

## **BEHOLD, ELIJAH IS BACK!**

In this lesson we meet Obadiah (servant of Yahweh), a top advisor to King Ahab, who was on his way to meet with King Ahab when he was suddenly stopped by Elijah - "Behold Elijah is back!"

An important conversation ensued that would change Obadiah's meeting with King Ahab. This conversation is important to our study because it will fill-in some missing points as to why Elijah left Israel and why the Brook and Zarephath directive?

(1 Kings 18:10) As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent to search for you; and when they said, 'He is not *here*,' he made the kingdom or nation swear that they could not find you.

**This lesson will study three aspects of the sudden return of Elijah to Israel, "Behold, Elijah is back!"**

### **1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletic points.**

(1 Kings 18:7-8)	Sudden appearance of Elijah in Israel
(1 Kings 18:9-11)	Search through nations for Elijah for 3 ½ years
(1 Kings 18:12-14)	Scarred to death in life
(1 Kings 18:15)	Second time Elijah spoke to Obadiah, especially important (1 Kings 18:8, 15)
(1 Kings 18:16)	Special message to be delivered to King Ahab

This conversation revealed a real threat to Obadiah's life as well as to Elijah's life (1 Kings 18:9, 12, 14).

**NOTE: Pay special attention to an important doctrinal point that will be part of the studies of (1 Kings 18-19).** Both Obadiah and Elijah will be forced outside their comfort zones to face and spiritually address their greatest fears in order to walk worthy of their calling.

(Eph.4:1) "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord (Undeserved Suffering), implore you **to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.**"

(Phil.1:29) "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake"

### **2. While the word FEAR is not used in our lesson text, it is obvious that Obadiah is experiencing it!**

(1 Kings 18:9) He said, "What sin have I committed, that you are giving your servant into the hand of Ahab to put me to death?"

(1 Kings 18:12) It will come about when I leave you that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you where I do not know; so when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.

(1 Kings 18:14) And now you are saying, 'Go, say to your master, "Behold, Elijah is here"'; he will then kill me."

What Obadiah fears is based on a false assumption because it has not happened! **Remember** a false assumption, leads to a false expectation, which leads to a false interpretation, leading to a false application! (Book of Job)

**There are two sources of fear** in believer's life:

- Satan's Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly viewpoint) fear
- God's New Man (Divine Viewpoint) fear.

**Satan promotes** Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly viewpoint) fear!

(Heb.2:14) "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, **that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**" (2 Cor.4:3-4; 1 John 3:12).

**God promotes** New Man (Divine Viewpoint) fear!

(Ps.111:10a) "The fear of the Lord **is the beginning** of wisdom."

(Ps.23:4) "**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.**"

**3. Facing and spiritually replacing these two systems of fear is important to progressing in spiritual growth and in walking worthy of our ministry opportunities.**

(Prov.3:25-26) "**Do not be afraid of sudden fear nor of the onslaught of the wicked** when it comes; **for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.**"

(2 Tim.2:26) "And they may come to their **senses** and **escape from the snare** of the devil, having been **held captive by him to do his will.**"

**Both Obadiah and Elijah** will be forced out of their comfort zones to face the reality of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly viewpoint) fear and to replace it with New Man (Divine Viewpoint) fear.

(Prov.29:25) "The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted."

**Ahab will not follow their lead** (secondary Negative Volition).

**4. The same Directive Will of God given to King Ahab 3 ½ years ago, will be presented a second time by Elijah (1 Kings 17:1; 18:1).**

**Doctrinal point:** God and His word are immutable and do not change with the proverbial weather (Heb.6:18; 13:8; Jas.1:17).

**The Directive Will of God** is presented to both Positive Volition and Negative Volition.

It is presented to those with Positive Volition, those whom **God desires** to use in moving the Plan of God forward in biblical history (the bigger picture) (2 Tim.3:16-17).

- **God desires** to use The King, his top advisor, and the Prophet of the priest-nation to lead a spiritual awakening to their generation.
- **God desires** the Divine Agency to be good custodians of the word of God and evangelism. Today it is the body of believers of the Church of Jesus Christ (Ambassadors) (2 Cor.5:17-21).
- **God desires** the Church to be the light to the world whether the nation appreciates or hates it! (John 8:12; 12:35-36; Eph.5:8-9; Rev.1:20; 2:5) (Ephesus)