

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Kings 18:26-29**.
- B. This is the second in a series of three sermons on the life of Elijah the prophet.
- C. In the first sermon, taken from 1Kgs. 17, we learned by example the power of God's providence, the power of one's personal faith, and the power of prayer.
- D. Tonight we continue our series and will focus on these three things;
 - 1. Introduction to Elijah.
 - 2. Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
 - 3. The conclusion of his life (with a post mortem experience).
- E. Tonight's lesson is Part 2, with Part 3 to be given June 12, Lord willing.

I. INTRODUCTION TO ELIJAH.

- A. Nothing is known of his parents, family history or early childhood. His birthplace is called Tishbek and he is known as Elijah the Tishbite.
- B. He was a man rugged in appearance and dress (2Kgs. 1:8).
- C. Figuratively speaking, he is also known as a forerunner of John the Baptist (Mal. 4:5-6; Mt. 3:4; 11:9-14; Lk. 1:17).

II. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL.

- A. Scripture text: 1Kgs. 18:22-46.
- B. Verses 20,21 teach:
 - 1. We must take a stand for or against the truth.
 - 2. Jesus said there is no middle ground (Mt. 12:30).
- C. Verse 22 teaches:
 - 1. Popularity never determines truth.
 - 2. The odds are 450 to 1 that Jehovah is the true God!
- D. Verses 23-25 say:
 - 1. Elijah and the Baal prophets were to be judged by the same standard.
 - 2. This is also true today (Jn. 12:48).
- E. Verses 26-29 say:
 - 1. Elijah gave the false prophets every opportunity for Baal to answer.
 - 2. Today we should always give people a chance to be heard because in their "testimony" we can teach them more perfectly.
- F. Verses 30,31:
 - 1. Elijah rebuilt the old altar, he didn't make a new one.
 - 2. We need to restore the original church not make a new one.
- G. Verses 32-35:
 - 1. Due to the great drought Elijah added insult to injury when poured the water on the altar.
 - 2. Therefore when fire came from heaven it would be just that, no tricks.
- H. Verses 36-38:
 - 1. Elijah showed the great power of prayer and the great power of God.
 - 2. When the truth is known, God is glorified.

III. CONCLUSION OF HIS LIFE.

- A. Scripture text: 2Kgs. 2:1-14.
- B. Elijah hands over his responsibilities to Elisha. They walk past Bethel, Jericho and then came to the Jordan river.

- C. The mantle was a large cape which Elijah sometimes wore as a sign of his being a prophet. The saying of "transferred the mantle" comes from this passage.
- D. Then Elijah does not see death. He is taken up to heaven by chariots in the clouds.
- E. Elijah later appears with Moses and Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-8).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Tonight's lesson on the life of Elijah has shown the following:
 - 1. How Elijah was the forerunner of John the Baptist.
 - 2. How the power of God was displayed on Mt. Carmel.
 - 3. How Elijah gave the mantle to his successor Elisha.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.