

Elijah Points the Way

GBC Series

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“I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives.” Malachi 4:5 (NLT)

Bad Times in the Kingdom



False Gods Had Taken Over

Baal was accepted and worshipped by the people

King Ahab of Israel Supported Baal

Now this Baal was the god of the Tyrians; and Ahab, in order to gratify his father-in-law, Ethbaal, who was the king of Tyre and Sidon, built a temple for him in Samaria, and appointed him prophets, and worshipped him with all sorts of worship... (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book IX, Chapter VI, Section 6)

Horrors

The principal pillars of Baalism were child sacrifice, sexual immorality (both heterosexual and homosexual) and pantheism (reverence of creation over the Creator).

God's People Were Led into Idolatry



God's prophets were punished, pursued, and killed



Power and Wealth Flowed in the 9th Century BC



The Phoenicians were a global trading society

They Made a Deal

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.

Ephesians 5:3 (NLT)

The Exchange

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

Matthew 16:26 (NLT)

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

The Challenge

How do you overcome a society who abandons God, and is happy with lots of money, sex, and no responsibility?

Possible Approaches



God's Approach

Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, “As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!” 1 Kings 17:1 (NLT)

A single man
An unknown
From the backwoods
He serves a big God
The water is turned off

God's Solution

Gabriel appeared to *Mary* and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

Confused and disturbed, *Mary* tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, *Mary*,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! Luke 1:28-30 (NLT)

A Single Woman Listens to God

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NLT)

Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her. Luke 1:38 (NLT)

How Big a Deal is Grace Bible Church?

- Small and from the backwoods
- Limited resources
- Unknown
- Disregarded
- Called by God
- Backed by God
- Empowered by God
- Nothing is impossible with God

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