

## The CHOICE is Yours ~ 1 Kings 18

### INTRODUCTION

**Deuteronomy 5:6-7** (NLT) I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. <sup>7</sup> You must NOT have any other god but ME.

**Joshua 24:14-15** (NLT) <sup>14</sup> So fear the LORD and serve HIM wholeheartedly. Put away FOREVER the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD ALONE. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then CHOOSE today whom you will serve. ...But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

### Elijah RETURNS to Israel ~ 1 Kings 18:1-16

<sup>1</sup> Later on, in the third year of the drought, the LORD said to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!” <sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to appear before Ahab. Meanwhile, the famine had become very severe in Samaria. Meanwhile, the famine had become very severe in Samaria. <sup>3</sup> So Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. (Obadiah was a devoted follower of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Once when Jezebel had tried to kill all the LORD’s prophets, Obadiah had hidden 100 of them in two caves. He put fifty prophets in each cave and supplied them with food and water.) <sup>5</sup> Ahab said to Obadiah, “We must check every spring and valley in the land to see if we can find enough grass to save at least some of my horses and mules.” <sup>6</sup> So they divided the land between them. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. <sup>7</sup> As Obadiah was walking along, he suddenly saw Elijah coming toward him. Obadiah recognized him at once and bowed low to the ground before him. “Is it really you, my lord Elijah?” he asked. <sup>8</sup> “Yes, it is,” Elijah replied. “Now go and tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’” <sup>9</sup> “Oh, sir,” Obadiah protested, “what harm have I done to you that you are sending me to my death at the hands of Ahab?” (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> But Elijah said, “I swear by the LORD Almighty, in whose presence I stand, that I will present myself to Ahab this very day.” <sup>16</sup> So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet Elijah.

### IMPLICATION

#### Obadiah’s CHOICES... PC

- he Chose to serve \_\_\_\_\_ doing his \_\_\_\_\_
  - he Chose to \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to work in his situation
- Lam. 3:25** (NLT) The LORD is good to those who DEPEND on Him...
- If FAITH in God can survive in Jezebel’s court it can survive

### SHOWDOWN on Mount Carmel ~ 1 Kings 18:17-39

<sup>17</sup> When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, “So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?” <sup>18</sup> “I have made no trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the LORD and have worshiped the images of Baal instead.

<sup>19</sup> Now summon ALL Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who are supported by Jezebel.” <sup>20</sup> So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel.

<sup>21</sup> Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you WAVER... between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him. But if Baal is god, then follow him.” But the people were completely SILENT.

**Elijah gives them the CHOICE it is \_\_\_\_\_ -or- the \_\_\_\_\_ but NOT Both**

<sup>21</sup> ...How long are you going to be PARALYZED by indecision? (NET)

<sup>25</sup> Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls, and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood.” <sup>26</sup> So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had made. <sup>27</sup> About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You’ll have

to shout louder," he scoffed, "for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!"<sup>28</sup> So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out.<sup>29</sup> They raved all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was no sound, no reply, no response.<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down.<sup>31</sup> He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel,<sup>32</sup> and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the LORD. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons.<sup>33</sup> He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood."<sup>34</sup> After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said,<sup>35</sup> and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.<sup>36</sup> At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, PROVE today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. PROVE that I have done all this at your command.<sup>37</sup> O LORD, answer me! Answer me SO these people WILL KNOW that YOU, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."<sup>38</sup> IMMEDIATELY the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!<sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The LORD - he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!"

## IMPLICATION

**Elijah was calling Israel back to** **and** **to GOD and GOD ALONE**

**Isaiah 45:5–7** (NIV)<sup>5</sup> I am the LORD, and there is NO other; apart from ME there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me,<sup>6</sup> SO THAT from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is NONE besides ME. I am the LORD, and there is NO other.

**Luke 16:13** (NIV) No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

**1 Timothy 6:6–10** (NIV)<sup>6</sup> But godliness WITH contentment is great gain.<sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.<sup>9</sup> People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

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## TAKE AWAY ??

**John 3:16** (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**1 Peter 3:10–12** (NLT)<sup>10</sup> For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies.<sup>11</sup> Turn away from evil and do good Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

**Ephesians 4:29** (NIV) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

<sup>12</sup> The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers. But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil."