

Psalms 14 – The Elijah Principle

Sunday 08/18/2024

I. Review

Last week we started Psalms 14, and I showed you how this is a great chapter on dealing with people. We looked in detail at Psalms 14:1.

Psalms 14:1. The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [there is] none that doeth good.

Now our church is a church that works with people...at work, in your neighborhood, and all other people you encounter. You're constantly sharing the gospel and trying to open the Bible to people. In fact, many of you are here today because someone did that with you. In time, however, you will run into some people who fall into what we see in Psalms 14:1. They're agnostic, atheist, or they're involved in one of the cults that we talked about last week. **When you boil it down and look at what they really believe, they fit right into Psalms 14:1.**

I also laid out for you the different types of fools that you're going to encounter as you deal with people. It's not enough to just say someone is a fool; you need to understand what kind of fool they are if you're going to try to help them. **There are both saved and unsaved fools.** I gave you several types of fools which you will need to learn how to deal with as you witness and talk to people.

Types of Fools:

- The unsaved cults: This includes the American cults and the unsaved religions that come out of Europe.
- Saved men who pervert the Scriptures: They come up with some new doctrine that has never been established down through church history. They get the idea that God gave them some truth that He never gave anybody else. It's a lot like you find in Acts 17:21, *(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)* They are never satisfied with established church doctrine.
- People caught up in some bad teaching, some bad doctrine or heresy and didn't know any better. They didn't reject the 1900 years of established truth and are teachable.

The key verse last week was Proverbs 26:4-5.

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Proverbs 26:4

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit. Proverbs 26:5

I laid these verses out for you, showing you why in some cases you don't answer a fool (like in verse 4), and in some cases you do (verse 5). I took you back to the book of Proverbs which defines for us what a fool is using eight concepts. He also defines what a wise man is using nine concepts...all of which I gave you last week.

➤ Fools Have no History

The key to dealing with fools is that they have no history. A great verse you will sometimes use that is the foundational verse for everything that we're talking about is found in Psalms 127:1.

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Psalms 127:1.

If the Lord is not the foundation of whatever you believe, and you don't have a clear record of your history, then you're laboring in vain in trying to build it.

All these cults who reject everything about the Bible desire credibility. You need to treat them all the same, whether they're saved or lost, and by not taking them seriously, you never give them credibility as to being legitimate.

Today we're going to cover some invaluable material in dealing with people.

II. A Context of Cults

I want to put the cults of the world into a context, and it's all based on Psalms 14. There are three or four basic categories that you'll want to put cults into.

- **The American Cults**—Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Charismatics, Seventh Day Adventists, Christian Science, Church of Christ, and Unity which were manufactured by the devil in the 1800s to stop the Seven Great Awakenings of the Holy Spirit of God bringing revival across America.

There are two basic books you should have:

- *The Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin. He doesn't necessarily tell you how to deal with them, but he does give you all the background you need to know as to what they believe.
 - *Roman Catholicism* by Loraine Boettner. It's the greatest book that you'll find on understanding the Roman Catholic Church.
- **The European Cults**—They go back a little farther than the American cults; however, none of them have anything to do with the time of Jesus. They all came out of the Roman Catholic Church. Thursday night (08/15/2024) I showed you out of the book of Judges, how the Roman Catholic Church goes all the way back to the Old Testament. You have a break at the crucifixion, then around 400 A.D. under Constantine you have the beginning of what we know as the modern-day Catholic Church; therefore, for 400 years, nobody had anything that the Roman Catholic Church teaches today.

Then the Roman Catholic Church spreads her roots all through Europe. I showed you Thursday night (08/15/2024) how she went from Pagan Rome to Papal Rome, and now she envelops all of Europe. Other groups begin to break out, although they all go back and come out of the Roman Catholic Church.

- 1054 A.D.—Church split; A group breaks out known today as the Greek Orthodox.
- 1440 A.D.—Another split; A group comes out of that known as the Russian Orthodox Church.
- 1517 A.D.—Martin Luther, who was a priest, leaves the Roman Catholic Church; He starts the Lutheran Church.
- 1519 A.D.—John Calvin, although never a monk or priest, breaks with the teachings of the Catholic Church and starts what we know today as Calvinism, Reformed Theology, and the Predestination crowd.
- 1534—Henry the VIII splits with the Catholic Church and starts the Church of England. It's called the Anglican church in England and the Episcopalian Church in the United States.
- 1600 A.D.—John Knox with the beginning of the Presbyterian Church.
- 1738 A.D.—John Wesley with the Methodist Church.

These make up the line which we call in church history—Protestant Churches. The word protestant means protester. In other words, **these churches protested the Roman Catholic Church and left or broke from it in one way or another; however, they all came out of Rome. In these European cults, there is not a Bible believing church anywhere associated with them.**

- **The Middle East or Far East Cults**—They go all the way back to the Old Testament times. These are known as the Far East or the Eastern religions. They include Brahmanism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hinduism, etc. **Now here's the important thing you'll want to get—you're given the idea that they have been around for a very long time. This is because people reject the Bible (King James 1611) and reject the nation of Israel as the world power from Judges when they go into the land up to 2 Chronicles 36. During that time period, the only power on this earth was the nation of Israel. It's at its apex under Solomon. History will downplay or never tell you that. History will never tell you that they were the greatest, most powerful nation and witness for God on planet Earth during that time period.**

During that time period, you don't have any of these Far Eastern Religions. Once Israel goes into captivity in 606 BC, and the kingdom of heaven is gone, and the world is turned over to the times of the Gentiles, then the Far Eastern Religions come into being—after God is finished with the nation of Israel. The devil wants the world to forget the greatest nation on this planet—the nation of Israel. He brings these cults up in the Middle East after Israel falls, just like he does in Europe, and then the American cults in the Laodicean church period. All of these are by design. Then in 570 A.D., approximately 570 years after Christ, Mohammad shows up.

- **The Wannabes**—These are the guys who come up with some new and crazy stuff. They want you to believe that they are the only ones who got it.

If you can get an understanding of each of these cults and get the material into your Bible, it will help you get a context as to which one you're dealing with. Each will require a different approach in some areas; however, fundamentally, they have no history and desire credibility. It's important that you understand this.

Today, I want to give you what I call the Elijah Principle. It's the pattern of dealing with any one of these cults. Once you understand how to put them into a context, then you'll understand how to better deal with them in time and history. The key will always be, first and foremost, their complete and total lack of history which gives them no credibility. Regardless of if they're saved or lost, history is the key.

III. History is Broken Down into Two Concepts

History can be a complicated thing. You've got American History, World History, European History, etc. There are a lot of different breakdowns of history to try to study; yet **God always takes the complexity that the world wants to throw at you and breaks it down into a basic simple format that anyone can get.**

You will find in the book of Proverbs that He has broken history down into two concepts. If you get this down as your baseline of history, and then take the 3-4 cults I gave you and put them in either baseline, you're on your way.

➤ Landmarks

Proverbs 22:28 tells us that we are not to remove the ancient landmarks. Then in Proverbs 23:10, we are told not to remove the old landmarks.

*Proverbs 22:28. Remove not the **ancient landmark**, which thy fathers have set.*

*Proverbs 23:10. Remove not the **old landmark**; and enter not into the **fields of the fatherless**:*

Here are two verses that talk about two landmarks. One is called the *ancient landmark*, and the other is called the *old landmark*. If you want to put a fence up in your backyard and you don't want to get on your neighbor's property, then you call for somebody to come out and survey your property. **You've got to find out where the survey marker is and then your property is surveyed based on that fixed marker to show you the boundaries of your property. That's the landmark; the surveyor does everything off the landmark.**

When the Bible says remove not the ancient landmark, He's talking about the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. If you try to study history without Israel being the landmark for it, you're wasting your time. **In the New Testament, he says remove not the old landmark which will be the New Testament church.** These are the two identities—the two landmarks that all history and everything in history will be surveyed by. You miss those two, and you're going to be in the fields of the fatherless. You aren't going to know where you came from, why you're here, or what in the world you're supposed to be doing. Don't forget that you can never separate the Bible from history.

Most of God's people, even the ones who really know their Bibles, are devoid of history. What good is it to believe what you say you believe if you don't know where it came from? You go to a church, and you don't even know where its foundation is. You know why? Landmarks. It's like my neighbor who spent \$30,000 putting up this beautiful fence, but the city came in and said he was 10 feet on their property. He had to tear the whole thing down. You know why? **He thought he knew where his boundaries were, but he didn't. God's people today go to churches; they get involved, they have Bibles, they sing the songs, but if you pin them down on the landmarks...they're building on somebody else's property just like my neighbor.**

IV. The Bible will Lay out for us Principles Through the Stories and Events that take Place in the Bible

One of the amazing things about the Bible, and I've spent hundreds of hours trying to get you to see these, is that **the Bible will lay principles out for us through the stories and the events that take place in it. God has intertwined and put into those stories every pattern that you need to know in dealing with every issue that is going to come up—not only in your own life, but also when you're dealing with somebody else.** In dealing with people you see their patterns, and you simply match them up to the patterns and the principles in the word of God.

The world calls this human nature; however, in the Bible it's defined in Proverbs 4:23 as *the issues of life* (or the patterns of life). **We as Christians, who are going to work with people, learn as we grow to recognize the patterns and see them in the people we're dealing with. Then knowing where they're at in the Bible, take the patterns in the Bible and match them up to the problem that you're dealing with.** It is the key to helping and dealing with people. I've said it many times, but **the ministry is people.** We exist here for one reason, and that is to help you.

I taught you this material in the People Ministry. You will probably remember some of the key patterns. When you deal with people, not everyone who wants to be discipled or wants to do what's right is going to follow through with it. It doesn't make them bad people. Sometimes they have a stronghold in their life. Our job is not to criticize somebody but to help them when we can, understanding that you can't help everybody. At the same time, you want to help people, but you don't want to be used by people. Some have used the world and the system of the world to survive, and they try to do the same thing here.

➤ All through the Bible, you will find principles.

- **The Jacob Principle**: To keep from being deceived when working with people, I follow what I call The Jacob Principle from Genesis 29. There you will find everything you need to know about what a person is going to do when things start to go south, and a deception begins.
- **The Eve Principle**: This will be found in Genesis 3.
- **The Solomon Principle**: This one is found in I Kings 3. Somebody comes in and really wants to do what's right. You give them the benefit of the doubt. You give them

everything they need and don't question their sincerity. You just put them under The Solomon Principle which proves it out.

- **The Extra Mile Principle**: It's found in Luke 19. Sometimes you hurt somebody badly. Husbands hurt their wives or vice versa. Sometimes it's your children, or just people in general.
- **The Jethro Principle**: This is found in Exodus 18. I have seen all my life young people getting bad advice from pastors or other Christians that destroys their lives and their ministries.
- **The Water Principle**: It's found in Numbers 5. You hear the world psychosomatics today. It's the relationship between sin in your life and the sin developing into actual sicknesses or emotional problems.
- **The Ahab Principle**: This is found in 1 Kings 19. It's a principle for dealing with depression and anxiety.
- **The David Principle**. It's found in 2 Samuel 5 and deals with breaking satanic strongholds in your life.

Learning how to use these patterns and seeing them as they work in people will build in your life discernment and understanding. In dealing with the real issues of life which people find themselves in, the key is matching up the pattern of human nature with a pattern in the Bible that it fits into. If you want to be good at working with people, you're going to have to learn and catalog them.

It's like going to the doctor when you're sick. He takes your blood pressure, looks in your ears, asks you questions, and decides what's wrong with you. Based on his analysis, he prescribes a prescription. Well, we work for the Great Physician. When somebody comes in, we check all the spiritual vitals and then give them the spiritual prescription that is going to get them well spiritually. It's just that simple.

It's about building leaders that have the ability for God to use them regardless of wherever and whoever God puts them with. They're going to the Bible, getting the pattern, seeing their pattern, and matching the two up.

V. The Elijah Principle

Today we're going to look at the Elijah principle, and I'm going to show you from the Bible how you deal with fools (saved or lost) and their false religions (the cult configurations we covered earlier). It's found in I Kings 18:17-40.

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, [Art] thou he that troubleth Israel?

¹⁸ And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

19 Now therefore send, [and] gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred (we're talking about 850 false prophets here), which eat at Jezebel's table.

20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord [be] God, follow him: but if Baal, [then] follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, [even] I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets [are] four hundred and fifty men.

23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay [it] on wood, and put no fire [under]: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire [under]:

24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress [it] first; for ye [are] many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire [under].

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed [it], and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But [there was] no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he [is] a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, [or] peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the [time] of the offering of the [evening] sacrifice (that's 6:00 PM), that [there was] neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord [that was] broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid [him] on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour [it] on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34 And he said, Do [it] the second time. And they did [it] the second time. And he said, Do [it] the third time. And they did [it] the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water (I want you to see here that he fills four barrels or 55 gallon drums and dumps these four barrels three times on the wood in the sacrifice completely drenching it. That's a total of 12 barrels of water).

*36 And it came to pass at [the time of] the offering of the [evening] sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou [art] God in Israel, and [that] I [am] thy servant, and [that] I have done all these things **at thy word**.*

37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou [art] the Lord God, and [that] thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that [was] in the trench.

*39 And when all the people saw [it], they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, **he [is] the God**; the Lord, **he [is] the God**.*

40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Let's get the historical context first. **Elijah is the prophet of God, and he comes up against Ahab, Jezebel, and the cults. This will be a picture of you as Elijah coming up against the heresies and the cults of your day.** Elijah takes them on to show all Israel the true God. By doing so, **he gives us a model for our ministry as we try to deal with people when we find ourselves up against the same thing.** You may not see how that matches up to where we're at today, but I'm going to broaden your horizons here in just a moment.

VI. Ten Applications of the Elijah Principle

1. Verses 17-18. Elijah is not afraid of Ahab. Ahab is the king of Israel, but Elijah is God's man. The first thing I want you to see is that **the devil's crowd will always try to blame the problem on God's people.** You're going to get into situations where somebody is going to throw something up at you, and you need to be like Elijah. Elijah nails him, showing him where the real trouble is. *I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord (the word of God), and thou hast followed Baalim.* Elijah basically says, "It's your fault. You fool!" He's fearless when he stands before the king.

John Knox was one of the reformers in the reformation. He was a Presbyterian, but they were much more fundamental then. Queen Mary, who was Roman Catholic, was on the throne of England. She was known as "Bloody Mary" because she was killing everybody who opposed her and what she stood for in the Roman Catholic Church. John Knox stood in her court, put his finger in her face, preached the gospel to her, and survived. He was fearless. He told her that she had dumped the Book along with her father. He told her not to blame it on him because he

represented God and that she was the problem because she had gotten away from the commandments of God. Now the thing that I'm going to develop here, among other things, is that this is why you can't ever lose control. **You've got to stay in control of any situation** like this, and Elijah shows you how to do that.

2. Verse 22. Elijah is greatly outnumbered. On the low side he's outnumbered by 450, and on the high side he's outnumbered by 850 (verse 19). *Then said Elijah unto the people, I, [even] I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets [are] four hundred and fifty men.* I try to build into you here that **no matter what the odds are, you can take your stand and stand alone.** That's what it takes in Christianity today—your ability to stand alone, being fearless, being unmovable, being steadfast. I look at some of you and marvel that you do just that. You're like the Ford commercial—*Built Ford Tough*; although here, you're *Built Old Paths Tough*.

The 101st Airborne got surrounded in the Battle of the Bulge as they defended Bastogne—there was freezing weather, no food, no medical supplies, no ammunition, and the cloud cover was so thick that the airports couldn't support them. The Panzer Army surrounded Bastogne. They asked General McAuliffe to surrender, which he refused. A news reporter interviewed Major Dick Winters, asking him, "Don't you know Bastogne is surrounded?" He responded, "We're the 101st Airborne; we're supposed to be surrounded." You're God's people; He saved you. The fact that you never grew or did anything with it is on you. Israel needed an Elijah. **Christianity today needs men and women who will stand no matter what the odds, no matter how outnumbered.**

3. Verse 21. Elijah takes it to the people. *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord [be] God, follow him: but if Baal, [then] follow him. And the people answered him not a word.* **Now he holds the people accountable.** No one says, "Amen!" Just like God's people today, these people have been caught up in this thing. This is what I gave you last week in Hosea 4:1, *there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.* They're confused. Despite what God has done for them, they are looking at a cult (Baal worship), and they can't even hear what he says and respond with an amen. They're much like God's people today.

Elijah is God's man with God's message in God's time. He tells them that either God is who He says He is, or He's not. **Notice that he didn't sit down with the Baal worshippers and discuss Bible verses. He never got into the teachings of Baal with them at all. Rather, he got them to a place where they had no defense, had no credibility, had no history,** and simply proposes, "Will the real God stand up?" Watch what happens.

4. Elijah takes charge of the situation and never loses control. This is vital because **cults will try to get you off track.** Never get off your platform. He challenges them to a showdown, but he has control. They don't get to decide how it's going to go—they had no say in it. If they decline, they lose more credibility. Now they've got to accept the challenge. What follows is the true test for what is real and what is not. You will see that the prophets of Baal have no history

with God, they have no power with God, and they have no credibility with God. And Elijah exploits that and uses it to show everybody in Israel who they really are.

5. Verses 23-25. Elijah never loses control but makes them lose control. *Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire [under]: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire [under] (They're "Even Steven"):* ²⁴ *And call ye on the name of your **gods**, and I will call on the name of **the Lord**: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.* ²⁵ *And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress [it] first; for ye [are] many; and call on the name of your **gods**, but put no fire [under].* **Notice Elijah is in complete control. He never gives control over to them because they will try to take it by changing the subject.** He is unmovable. That's very important.

Now the real key to this encounter will obviously be history. God has been with Israel since Genesis 11-12 with the calling out of Abraham out of the Ur of Chaldees—over 1900 years ago. From this comes Isaac, Jacob with the 12 tribes, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Solomon, etc. Who do the 450 priests have? Nobody. Baal worship is a satanic cult that, like cults today, has taken everything that was of God and destroyed it.

6. Verse 26. Cults have empty words without the power of God. *And they took the bullock which [was] given them, and they dressed [it], and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But [there was] no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.* **Elijah puts them into a scenario that they can't defend themselves in.** They can build an altar, have a service, a church building, etc., but God is not in it. They have no power with God, no history with God, no credibility with God, and God is not coming through for them.

You'll remember that the fire from God and the sacrifice goes all the way back to Adam & Eve, Abel, Noah...**For over 2500 years, Israel has a history with God accepting their sacrifices.** Elijah exposes it for all to see. Never once does he want to discuss the teaching of Baal; he's not going to give them any credibility. He goes where they have no defense, and then he beats them senseless.

7. Verses 27-29. Your Bible is a sharp two-edged sword, and how to use it. *And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he [is] a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, [or] peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.* ²⁸ *And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.* ²⁹ *And [it] came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the [time] of the offering of the [evening] sacrifice (that's 6:00 PM), that [there was] neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.*

Hebrews 4:12 says that your Bible is a sharp two-edged sword. One edge of that sword you will use like a surgeon's scalpel to carefully dissect, cut away, and deal with spiritual malignancies. The other edge of that sword will be for hacking, hewing, chopping off

limbs, and smiting hip and thigh (Judges 15:8). That is your warfare edge of the blade.
Discernment is knowing which side of your two-edged sword to use and when to use it.

Down through church history, you have two different aspects of the church. **The Church Triumphant** is a spiritual aspect—it's the fact that we're all saved and no matter what happens in this life, we're going home to be with the Lord in heaven. **The Church Militant** deals with the warfare of the believer. It's you and me every day slugging it out in this life against people just like this. It's sometimes using your sword very carefully as a scalpel and other times as a cavalry sword slicing off arms and legs.

Elijah got them into a situation that exposed them as phony and now before all Israel, he mocks them. He says that Baal might be talking on the phone, on a hunt (pursuing), on a journey, or sleeping. He's getting them off base. They are working themselves up because nothing is happening. They're in front of all these people, and now the man of God is making fun of them.

8. Verse 28. Elijah gets them off balance. *And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.* For 12 hours, they have tried to have credibility as a true religious system, and they're still being denied. **Elijah has deprived them of any real legitimacy and exposed them as false then he mocks them in front of the people of God.** Like all cults, they have no history, credibility, or power with God.

9. Verses 30-39. Elijah calls upon the Lord. Elijah calls the people together. Note his reference to their history, *And Elijah took twelve stones*, which is a reference to when the Israelites crossed over Jordan in Joshua chapter 4. Joshua put the 12 stones in the midst of Jordan which is a reference of their coming into the promised land over Jordan. It's a reference to their history with God.

Now we see God do the impossible with His people. The altar and the sacrifice are soaked and filled with water. It's humanly impossible to get it to burn, but that's when the power of God shines the brightest. Notice he cries out, **Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel.** This goes all the way back to Genesis with Abraham and Isaac and all Israel from Exodus up through I & II Chronicles. **He calls on their history.** The prophets of Baal have no history; they can't call on anybody. I also want you to notice that when God does something, He doesn't do it halfway. **His consumption of the sacrifice, like everything that God does, is not only a miracle, but total and complete.** Now that's credibility.

The people finally get it. *And when all the people saw [it], they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he [is] the God; the Lord, he [is] the God.* The key was history—2500+ years of Israel's undeniable relationship with God (the ancient landmark). The key with the New Testament prophets of Baal will be the church's relationship with Christ down through the history of the New Testament Church (the old landmark).

10. Verse 40. The false prophets have no defense. *And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.* The false prophets are all killed with the edge of a sword. They didn't shoot them, they hacked them to pieces. We are told in Hebrews 4:12 that

the word of God is a sharp two-edged sword. Now we're about to see the parallel. The prophets, like the cults today, have no history, no relationship with God, no Biblical roots, no credibility, and now we see **they have no defense**.

Notice that when they take them down to the brook, no battle takes place. The only people who have a sword are Elijah and his people. When you're a cult, you don't have a sword. Then what happens? They get cut to pieces with the word of God.

VII. Summary

The Bible in history, built around the two landmarks, will always be the credibility the cults and wannabes don't have. Learn the Elijah Principle in dealing with them, but first learn the patterns so you know how to use them and when. Also, learn how to use your sword through the discernment of time and dealing with people. Learn when to cut them with the scalpel and when to hack them with the sword blade.