

The Faith of Elijah

Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 11:32 "*the prophets*" are mentioned in connection with their faith.
2. The prophets:
 - a. are included in the great "*cloud of witnesses*" mentioned in Hebrews 12:1
 - b. served in the past as God's spokesmen (Hebrews 1:1).
3. One of the greatest prophets was Elijah.
4. Review (1 Kings 17-18:16):
 - a. Elijah is introduced in 17:1.
 - 1) He served as a prophet when Ahab was king of Israel.
 - 2) Ahab had influenced many Israelites to worship Baal (1 Kings 16:29-33).
 - b. Elijah demonstrated his faith by following God's instructions to go to:
 - 1) a place where ravens would supply him with food (17:2-7)
 - 2) Zarephath where a widow would sustain him (17:8-10a).
 - c. Elijah proved that he was a true prophet by:
 - 1) supplying the widow with meal and oil (17:10b-16)
 - 2) raising the widow's son (17:17-24).
 - d. God directed Elijah to appear before Ahab (18:1-6).
 - 1) In the third year God said that He would send rain (18:1).
 - 2) Samaria had been affected by a severe famine (18:2).
 - 3) Obadiah is introduced (18:3-6).
 - a) He was the governor of Ahab's household.
 - b) He feared God, and he had hidden and sustained 100 prophets.
 - c) Ahab instructed him to search for an area that would sustain the livestock.
 - e. Elijah sent Obadiah to tell Ahab that he was present (18:7-16).
 - 1) Ahab had been searching for Elijah.
 - 2) Obadiah was concerned that Ahab would not find Elijah and that Ahab would kill him.
 - 3) Elijah assured Obadiah that he would meet Ahab that day.
5. Elijah demonstrated his faith in a powerful way in 1 Kings 18:17-46.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.17-20) ELIJAH DIRECTED AHAB TO GATHER THE ISRAELITES AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL AT MOUNT CARMEL
- II. (vs.21-24) ELIJAH ISSUED A CHALLENGE TO THE PROPHETS OF BAAL
- III. (vs.25-29) BAAL DID NOT RESPOND TO THE PLEAS OF HIS PROPHETS
- IV. (vs.30-40) GOD RESPONDED TO ELIJAH'S PLEA
- V. (vs.41-46) GOD SENT A GREAT RAIN
 - A. 2 Chronicles 6:26-27; 7:12-14
 - B. James 5:17-18
 - C. 1 Peter 1:13