

Spiritual Warfare & The End of Time

Which Side Are You On?

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **August 20, 2023**



Today's Church has lost its balance as it has accommodated evil and become world-class appeasers. But Christ-followers need to become world-class advocates of the truth. So, I have some questions: Do you believe our faith belongs in the public square? Do you believe our faith should affect how we do business, or is the greatest profit the goal? Should our faith determine how we select leaders, and if so, how? Should churches engage in discussions regarding current events? Which side are you on? Well, the Bible provides a snapshot of spiritual warfare in the context of current events, which will help us look at spiritual warfare in the context of our real day-to-day lives ...

I. SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND CURRENT EVENTS

1 Kings 18:1-2 ¹ After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." ² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

A. People Of Faith & Courage

1 Kings 18:2-4 ² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria, ³ and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, his palace administrator. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the Lord. ⁴ While Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.)

1 Kings 18:7-15 ⁷ As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him, bowed down to the ground, and said, "Is it really you, my lord Elijah?" ⁸ "Yes," he replied. "Go tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'" ⁹ "What have I done wrong," asked Obadiah, "that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to be put to death?" ¹⁰ As surely as the Lord your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you. ¹¹ But now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' ¹² I don't know where the Spirit of the Lord may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshiped the Lord since my youth. ¹³ Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord? I hid a hundred of the Lord's prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water. ¹⁴ And now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' He will kill me!" ¹⁵ Elijah said, "As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today."

1 Kings 18:16-19 ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" ¹⁸ "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. ¹⁹ Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

Romans 1:32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

1 Kings 18:20-21 ²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

B. Ahab's Choices

1 Kings 21:20-21, 24 ²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "So you have found me, my enemy!" "I have found you," he answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. ²¹ He says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you. ... ²⁴ "Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country."

1 Kings 21:25-29 ²⁵ (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. ²⁶ He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.) ²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly. ²⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ "Have you noticed

how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

C. The Power of Repentance

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Prayer of Repentance

Almighty God, thank You for Your great love for me—that You have called me out of the darkness and welcomed me into the Kingdom of Your Son. I come now, in humility, to acknowledge my sin. I have chosen against You. I sold myself because there was something I desired more than I desired You. I wasn't confused. I wasn't deceived. I chose wrongly, and I ask You to forgive me. Today, I choose You. I choose to establish Jesus as Lord of my life—Lord of all that I am, Lord of all that I have, Lord of all that I will ever be. I thank You that He is my Lord, and I belong to him. He establishes the priorities of my life. In His name, amen.

D. Choosing The Lord for Ourselves

The voice of Elijah, the courage of Obadiah and 7,000 Overcomers

1 Kings 19:14, 18¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” . . .¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

1 Corinthians 12:7–10⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits.

Acts 5:28–29²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

Discussion Questions:

1. Spiritual warfare is not new; where have you seen an increase in a spirit of darkness in our culture?
2. Where have you personally avoided engaging with current events? What would it look like for you to begin advocating for a biblical worldview in light of what is currently going on in our world?
3. Standing for our faith takes courage, and saying nothing is to make a choice. In what ways have you been hesitant to stand because of what it might mean you have to sacrifice?
4. When have you seen the act of repentance bring freedom to your life?
5. What is something practical you can do this week to take a step forward in standing up for the Lord?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You delight in showing mercy. Through Your compassion and mercy, we have been delivered out of the kingdom of darkness. Give us, now, understanding hearts that we might know You more fully. Give us boldness to stand for Your truth. Give us discernment that we might see as You see. Deliver us from evil. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on the earth. In Jesus' name, amen.