

NEED FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL



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1Kg.18: 1-40; 1Kg.19: 1-18

Introduction:

If we look around us now, we will clearly see that we are in the End-times as most of the signs of the End-times are being fulfilled before our very eyes - **Matt.24: 3-14; 2Tim.3: 1-7**. The signs we are seeing now are similar to those seen before Elijah's confrontation at Mount Carmel and show us that we need revival. We need personal revival as individuals and we need corporate revival in the congregations!

Comparing our time with Elijah's time, we can see the following similar signs:

1. There was no rain physically (for 3.5 years). As a result, it was so dry, dusty, dark and dirty, and everything was dying. There was spiritual dryness also. The spiritual ambition of many died - **Ps.42: 1-2; Jer.29: 13** and many were merely struggling spiritually - **Matt.24: 12**.
2. Heaven was shut spiritually too. There was no vision at all or their vision was dull. The true word of God was scarce like the time of Eli – **1Sam.3: 1; 2Chron.15: 3**.
3. There was contamination with sin, widespread evil, idolatry, occultism, immoralities, murders, etc. There was corruption in leadership and everywhere. The word of God is the only antidote against sin - **Ps.119: 9, 11; Eph.5: 25-27**.
4. There was no peace. A man under closed heaven lacks peace – **Isa.48: 22; 57: 21**.
5. Famine in the land – hunger and high cost of living. Please, take note that famine is part of God's judgment - **Lev.26: 19-21; 1Chron.21: 11-12**.
6. By the time Elijah showed up, the altar was already broken and in a state of disrepair. Many Christians have broken fellowship or even relationship with God - **Isa.30: 15; Lam.3: 40**.
7. As a result of a broken altar, no acceptable sacrifice was offered to God for a long time. The sacrifices of the people were either to Baal or unacceptable to God - **Gen.4: 1-7; Lev.10: 1-2; Mal.1: 6-8**. A sacrifice is what we do or give painfully to God out of inconvenience and involves self-denial. Now, a sacrifice can take the form of money or material objects. Our service as well as prayer and fasting can constitute forms of sacrifice also. Really, the cost of anything we give to God is the measure of sacrifice in it e.g. David.

8. Since there was no sacrifice from the people, there was no fire from God also. That means there was no acceptance by God – **Judg.6: 19-21; 13: 10-20.**
9. There was controversy and confusion – **1Kg.18:17-18, 21.** Christian dressing, where a Christian can work, alcohol, gender equality, divorce, gay marriage, transgender, COVID-19 vaccine, etc.
10. Rapid growth of false prophets like the prophets of Baal and false prophecies. Whereas falsehood multiplies, truth is on the decline - **Matt.24: 11; 1Jn.4: 1.**
11. Lack of contentment – **Ps.37: 16; 84: 10; Prov.15: 16; 16: 8; 22: 1; 1Tim.6: 6-10.**
12. The assumption and teaching that gain is godliness (prosperity) – **1Tim.6: 5.**
13. High rate of fraud, immorality, crime, violence, bloodshed, injustice and threats to life (especially of the godly) - **Matt.24: 12; 2Tim.3: 1, 13.**
14. Official Government support/sponsorship of religion and religious leaders giving spiritual cover for evil, corrupt political leaders and government officials. This will eventually lead to One World Religion – **1Kg.18: 19; 22: 1-28.**
15. Persecution of genuine prophets who were scattered, isolated and hiding - **1Kg.18: 4; 19: 2-3; 18.** Christian walk at such times becomes lonely and very difficult – **Ps.34: 19; Matt.10: 22; 24: 9; Jn.15: 18; 16: 33; 2Tim.3: 12.**
16. Many genuine prophets become weary and overwhelmed (Elijah) – **Ps.73: 1-22; Isa.40: 30; Matt.24: 12.**
17. Eventual spiritual clash and confrontation - **2Cor.10: 3-6; Eph.6: 10-18; 1Tim.6: 12; 2Tim.4: 7-8.**
18. Crucial choice – God or Baal? Eventually, everyone will make a decision and choice - **Josh.24: 15.**
19. Divine preservation of the righteous – **Ps.34: 19-20; 46: 1-3; 91: 1-16; Rom.8: 31, 35-37; 2Pet.2: 9.**
20. Punishment and banishment of the wicked - **Prov.11: 21; Matt.25: 41; 2Pet.2: 9.**

Conclusion:

The Lord Jesus Christ already declared to us in Scriptures that the End-times would be like the days of Noah and Lot - . However, it is clear that the End-times would be like the time of Elijah also. We therefore need God in His grace and mercy to help and revive us so that our faith will not fail in these End-times especially with the recent unfolding developments relating to COVID-19. Many of us never knew that certain End-times prophecies could be fulfilled so vividly before our very eyes but that is the reality now.

No doubt, Elijah stands as a challenge for everyone of us in this End-time as an instrument of revival in His time, and if that same Elijah still ended his ministry abruptly because of the threats of wicked Jezebel, King Ahab's wife then, we need to seriously pray and trust God much more so that our faith will not fail and we will not fall by the wayside in these perilous End-times - **Zech.11: 2; 1Cor.10: 12.** We surely need revival. Revive us again O Lord! - **Ps.85: 6.**