

Elijah and the prophets of Baal

So much had been done. Yes. The Lord wanted the land to be cleansed and restore the people to himself. What was amazing was that the level of rot had reached the highest levels. The prophets of God were killed by Jezebel and replaced with Prophets of Baal and Grove (I Kings 18:4). Hmmm, it was like the cry to the Lord about Sodom. God needed to intervene..... The Lord raised Elijah to resolve that issue. What a glorious victory he had. It was an open challenge to the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Groves, 950 of them. These people had stolen into the hearts of the people. The wife of the King, Jezebel, was a heathen princess, daughter of the king Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians of the Land. That Jezebel. I wonder how the King could make alliance with a heathen king and sealed it with marriage to his daughter. She forced her idols on the people (I Kings 16:32-33). She was an epitome of "all that is designing, crafty, malicious, revengeful and cruel. She is the first instigator of persecution against the people of God. Guided by no principle (I Kings 21), restrained by no fear of God or man, passionate in her attachment to her heathen worship, she spared no pains to maintain idolatry around her in all its splendor" (Rev 2:20-24). What an apt description in these days of terror. May Nigeria listen. She groomed those prophets who fed at her table (I Kings 18:19).

Those prophets had to be wiped out and the only way was to demonstrate the power of the true God. The idols of Jezebel, the principality that ruled the land were disgraced. They became mute, even at the offer of the blood of their prophets. God locked them up(Rev 2:20-24)! Hear our cry oh Lord. Elijah repaired the altar of God. God responded to his call. He took the prophets to the river of slaughter, Kishon and slayed all of them. Then God released rain at the call and intercession of Elijah, the Prophet of God. The land was cleansed. Ahab even won a battle against Syria with men who were not trained fighters (I kings 20: 1-20). That is a parable for the Christians of Nigeria.

Ahab reported to Jezebel. She refused to submit and instead, threatened to kill Elijah (I Kings 19:1-3). She was beyond redemption and died a shameful death later, eaten by dogs (I Kings 21:23, II Kings 9:10). Elijah fled. Having done so much as a tool in the hands of God, he could not understand why this woman would threaten her. What happened to Elijah? Pride slipped in (I kings 19:10). All glory must go to God who works through His willing sons. Elijah was on the way out. The moment we begin to see ourselves, then the story is over. Adam became self-conscious after they took the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. Is God doing great things through you? Watch out.....the glory must go to Him. Good morning Holy Spirit. As I rebuild my altar in your presence, purge me of every element of pride. All glory must be unto the Lord. Amen.

Elijah had been used to recover the people back to God. The second stage was a cleaning work that would lay the foundation for the next phase. This went to Elisha. Elisha was prepared. He cut connection with his vocation and his people. His entire focus was to be Elijah's servant, but he also seem to have a clear understanding of what his responsibility was, to take the mantle from Elijah for the next phase of the work of redeeming Israel from the oppression of the enemy. This apparently inform Elisha's spiritual consistency. He refused to be discouraged or distracted from the goal. He did not let Elijah out of his view and focus after he knew he was to be taken. He passed the test and had a double portion of Elijah's anointing (II Kings 2:9). Victories came to Israel because Elisha was true.

Holy father, keep me true. For there is a race that I must run, there is a victory to the won. Give me power, every hour to be true. Good morning Holy Spirit. There is a cleansing work to the done in the Land to restore the hearts of the people to the true God. I am sure you have an Elijah prepared for this work, hidden in the land. The current indignation is too much. Please it is time to remove wickedness and impunity and oppressors from the land. Now they hold sway. Number their days, oh God. Amen.