

The Light Has Overcome the Darkness (1 Kings 18: 1-15)

- Chapter 18 reaches the climax of the story with Elijah facing off against Jezebel
- The deeper issue is that of Yahweh rising up to display the impotency of Baal
- The LORD God has been preparing Elijah for this dramatic contest with Baal
- Elijah was taught through dry spells, drought both physically and spiritually
- He watched God provide food to a widow in poverty, raised her son from the dead
- For 3½ years he beheld the God of glory at work & could testify I saw God do it

I. The God of Light Versus the Prince of Darkness

- Shift in Elijah's ministry: 17:1 "hide", now 18: "present yourself to Ahab"
- The prophet returns to public life and the famine of God's Word comes to an end
- The famine from the drought will soon end: "For I will send rain on the land" 18:1
- One more account shows how bad the famine was: contrast Obadiah & Ahab
- Ahab, a king, was meant to be a shepherd, but he cared only for himself
- Obadiah, at great risk to himself, hid the prophets of God & fed them in a famine

II. The Cost of Walking in the Light

- When we represent God and people hate Him, we are most likely going to suffer
- In Elijah's day many prophets were killed, others hidden, his life was at risk
- This is the lot of the righteous, when Christ entered the world they hated him
- Elijah, a man just like us: we can share his boldness & his opposition in the world
- Some occasions it is wise to flee from persecution, but that is not always possible

III. Contrasting the Light: Elijah and Obadiah

- Obadiah, criticized for serving the king. Wrong! He greatly feared the Lord (3)
- God's saints are found in all places, even in Caesar's very household (Phil 4:22)
- Jesus did not pray that we be taken out the world but protected from evil
- But Obadiah had faith, and God kept him from evil and he was able to serve there
- Elijah and Obadiah also represent the different models God uses for His kingdom

IV. God's Challenge for Christians to Walk in the Light

- Elijah about to enter battle, Obadiah afraid, Elijah reminds him of God (v15)
- The last & greatest prophet, Jesus, would face the enemy too, God vindicated Him
- We too must remember, whoever tries to save his life will lose it (Mark 8:35)
- Elijah was not ashamed of God's Word, we must trust God (Mk 8:38; Rev 12:11)