for my child and myself. Shall I give it to you?"

"Fear not," the prophet assured her. "Go and bake a little cake for me first, and then you will bake some cake for yourself and your son. For these are the Words of God: 'The jar of meal shall not waste, nor shall the cruse of oil fail, until God sends rain and the famine will be over!'"

It was a test that required great faith, but the woman did not hesitate. She went and did as the man of God, Elijah asked her, and to her amazement...the handful of meal never seemed to grow less, nor was the oil diminishing for many days!

Before Elijah left her, he had occasion to repay her for her kindness. It came to pass that her little son fell very sick and was about to die. All hope to save his life seemed at an end, Elijah prayed to God and revived him.

1 Kings 17:21-24 GNT

21 Then Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times and prayed, "O Lord my God, restore this child to life!"

22 The Lord answered Elijah's prayer; the child started breathing again and revived.

23 Elijah took the boy back downstairs to his mother and said to her, "Look, your son is alive!"

24 She answered, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the Lord really speaks through you!"

In the meantime (paralleling with Elijah), Jezebel, the wicked queen, continued to persecute *the true prophets*, and anyone who dared to speak in the name of God of Israel was immediately put to death at her command. But right in her very palace was a man who, at great risk to his very life, tried to save the remaining true prophets of Israel.

Obadiah

Obadiah was a court official (later became a famous prophet) in charge of the household of the King; a steward and manager of the palace and all its affairs. This meant he had a high position and the responsibility of leadership himself. He was also a believer who feared the Lord and was a man of faith. Because of his faith he had hidden 100 prophets from Jezebel in 2 secret caves, and sustained them with bread and water. (Water was even scarcer than bread, for there had been no rain for years.) Jezebel, however, thought that she had exterminated all the true prophets, and that only Elijah was left.

Officers were then sent throughout the land to find Elijah, but they could not find him. However, when the time came for him to make his appearance, he did, fearlessly.

It was in the third year of the famine that God told Elijah to appear before King Ahab. The king had already recognized that the famine was God's punishment, but he was still wavering between right and wrong, and **it was Elijah's task to let the king and all the Jews recognize the truth and cause them to return to God with all their hearts.**

1 Kings 18 AMPC

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 the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly;**

4 For 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 into the land to all the fountains of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, that we lose none of the beasts.*

6 *So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went one way and Obadiah went another way, each by himself.*

7 **As Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. He recognized him and fell on his face and said, Are you my lord Elijah?**

8 *He answered him, It is I. Go tell your lord, Behold, Elijah is here.*

9 **And he said, What sin have I committed, that you would deliver your servant into the hands of Ahab to be slain?**

10 *As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they said, He is not here, he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they had not found you.*

11 **And now you say, Go tell your lord, Behold, Elijah is here.**

12 And as soon as I have gone out from you, the Spirit of the Lord will carry you I know not where; so when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared and revered the Lord from my youth.

13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water?

14 And now you say, Go tell your lord, Behold, Elijah is here; and he will kill me.

15 Elijah said, As the Lord of hosts lives, before Whom I stand, I will surely show myself to Ahab today.

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, Are you he who troubles Israel?

18 Elijah replied, I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, by forsaking the commandments of the Lord and by following the Baals.

19 Therefore send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of [the goddess] Asherah, who eat at [Queen] Jezebel's table.

20 So Ahab sent to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel.

21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you halt and limp (waver) between two 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, I only, remain a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

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

24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the One Who answers by fire, let Him be God. And all the people answered, It is well spoken.

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, Choose one bull for yourselves and dress it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.

26 So they took the bull given them, dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, O Baal, hear and answer us! But there was no voice; no one answered. And they leaped upon or limped about the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is musing, or he has gone aside, 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 knives and lances until the blood gushed out upon them.

29 Midday passed, and they played the part of prophets until the time for offering the evening sacrifice, but there was no voice, no answer, no one who paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, Come near to me. And all the people came near him. And he repaired the [old] altar of the Lord that had been broken down [by Jezebel].

31 Then 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 Elijah built an altar in the name [and self-revelation] of the Lord. He made a trench about the altar as great as would contain two measures of seed.*

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

34 *And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.*

35 *The water ran round about the altar, and he filled the trench also with water.*

36 *At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Lord, the 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 *Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You, the Lord, are God, and have turned their hearts back [to You].*

38 *Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust, and also licked up the water that was in the trench.*

39 *When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and they said, The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!*

40 *And Elijah said, Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one escape. They seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and [as God's law required] slew them there.*

41 *And Elijah said to Ahab, Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of abundance of rain.*

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he bowed himself down upon the earth and put his face between his knees

43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up and looked and said, There is nothing. Elijah said, Go again seven times.

44 And at the seventh time the servant said, A cloud as small as a man's hand is arising out of the sea. And Elijah said, Go up, say to Ahab, Hitch your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.

45 In a little while, the heavens were black with wind-swept clouds, and there was a great rain. And Ahab went to Jezreel.

*46 The hand of the Lord was on Elijah. He girded up his loins **and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel [nearly twenty miles].***

Obadiah was a court official, manager of the palace and all its' affairs. He had a high position and the responsibility of leadership. He lived a life being obedient to God's Word, habitually practiced - not perfect, but it was his habit. He had done great things for God, he had hidden 100 prophets from Jezebel. Like all of us, however, his faith needed further growth and maturity. And he needed encouragement.

God is in the business of stretching us, for His purpose and for such a time as this. We all like to stay within the comfort zones & keep our head down just like Obadiah, but God had other plans for him--just as He has for us. It was God's plan to use the younger prophet to announce Elijah's presence to Ahab.

Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 18

- o God told Elijah to call together the 450 priests of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah.
- o Elijah asked the people, "How long will you waver between two opinions?"
- o Holy Ghost fire came down from heaven, consuming the sacrifice on Elijah's altar.
- o When all the middle-of-the-road believers saw this, they all fell on their faces and worshiped the Lord!
- o The people then realized they had been duped.
- o Their exposure to the worthless idolatry had kept them under bondage.
- o So they took those 850 heathen priests and slew them all!
- o Then Elijah told King Ahab, "Get ready for rain!"
- o He went up on the mountain and prayed down a mighty thunderstorm, ending the drought.
- o Then the Spirit of God fell upon him - and Elijah outran Ahab's chariot for sixteen miles, back to the palace in Jezreel!
- o 1 Kings 18:46 "And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah".