

Season 2 Study 5: The Showdown

THE BIG YEAR

A Journey through God's Word

Any new revelations from God's Word this week? Are you keeping up with the reading plans?

1. What are some of the idols or false gods people put their trust in these days?

Some context for today's study: Elijah the Tishbite, a true prophet of God, ministered during the reign of the wicked King Ahab. Elijah prophesied that the rains would be held back until he said so – presumably as part of God's judgment toward Ahab. The king was offended by these things and so Elijah retreated, first to a brook where God sustained him through ravens, then into the home of a widow who fed him through God's miraculous provision. Eventually he would get the opportunity to face Ahab again though.

READ 1 KINGS 18:17-24

2. Why do you think Ahab accused Elijah of being a 'troubler of Israel' (vs17)?
3. How does Elijah explain the trouble (ie. the drought) in Israel (vs 18)? Does God still use natural disasters to bring discipline or judgment on nations?
4. What sin does Elijah accuse the people of Israel of in vs 21? Do we see a similar kind of sin in our generation?

READ 1 KINGS 18:25-29

5. Is Elijah's mockery of the prophets of Baal 'godly' behavior? Would Jesus have approved of this?
6. Why did these false prophets cut themselves? What did they hope it might achieve?

READ 1 KINGS 18:30-40

7. On what grounds does Elijah appeal to the Lord? What does he use as his primary argument as to why God should act? (vs 36-37)
8. How did the people respond (vs 39) to what they witnessed? Do you think their worship is genuine?

READ 1 KINGS 18:41-45

9. Does the message in vs 41 surprise you at all? Why was Ahab invited to 'come eat and drink'?

READ JAMES 5:13-20

10. According to this passage, what does Elijah's faith and ministry teach us about the nature of prayer?
11. What prayer requests can you bring before the Lord in great faith? Share with the group!

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. (James 5:17)