

Gleanings of Grace

1 Kings 18:17-46 and 19:1-18

Lesson 12

In this section of 1 Kings, we have the story of the prophet, Elijah, as he confronted Ahab, the King of Israel, and the prophets of Baal. Elijah was thought to be a *troubler of Israel* by Ahab. Truly, Ahab was the *troubler of Israel* as he had *forsaken the commandments of the LORD* and *followed the Baals*. Elijah put forth a challenge. Sadly, the children of Israel made no commitment until the Winner was revealed. May we be women who boldly proclaim the LORD we have chosen to follow.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Kings 18:17-46

1. Read 1 Kings 18:17-46 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD* and each of the people marked as key words.
Key Words: *LORD, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Baal and its prophets, the people/children of Israel*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used nine times in 1 Kings 18:17-46. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used two times in 1 Kings 18:17-46. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

Background:

1. The prophet Elijah first appears in 1 Kings 17:1. He came to Ahab, King of Israel, with a word from the LORD. What was it?
 - a. The phrase *word of the LORD* was used five times in 1 Kings 17 (verses 2,5,8,16, & 24). Choose two of the instances and record what God told Elijah.

- b. Considering these instances, what do you surmise about Elijah?
2. In 1 Kings 17:1, Elijah told king Ahab, *there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word*. In 1 Kings 18:1, the *word of the LORD* came to Elijah again. What did He say?

Read 1 Kings 18:17-29

1. In 1 Kings 18:17, we find Elijah meeting with King Ahab for the first time since he pronounced that it would not rain. There was a severe famine in the land. Ahab's wife, Jezebel, had massacred the prophets of the LORD. Elijah had managed to escape their search for him for three years. Obadiah had hidden 150 prophets. What did Ahab call Elijah? verse 17
- a. In what ways can a man of God be a *troubler* to some people?
- b. The true *troubler of Israel* was King Ahab. What reasons for this accusation did Elijah give in verse 18?
2. 1 Kings 18:19 begins with the words, *Now therefore*. Elijah was about to expose the powerlessness of the god Baal. What did Elijah tell Ahab to do?
- a. Ahab *sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel*. What did Elijah *say to the people*? verse 21
- 1.) The children of Israel *were faltering* between *following the LORD* and *following Baal*. What are some examples of *faltering* that people do today?
- a.) Describe the word *follow* as it relates to this verse.
- 2.) We are all tempted to *falter* between God and something or someone else. How would you personally describe times when you find yourself considering following something other than God?
- a.) Describe the word *follow* as it might relate to choices people make today.

b. Rather than *falter*, what challenge did Elijah put before the people?

1.) Why do you think *the people answered him not a word*?

3. Using the 1 Kings 18:22-25, summarize Elijah's instructions.

4. What did the prophets of Baal do? verse 26

a. What was the result of their efforts?

5. Describe the intensified scene as the prophets of Baal continued their efforts in vain. verses 28-29

a. Put yourself in the sandals of the children of Israel. What are some of the thoughts that might have crossed your mind as you witnessed this supposed standoff between a god and The God?

6. Consider the words of Isaiah in Isaiah 40:18-20 regarding idols. What does God want us to understand about idols?

a. Now consider God's counter in Isaiah 40:21-29 as He describes His strength and creative powers. What do you think God wants us to understand about Himself?

Read 1 Kings 18:30-40

1. Elijah switched his attention from Baal to the altar of the LORD. According to verses 30-35, what did Elijah do?

2. *At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice*, Elijah prayed. What did he pray? verses 36,37

3. What happened after Elijah prayed to the LORD that was different from what happened when the prophets of Baal sought their god? verse 38

4. How did the people respond?
 - a. *You have turned their hearts back to You again.* Why does the realization of the power of God tend to affect the hearts of His people?

 - b. What are some attributes of God that, when you discovered them, your *heart was turned to Him*?
 - 1.) Share the affect it had on you.

Read 1 Kings 18:41-46

1. These verses depict the fulfillment of the word of the LORD through Elijah, that God would send rain. Write, as you would a newspaper article, the account of these verses.

2. As we observe how God used Elijah, we may be prone to think of him as some super person. James 5:17,18 should encourage us. In what way(s) are you encouraged?
 - a. We should also be challenged. In what way(s) are you challenged?

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Kings 19:1-18

1. Read 1 Kings 19:1-18 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD* and each of the people marked as key words.

Key Words: *LORD, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Baal and its prophets, the people/children of Israel*

3. The contrasting words *but* or *yet* are used five times in 1 Kings 19:1-18. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read 1 Kings 19:1-10

1. This chapter exposes to us that Elijah was indeed a man with a nature like ours. King Ahab told his wife, Jezebel, all that Elijah had done on Mount Carmel. *Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah.* What was the message? verse 2
 - a. Elijah had just demonstrated great faith and boldness on Mount Carmel. What was his response to Jezebel's threats? verses 3,4
 - 1.) What is the exhortation of 2 Corinthians 5:7?
 - a.) In what ways was Elijah *walking* by sight and not by faith?
 - b. God's remedy for Elijah was of a physical nature. What did the *angel of the LORD* do? verses 5-8
 - 1.) Why is it important to take care of our physical needs, even when we are in a spiritual battle?
 2. *Elijah went into a cave...and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"* What was Elijah's response?
 - a. Elijah felt alone. Why is it often a tactic of the enemy to encourage us to think we are *alone* in what we are doing?
 - 1.) What are some of the thoughts we might have when we feel *alone*?
 - 2.) How might feeling *alone* cripple us?
 - b. What is God's promise to us in Hebrews 13:5b?
 - 1.) In what ways is this promise a source of comfort to you?

Read 1 Kings 19:11-18

1. Record God's response to Elijah's fears by filling in the blanks for verses 11-12.

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, _____; and after the wind an earthquake, _____; and after the earthquake a fire, _____; and after the fire _____.

2. God again asked Elijah, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah's response was the same as recorded in verse 10. God then told Elijah to anoint three people. Who were they and what would each of their titles be?
3. In verse 18, God addressed Elijah's statement, "I alone am left." What did God tell Elijah?

REVIEW: Read 1 Kings 18:17-46 and 19:1-18

1. How would you describe Elijah from what is revealed about him in:

Chapter 18

Chapter 19

2. Using 1 Kings 18, what did you learn about:

The prophets of Baal

The god Baal

The children of Israel

The LORD God

3. What can we learn from 1 Kings 19 about our misperceptions about God and our situation?

*And they brought them to the magistrates, and said,
"These men (Paul and Silas), being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;
- Acts 16:20*

May we, like Elijah, and like Paul and Silas,
be known for being *troublemakers* by those who oppose our God!

Observation Worksheet

1 Kings 18:17-46

Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" ¹⁸ And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." ²⁰ So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. ²³ Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken." ²⁵ Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare 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 which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. ²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. ²⁹ And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention. ³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. ³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." ³² Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." ³⁴ Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. ³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. ³⁶ And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and 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 are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ Now 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 to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook

Kishon and executed them there. ⁴¹ Then 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 drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, ⁴³ and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again." ⁴⁴ Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' " ⁴⁵ Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Kings 19:1-18

¹ And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." ³ And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. ⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" ⁵ Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." ⁸ So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." ¹¹ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. ¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸ Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."