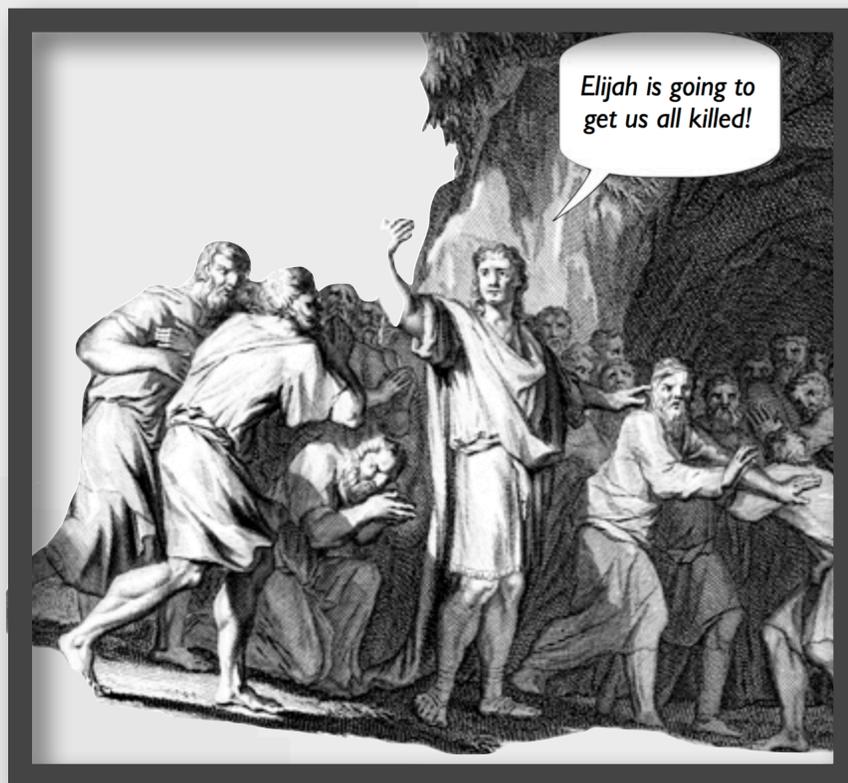


One Hundred
**USELESS
PROPHETS**
Hiding In A Cave



B. Kirkland

One Hundred USELESS PROPHETS

“Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave?” (First Kings 18:13).

A Monarch A Mountaineer And A Middleman

This is a story of a *monarch* named Ahab, a *mountaineer* named Elijah, and a *middleman* named Obadiah. Ahab was the most wicked of all of the kings of Israel, Elijah was the best example of a believer God had on the face of the earth at that time, and Obadiah who was an example of the one Jesus referred to in **Revelation 3:15** where He said, *“I would thou wert cold or hot.”* Christ prefers the *“cold”* over the *“lukewarm”* because everyone at least knows where someone like Ahab stands.

“Ahab’s Governor”

Obadiah was a servant of the most wicked King in Israel’s history. Obadiah first comes on the scene in **First Kings 18:3** where we read he was *“the governor”* of Ahab’s house. Verse three also says Obadiah *“feared the Lord greatly.”*

Afraid of God

The Hebrew word translated *“feared”* in this verse is *“hare.”* It is translated *“fearful”* in **Judges 7:3**. It is also translated *“afraid”* in three other places in the Old Testament. I would *“fear the Lord greatly”* too if I was spending my life doing the biddings of Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel, and hiding prophets who should have been standing with Elijah.

Save The Horses???

First Kings 18:5,

“And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.”

People were starving to death. It had not rained for three and a half years and they were concerned about horses. Ahab knew well the law of God included that Israel’s kings were not to have horses.

For the kings to gather horses was like us gathering tanks. It was God's plan that Israel trust God to fight her battles.

Deuteronomy 17:16,

*“But he shall **not multiply horses to himself.**”*

Isaiah 31:1,

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!”



Psalms 20:7,

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

“Obadiah Went By Himself”

In verse six we find Obadiah was alone when he met Elijah. Verse seven says *“he knew him.”* Sure he knew him, no doubt he was there when Elijah confronted Ahab three years earlier.

First Kings 17:1,

“And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.”

Concerning Obadiah we read...

*“He fell on his face and said, Art thou **my lord** Elijah?”*

Elijah was not taken in by this smooth-talking hypocrite. Elijah immediately responded to Obadiah saying *“Go, tell **thy lord**, Behold, Elijah is here”* (Verse 8).

“Obadiah’s Focus”

It is interesting to note that he had no concern regarding how Elijah had managed to survive in the past three years of drought. He simply focused on himself, as most lukewarm professed believers do.



Verses 9,

“What have I sinned...Ahab, to slay me?”

Verse 12,

“And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.”

Verse 13,

“Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men.”

Verse 14,

“He shall slay me.”

What We Know About Obadiah

1. He was a servant of Israel’s most wicked king.
2. He did not trust God.
3. He did not trust Elijah.
4. He was self-absorbed.
5. He influenced prophets to hide in a cave.
6. He, nor the hundred prophets showed up on Mount Carmel.
7. He is never heard of again.

What We Know About The 100 Prophets

We know nothing, not their names, or any accomplishment they made. We only know they were hiding at a time when they were needed. We know they didn’t show up on Mount Carmel because Elijah said he was the only one there (See First Kings 18:22).

God Had Commanded Elijah To Hide

First Kings 17:3,

“Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.”

Elijah was hiding at the command of God, he was not hiding for fear of Jezebel. The word used for Elijah hiding at brook Cherith is “*cathar.*” It means “*to hide, conceal in secret.*”

Obadiah Hiding The Prophets

Unlike Elijah, the hundred prophets were hiding for fear of their lives.

First Kings 18:4,

*“For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and **hid them** by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.”*

The Hebrew word hid here is “*chaba.*” It means to “*withdraw,*” or to “*draw back.*” It is usually used in a negative way with a focus on fear. It is used of Jacob when he left Laban.

Genesis 31:27 Laban said...

“Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me.”

First Samuel 13:6,

“When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves.”

Why Some Pastors Do Not Take A Stand Today

The reason some pastors do not take a stand is because their emphasis is on success. Numerical growth, bigger buildings, and large offerings will get them praise, and will get them invitations to speak at meetings of famous fundamentalists.

Pastors attend big church conferences to learn how to be successful. Pastors who do not take a stand are more concerned about being a corporate CEO than a spiritual shepherd.

Church members are pacified because it is “*good business.*” If the pastor is to be successful he must be politically correct. To be politically correct is to be sure not to preach anything that would offend anyone.

The successful seeking pastor never preaches “*hard*” sermons like John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, or Peter preached. To be successful, sermons must be positive and not offensive to anyone. There is seldom a serious charge about anyone getting out of his comfort zone. We need to understand that success is not building bigger caves for people to feel comfortable in.

Charles H. Spurgeon said,

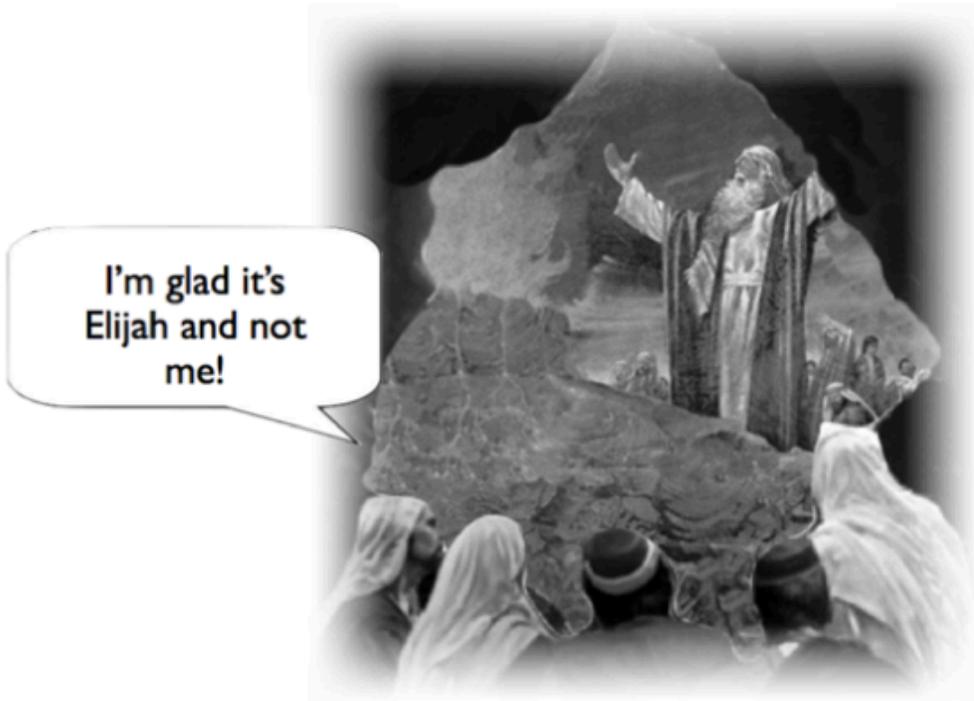
“I know of no surer way of a people’s perishing than by being led by one who does not speak out straight and honestly denounce evil. If the minister halts between two opinions, do you wonder that the congregation is undecided? If the preacher trims and twists to please all parties, can you expect his people to be honest? If I wink at your inconsistencies will you not soon be hardened in them? Like priest, like people. A cowardly preacher suits hardened sinners. Those who are afraid to rebuke sin, or to probe the conscience, will have much to answer for. May God save you from being led into the ditch by a blind guide.”



Pastors who dance around critical issues are what the Bible refers to as “*ear ticklers.*” Pastors need to stop preaching “*feel good*” sermons all the time and get back to preaching “*the whole counsel of God.*” When preachers get back to the place when they “*cry aloud and spare not*” the people will get back to God.

Why Pastors Do Not Take A Stand On The Issues

It’s just not the politically correct thing to do if you want to be successful in the eyes of man.



First Kings 17:18

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions?"

A Monarch A Mountaineer And A Middleman

All three of these men made choices. Two of them are now regretting, and will regret for eternity, the choices they made. Elijah made choices that focused on eternity.

We Have No Choice But To Choose

Deuteronomy 30:19,

*"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose** life, that both thou and thy seed may live."*

One Hundred Useless Prophets