

THE MASTERCRAFT: “THE GOD OF ELIJAH”

MAY 31ST, 2020

THE GOD OF ELIJAH

1 Kings 17 – 2 King 2

Presents the life of Elijah; who understood that he is a royal priesthood & a holy nation, and that he has been chosen by God to declare the praise of God.

Cross references:

1 Peter 2:9 says “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:5

⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house(temple) to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
(Sadly, some of us live like papers, blown around by the wind, instead of -solid like stone- spiritual house)

Eph 4:14 “..we won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching or be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like truth.”

“He got the power that enabled him to:

- cause the heavens to withhold rain for 3 and 1/2 years: 1 King 17:1
- render a barrel of flour inexhaustible: 1 King 17:12-16
- raise the dead: 1 King 17:17-24)
- called down fire from heaven: 1 King 18: 25-29
- Parted river Jordan with a clock in his hands: 2 Kings 2: 7-9

Elijah, like all of us, was not born with the power he exhibited, he was chosen (just as we are chosen). God then built him into a power house because he handled his selection in earnest.

James 5:17 “Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years!”

Even Jesus was not born with power:

Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, **for God was with him.**”

God's power comes to anyone who earnestly asks/seek/knock:

Matthew 7:7-9 says, "7Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 9Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?"

Each child of God has been called. Each person needs to earnestly ask, seek and knock, God will give him/her power to show His praise in our calling/domain.

Elijah's earnest life as a royal priesthood, holy nation and his commitment to show God's praise was so acceptable and worthy that he was translated and taken from the earth in a chariot of fire. He did not die an ordinary death.

Brethren, if we "walk out our salvation with fear and trembling", this behaviour will position us to be accepted by God and He will build us up with His power and enable us make great impact, within our domain/calling, like Elijah.

In each of his actions, Elisha showed the praise of God

For example, Elijah raised the dead: 1 Kings 17:17-24

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” ¹⁹ ...” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this child's life^[a] come into him again.” ²² And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, “**Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.**” (He caused the woman to praise God)

Brethren, there is always a selection, will you be selected for God's work? And some people get selected but they make no impact because of wrong approach. They fail to realize that their ability to make impact will come from the Spirit, so they disconnect with the Spirit and try running in the physical or nature-based, canal

When Peter was selected, he thought it was merely physical work or structure but it's not, it is Spiritual and requires spiritual mind and understanding:

Matthew 17:

1After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared before them, talking with Jesus. 4Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. (Peter was happy that he was selected). "If You wish, I will put up three shelters —one for You, one

one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Peter wanted to make impact but he had a wrong approach. It should not be canal, physical structures or just what man can see. It must be about the spiritual things.

Peter ought to be asking the question “what is the spiritual implication of what is going on and how should I respond?”

Peter was thinking on only “physical/canal” level but Jesus wanted him to think “spiritual” first.

2 Corinthians 4:18 says “so we fix our eyes not on what is seen (physical), but on what is unseen (spiritual implication), since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Matthew 17: 5 While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!” **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown in terror. **7** Then Jesus came over and touched them. “Get up,” He said. “Do not be afraid.” **8** And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. It was a vision (vs9)

Conclusion

Brethren, in Elijah, we see **faith, obedience, courage and selflessness**

We also see **human: fear, ups/downs feels of not getting enough for what he sows** -1 King 19 ¹⁰ replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, .., and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left..."But God told him I have 7,000 men. Being human is normal but when we fall, we must rise-up quickly.

We are called to make impact but we must understand that physical achievement leans on Spiritual foundation and we must stay connected to that foundation because that is what will make our efforts be both sustainable and enduring there.

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last."

May the God of Elijah lead us to greatness. **GOD BLESS YOU!**