

LESSON 4—March 28, 2021

Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:
Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant
Unit I: Faithful Prophets

Lesson Titles:
The Bearer of Bad News
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
Elijah: Prophet of Courage
(Townsend Press Sunday School
Commentary)

Devotional Reading:

Luke 19:28-39

Background Scriptures:

1 Kings 18–19; Matthew 17:1-13

Print Passages:

1 Kings 18:5-18

Key Verse(s):

He answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim. (1 Kings 18:18, KJV)

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"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals." (1 Kings 18:18, NIV)

► **Questions to Consider:**

1. What led to the three-year drought in Israel?
2. Why was Obadiah reluctant to deliver Elijah's message?
3. What was Elijah's message to Ahab?

► **Lesson Context:**

- **Elijah** told King Ahab that there would be no **rain** for three years.
- After making his announcement, Elijah was told by the Lord to leave Samaria.
- At the opening of Chapter 18, Elijah obeys God's **command** to go and meet King Ahab and announce to him that the three-year drought and famine was over (see 1 Kings 17:1).

► **Lesson Aims:**

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Compare Elijah's response to speak to Ahab to that of Obadiah's response to report back to Ahab.
- Gain a sense of Obadiah's concerns when reporting Elijah's message to Ahab.
- Act in boldness when speaking the Word of God.

► **Lesson Outlines/Key Points:**I. A **Futile** Search (1Kings 18:5-6)

Key Point 1: God had withheld the **rain** because His own people had turned from Him, the true God, to serve other gods.

Key Point 2: Ahab refused to **repent**.

II. **Fearing** the Authority (1 Kings 22:7=16a)

Key Point 1: In the third year after the predicted drought, God ordered Elijah back to Israel.

Key Point 2: Obadiah followed the prophet Elijah's instructions even though it meant he could lose his **life**.

III. **Confronting** the Source of Evil (1Kings 18:16b-18)

Key Point 1: God sent Elijah to Ahab again, giving him yet another **chance to repent**.

Key Point 2: God was proving to Ahab and the nation that it is God who **controls** the rain, not their gods.

► Lesson Summary:

- The Lord is still calling for those who love Him to be true and faithful to the charge of obeying His commands – to worship Him and Him alone, the one and true God.
- The church must not be afraid to raise a standard against sin and proclaim a message of truth rooted in God's love and holiness.
- Yes, God punishes sin, but by His grace, He lovingly offers a way of escape for all who are willing to repent.

► What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. Why does it appear to be easier to use our own selfish means of solving self-generated spiritual challenges?

2. What do you think of Obadiah's reluctance to deliver Elijah's message? Why do you think he recounted his commitment to God and compassion for God's prophets?

3. How would you rate your church's boldness in biblically confronting sin? To your knowledge, does your church have policies governing the public or private discipline of leaders or members who commit known sin?

► As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
