

1 KINGS WEEK SEVEN –"The Adventures of Elijah the Prophet"

October 21, 2021

Questions for 1 Kings 18-20

This week is mostly about the adventures of Elijah the super prophet. The scholarly consensus is that these stories come from a different source and have been inserted into the Deuteronomic history narrative to illustrate how powerless Baal and the other “gods” of the Canaanite religion were against Yahweh.

1. What set Obadiah apart from the other cabinet members in Ahab’s court?
2. Who was Jezebel and why did she seem so hostile toward the prophets of Yahweh?
3. What is your impression of Elijah and what sets him apart from other prophets?
4. Why does Elijah refer to Yahweh as “the Lord of Hosts?”
5. What was Elijah’s reasoning for calling for a public confrontation between Yahweh and Baal?
6. What is better according to God: People worshipping Baal and rejecting God or People trying to worship Baal and God together?
7. What do you think the story of Elijah’s triumph over the priests of Baal in chapter 18 is all about? Does it seem to be more “entertaining” than other stories from Samuel – Kings thus far? What is funny? What is horrifying? What lessons are these stories trying to communicate?
8. Ultimately, what ends the drought and what does this say about God’s presence in the northern kingdom?
9. What are Ahab and Jezebel’s response to Elijah’s “super-heroics?” Who seems to be more upset – Ahab or Jezebel – and why?
10. What is Elijah’s response to Jezebel’s sanction to have him killed?
11. How does God treat Elijah throughout his ordeal?

12. Who is Elisha and what is strange about his call to be Elijah's disciple?
13. What seems to be the reason Israel is at war with the Arameans? What is the point of chapter 20 and how is it different than chapters 18 and 19?