

Elijah & David

1 Kings 18:21-39 . . . And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

²³ "Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox, and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it.

24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people answered and said, "That is a good idea."

25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made.

27 And it came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."

*28 So they cried with a loud voice and **cut themselves** according to their custom with swords and lances until the **blood gushed out on them**.*

29 And it came about when midday was past, that they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

32 So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.

33 Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."

34 And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

35 And the water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

- 36 Then it came about at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it **be known that Thou art God** in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word.
- 37 "Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that **this people may know that Thou, O LORD, art God**, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again."
- 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.
- 39 And when **all the people saw it**, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God."

1 Samuel 17:31-47 ³¹ When the words which David spoke were heard, they told them to Saul, and he sent for him.

³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

³³ Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,

³⁵ I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

³⁶ "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."

³⁷ And David said, "**The LORD who delivered me** from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, **He will deliver me** from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

³⁸ Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor.

³⁹ And David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." And David took them off.

40 And he took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.

43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.

*46 "This day **the LORD will deliver you up into my hands**, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that **all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel**,*

*47 and that **all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear**; for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."*

48 Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

50 Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand.

51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

52 And the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron.

When God displays His glory by doing a miracle, He wants everyone to see it. Why?

Because it motivates confidence in Him and courage towards the problem so that we can have spiritual victories.

Spiritual victories are based on what God does for us, not on what we do for Him.

1 David's victory in killing the lion and the bear gave him confidence to fight Goliath.

2 David's victory over Goliath gave the the army of Israel confidence to defeat the Philistines.

3 Paul also had victories:

2 Timothy 4:16-18 . . . At my first defense, no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

¹⁷⁾ But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me in order

that through me, the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I **WAS** delivered out of the lion's mouth.

¹⁸ The Lord **WILL** deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Principle:

VICTORY
is built on
VICTORY

God did great things for David because he gave God the glory.

People who take all the credit for themselves don't have victories like Elijah, David, and Joshua.

These same people are the ones who take none of the blame.