

/Let us begin with the eleventh lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 1 Kings chapter 18. / In 18:1-6, / God's command came to Elijah during the severe drought. / God said that he would rain down on the land after three and a half years of drought.

/Humans, as well as horses and mules had nothing to eat because of the drought. / Water was also rare. / God's word came to the people in such times. / God looks after his people after a set time of punishment for the people's sins.

/Because the sins were too great at the time, the people would return to God only after they received great punishment. / They suffered a lot because there was no rain fell on the land for three and a half years.

/When anyone experiences great disaster, he thinks about the cause of it. / The people must have thought that they were suffering because they were tricked by Jezebel and because they worshipped Baal and Asherah.

/God sent Elijah to King Ahab in such times. / King Ahab summoned Obadiah, the palace administrator, and they went through the land searching for water.

/At the time Jezebel was killing off God's prophets, and Obadiah hid a hundred prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and he supplied them with food and water. / Obadiah risked his life to save the prophets during a time of tribulation, which was a greatly worthy deed.

/In verses 7-15, / Elijah meets Obadiah. / Elijah met Obadiah who was searching for water. / Then Elijah told Obadiah to report to Ahab, "Elijah is here."

/However, Obadiah was reluctant to report to the king that he had seen Elijah. / This was because the king had sent someone to search nations and kingdoms for Elijah. / Whenever a nation or kingdom claimed Elijah was not there, the king made them swear on it.

/Obadiah was reluctant because he would be killed if God sent Elijah to another place after he reported, "Elijah is here." / Obadiah knew that God would not let Elijah die in the hands of King Ahab.

/In verses 16-19, Elijah meets Ahab and tells him to gather all the prophets in Mount Carmel. / After Obadiah heard Elijah, he was relieved and told King Ahab that he met Elijah.

/King Ahab met Elijah and tried to make him take responsibility for the drought. / Elijah replied that it was not him, but Ahab and his father's family who brought such trouble on Israel.

/The drought came because King Ahab and Jezebel abandoned the LORD's commands and followed the Baals. / Even in today's time, we must consider the cause of sufferings in these two things. / The sin of breaking God's commands and the sin of idolatry.

/We must look for the cause of our suffering in the Bible and examine it. / Elijah gathered 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah on Mount Carmel, and suggested that the king find out the cause of suffering in Israel.

/In verses 20-24, Elijah says that the God who answers them with fire is the true God. / Ahab agreed and gathered 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah on Mount Carmel.

/The people also went up Mount Carmel. / To the people gathered on Mount Carmel, Elijah shouted, "How long will you waver between two opinions?"

/The people who were tricked by Jezebel suffered for three and a half years, and yet, they did not return to God and hesitated between God and idols.

/This shows us how difficult it is to get out once we fall to deception. / It is the calling of true prophets to make people realize this. / Elijah shouted, "If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

/Elijah taught the people that the one who answered by fire was the real God. / Then the people agreed. / Because God is alive and true, he can answer by fire, but because idols are not God, they cannot answer by fire.

/False prophets have some power, but only as much as God allows. / Because fire represents God's presence, an answer by fire was the same as God being present and working in that place.

/In verses 25-29, / no answer comes from the gods of false prophets. / They built an altar in the morning and got a bull, and they begged Baal to answer them, but it became noon and there was no response.

/Elijah taunted them and their god. / Hearing this, they became rash and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom. They asked and prayed until evening, but no sound or answer came.

/The devil can deceive and trick people, but he is powerless before God. / The falsity of idols was clearly revealed before the people.

/In verses 30-38, / the LORD answers Elijah by fire. / It was Elijah's turn, and he told the people to come closer, and he repaired the altar of the LORD.

/He took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Jacob, and built an altar. / He did this to remind the people of their ancestor Jacob.

/Just as Jacob was once corrupted and became Israel after his repentance, / the people could restore their faith when they repented of their sins and corruption, and returned to God.

/Elijah also did this to remind them of the grace God showed the twelve tribes long ago. / Then he told the people to pour out water around the altar and the trench. / The priests sacrificed offerings in the evenings, and Elijah followed the custom and prayed.

/It is important that we believers set a time of praying during the day and pray every day at the set time. /Elijah held on to God's word and prayed, confident of victory.

/Elijah prayed that the people would know that he was God's servant and that he had done everything at God's command. / God answered with fire.

/The fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. / Seeing this, the Israelites knew that the LORD alone was the true God.

/In verses 39-40, / Elijah has the false prophets slaughtered. / Elijah had the prophets of Baal seized, and the people seized them and brought them down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered them there. /Elijah killed all 850 false prophets of Baal and Asherah.

/In verses 41-46, / Elijah prays and rain falls down. / God told Elijah through spiritual inspiration that there would be rain. / God lets prophets know first, and then God works.

/The reason God allowed rain to fall / was because of the prayer of Elijah on Mount Carmel, the repentance and return of the people, and the liquidation of sins through the death of the false prophets.

/Elijah climbed to the top of the mountain to pray. / Elijah went up the mountain to pray because he needed to ask God for rain, even though God told him that it would rain.

/He went up to the top of the mountain to pray more fervently. / It says that he put his face between his knees. / This showed that he humbled and denied himself, and he prayed with a sincere heart.

/We must not give up after praying for something just once or twice. We should pray without stopping, until the seventh time, until we reach the complete number. / We must not stop praying, but pray until the certain time when God will surely answer our prayers.

/When the servant went the seventh time, he saw a cloud as small as man's hand forming in the sea. / Then Elijah told the servant to tell Ahab, / "Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you."

/The small cloud became bigger, and heavy rain fell. / We must not look down on the small things. / God's work gradually gets bigger until it is fulfilled.

/Hearing this, King Ahab hitched up his chariot and went to Jezreel, where his palace was. / Ahab went on his chariot, and Elijah tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of the king by the power of God.

/The king must have been going down at a fast speed because his horses were of best quality. / Elijah ran with great speed, since he outran the horses. / Like this, we can outrun the horses of the world with the power of God.

/In 19:1-4, / Elijah falls asleep under a broom bush. / King Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he killed all the prophets of Baal and Asherah. / Jezebel was a daughter of the king of the Sidonians.

/She brought Baal and Asherah, which she worshiped in her country, into Israel and caused the Israelites to sin. / She then sent a messenger to Elijah with the declaration that she would kill him about this time tomorrow.

/Upon hearing this, Elijah went to Beersheba to save his life. He left his servant there and went a day's journey in the wilderness. / He ran for his life because he would die if he got caught.

/As Elijah sat under a broom brush, he prayed that he would die. /The broom bush grows in dry valleys in desert, and it is said that it grows to be about 3.5 meters in height.

/He prayed that he would just die because he realized that he was weak and lacking, and he had no more reason to live. / Elijah fell asleep because he was physically tired, but he also fell asleep spiritually.

/Even the greatest prophets have times of temporary spiritual slumber. / No matter how strong a person may be, he becomes weak and lacking in discernment if his faith falls asleep. / Why did Elijah's faith fall asleep? What was the cause?

/First, he was disheartened because he failed at external things, and he was fleeing. / Second, he was afraid of sufferings. / Third, he had affections for his physical body.

/Fourth, he wanted to see quick results in the things he did. / Fifth, he had it in his mind that he needed to do God's works. / Sixth, he did not believe in the power of God. / Lastly, he did not believe that God would personally work.

/In verses 5-8, / Elijah wakes up and goes to Mount Horeb. / God sent an angel who touched the disheartened Elijah who sat under the broom tree.

/God did not leave Elijah to remain in his state of spiritual slumber. God woke him up and sent an angel. / The angel of the LORD came second time and told Elijah, "Get and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

/Hence, Elijah ate and he arrived at Mount Horeb, the mountain of God, after forty days and forty nights of travel. / Like this, God takes care of his servants and makes them continue God's works.

/ God gives them food through angels or ravens.

/Bread symbolizes God's word and water symbolizes the work of life. / After Elijah traveled forty days and forty nights, he arrived at the mountain of God. / It was difficult reaching the mountain of the LORD.

/Forty is a number of suffering. / We believers must face sufferings until we reach that point, and we must press on towards the spiritual Mount Zion.

/In verses 9-11, / the LORD appears in Mount Horeb. / The LORD told Elijah the following when he reached Mount Horeb. / "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

/Then Elijah replied that the Israelites rejected God's covenant, tore down God's altars, and put his prophets to death with the sword, and he was the only one left. / Elijah prayed more than he did under the broom tree, but he did not pray a proper prayer.

/Elijah still had affections for his physical life in one hand and the Israelites in the other, and he thought he needed to work. / As Elijah stood in front of the cave and before the LORD, wind, fire, and earthquake reacted before the LORD.

/First, a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks. / Second, there was an earthquake. / Third, there was a fire. / Yet, the LORD was not in it in any of them. / This showed that these were not the LORD's work of life.

/In verses 12-14, Elijah hears a gentle voice. / Elijah thought that God's works were going well because fire came from the sky and the false prophets were killed, and Elijah tried to find God in the midst of it.

/True Christianity is not in these external things, but internal things. / A gentle and quiet voice was heard after the wind, fire, and earthquake passed.

/A gentle voice can only be heard in quiet and secret places. / It cannot be heard in complicated, noisy, and rowdy places. / All external inspirations, things to be fired up about, and things that we want to do must all pass. We must die and become quiet, and then we will gain internal inspiration and recognize God's truth.

/We must hold onto that gentle voice so our spirits can grow and become strong from it. / Proper faith is following God's word that is understood through a gentle inspiration, and proper faith is also the growth of our spirits.

/Hearing the gentle voice, Elijah pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. / When the LORD asked him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" he replied that he had been very zealous for the LORD, and also told God about his own problems.

/Even here, Elijah was unable to leave his life in God's hands. / He also did not know that he was completely incompetent.

/In verses 15-18, / God gives Elijah a calling. / God gave him three callings. / First, Elijah was to anoint Hazael king over Aram.

/Aram was a foreign nation, and matters concerning foreign nations were to be properly taken care of. / Second, he was to anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king of Israel. / This means that one must have a proper view of corrupted churches.

/Third, he was to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed him as prophet. / This means that we must choose successors to build up the true church.

/There was one thing the foreign nation (Hazael) did wrong. / The corrupted church (Jehu) would rule over it, and what the corrupted church did wrong, the true church (Elisha) would correct.

/At first, a just unbeliever comes forward and purifies the world a little. / Next, a corrupted church purifies it a little more. / Then lastly, the true church will purify the world according to Scripture and advance the kingdom of God.

/Elijah thought that he was alone, but God told him that he reserved seven thousand prophets in Israel. / There were seven thousand prophets who did not bow down to idols and were in hiding. / There are two kinds of believers.

/First, there are those who hold onto their faith by hiding. / Second, there are those who witness the truth and shed light in the world while encountering many sufferings. / The latter type of

believer is better than a thousand believers in hiding.

/In verses 19-21, Elijah calls Elisha. / The disheartened Elijah heard the gentle voice and repented, and he met Elisha on his way to obey God's word. / It is possible that Elisha's family was rich, considering he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen and had several servants.

/Elijah threw his cloak around him, which symbolized God's power that was put on Elisha. / When Elisha said that he wanted to say good-bye to his parents, Elijah gave him permission to do so.

/Elisha slaughtered his yoke of oxen and gave it to the people. Elisha then took care of all worldly matters, did not linger in his affections, got up and followed Elijah.

/In 20:1-6, / Ben-Hadad king of Aram invades Israel and sends a message to the king of Israel. / Aram was located north of Israel, and it came to attack Samaria. / Ben-Hadad here is Ben-Hadad II.

/Ben-Hadad remembered that his father defeated Israel, and he came to attack Israel accompanied by thirty-two kings.

/The king of Aram sent his messenger to say, "Your silver and gold are mine, and the best of your wives and children are mine." / To this King Ahab replied, "I and all I have are yours." / Ahab responded in this way because he was afraid of the great army of Ben-Hadad.

/Yet, the king of Aram sent another message, "I sent to demand your silver and gold, your wives and your children. But about this time tomorrow I am going to send my officials to search your palace and the houses of your officials. They will seize everything you value and carry it away." / He meant that he would search not only Ahab's palace, but the houses of his officials as well.

/In verses 7-12, / Ahab refuses the request. / Hearing this, the king of Aram became furious and said, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if enough dust remains in Samaria to give each of my men a handful."

/What was Ahab's reply to this? / "One who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off." / "One who puts his armor" refers one who prepares for battle. / "One who takes his armor off" refers to one who has already won the battle.



/Ahab was telling Ben-Hadad to stop being arrogant and proud as if he had already won the war. / Ben-Hadad heard this message while he was drinking. Then he ordered his men to prepare to attack Samaria.

/In verses 13-15, / the prophet tells Ahab the way to victory. / God gave the king of Aram over to Ahab not because of his righteousness or goodness, but because the sins of the king of Aram were greater than the sins of the house of Ahab.

/God told Ahab, “You start the war, and the young officers will fight.” / In order to defeat the power of the devil, we must run forward like young people every day and have faith that bears fruit of life.

/In verses 16-21, Ahab defeats the army of Aram.

/In verses 22-30, the army of Aram attacks a second time, and Ahab wins the battle again. / The prophet told the king, “Strengthen your position and see what must be done, because next spring the king of Aram will attack you again.”

/Because humans tend to become arrogant and are prone to sin in times of success, God sent the prophet once again. / When the king of Aram attacked again, the Israelites camped opposite them like two small flocks of goats, while the Arameans covered the countryside.

/However, God granted victory to King Ahab, giving the Aramean army to the hands of King Ahab. /However, Ahab freed Ben-Hadad and made a treaty with the king.

/In verses 35-43, the prophet rebukes Ahab. / Ahab committed the sin of freeing the person whom God had decided to kill. / As a result, he would die in place of Ben-Hadad. / Sullen and angry, King Ahab returned to Samaria.

/With this we will conclude the eleventh lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.