

# Elijah and Obadiah

1 Kings 18:1-18

## I. PREVAILING CONDITIONS

### A. It had been a long time. (v. 1)

1. **Waiting for the Lord requires faith.** (Num 23:19; Hab 2:3). God will surely do what He says.

a. **We should remain faithful.**

b. **We should keep our eyes on the Lord, waiting for His next direction.**

2. **Acting at the proper time requires discernment.** (Jn 7:6-8; Mat 26:45-46)

3. **One course of action is not always appropriate in every situation.** (Ecc 3:1, 7; Jer 10:23)

### B. The famine was severe. (vs. 2, 5)

1. **Horses**—military strength; compromising national security

2. **Mules**—commercial infrastructure; transportation, trade

## II. POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE

### A. Conflicting Characters

#### 1. Jezebel

a. **A religious zealot**

b. **A brutal tyrant**

2. **Obadiah**—in charge of king's household; important administrative position

a. **A brave believer** (vs. 3-4)— a man of conscience

b. **A frightened human being** (vs. 9, 12, 14)

### B. Providential Assignment

1. **Employed by a wicked government**

- a. **Integrity in Office**—honesty and public trust (Dan 6:3-4; Lk 3:12-14)
  - b. **Fear of God**—ultimate allegiance (v. 3; Dan 6:5, 10; Acts 5:29)
2. **Helping God's people** (Gen 41:57 & 50:20; Est 4:14)
- a. **God's servants are strategically placed everywhere to assist His people.**
  - b. **Every position of authority God gives us is at His service.**  
(Col 3:23-24)

### III. **POINTING THE FINGER** (vs. 17-18)

#### A. **Ahab accuses Elijah of causing trouble for Israel.**

- 1. He **challenges** the nation's idolatry
- 2. He **delivers** God's message
- 3. He **imposes** the drought (Js 5:17)  
— *The one who opposes you might be standing between you and total destruction!*

#### B. **Elijah redirects the blame to Ahab.** (v. 18)

- 1. He has **abandoned** the LORD. (Deut 29:23-26)
- 2. He has **followed** the Baals. (Deut 6:12-15)—spiritual adultery

#### C. **Sin has consequences.**

- 1. It is not the one who **rebukes** but the one who **sins** who has caused the trouble.
- 2. If we abandon the LORD, we abandon the **source of blessing**.

# His Love Can Never Fail

Indelible Grace/*Beams of Heaven* Album  
Words by E.S. Hall; Music by Christopher Miner  
Vocals by Derek Webb

I do not ask to see the way  
My feet will have to tread;  
But only that my soul may feed  
Upon the living bread.  
'It's better far that I should walk  
By faith close to His side;  
I may not know the way I go,  
But O, I know my Guide.

CHORUS:

His love can never fail, His love can never fail  
My soul is satisfied to know His love can never fail  
My soul is satisfied to know His love can never fail

And if my feet would go astray,  
They cannot, for I know  
That Jesus guides my faltering steps,  
As joyfully I go  
And tho' I may not see His face,  
My faith is strong and clear,  
That in each hour of sore distress  
My Savior will be near.

Chorus

I will not fear, tho' darkness come  
Abroad o'er all the land,  
If I may only feel the touch  
Of His own loving hand,  
And tho' I tremble when I think  
How weak I am, and frail,  
My soul is satisfied to know  
His love can never fail.

Chorus

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIJOv5nw1g0&feature=share>  
(Vocals by Derek Webb)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dNbvD-OBB4&feature=share>  
(Vocals by Michael Smith)—with lyrics