

A painting of a man with a crown and red sash riding a white horse through a cloudy sky. The man has long dark hair and a beard, and is wearing a white robe with a red sash. The horse is white and is running through a sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The background is a dark, purple and blue gradient.

These Are The Days Of Elijah

1 Kings 17:1-7, 1 Kings 18:1-46

Who was Elijah?

- We know nothing of Elijah's background, where he came from or who he was other than a prophet of God.
- Elijah made his first appearance by announcing God's judgement on Ahab in the form of a drought.
- Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal in a showdown resulting in them being killed.
- Elijah had a crisis of faith and fled from Jezebel, the wife of Ahab.
- God sent Elijah to find his successor Elisha.
- Elijah confronted Ahab over the murder of Naboth.
- He was taken bodily into heaven in a whirlwind.
- Elijah's ministry was marked by his declaration of the Word of the Lord to people who did not want to hear it.

Lessons for Today



- In Elijah's time the King was a maniacal despot, who ruled wickedly purely for his own benefit.
- The nation Israel started out godly, but the people turned away from God.
- When the object of the people's worship changed, their behavior changed as well.
- In many churches, the authority of the Bible is rejected, and other things are substituted for a relationship with God.
- We need people like Elijah who are willing to stand up and preach the truth, no matter what the consequence.
- "The church is nothing if it does not stick to the teaching of scripture."

Need for Elijahs



- Our enemies sometimes grasp the meaning of Scripture and God's will quicker than we who are in the church.
- When we get to the hard truths of the Bible, we often do not understand because we do not want to understand.
- The Bible is our standard of what is truth.
- The pastor is not the standard of truth.
- Tradition is not the standard of truth.
- The message that needs to be preached is the truth of Scripture, but it is okay if we find new ways of expressing that truth.
- We need Elijahs, people who preach the truth no matter the cost.

Uncomfortable Messages



- It is not about preaching a message that is uncomfortable to hear, it is about preaching a message that is uncomfortable to preach.
- Many pastors have difficulty with messages on morality, because they do not like to upset people.
- It is much harder to deliver a message that is uncomfortable to preach, because it might force a change in the preacher as well.
- It is hard to preach a message that leaves us like Elijah, alone and facing attack from all sides.
- To declare the Word of the Lord means that we are not to compromise the truth even when it is uncomfortable for us.

Conclusion



- God needs modern Elijahs, people who will declare the truth of the Bible.
- God needs modern Elijahs, people who will not compromise to make it easier on themselves.
- God needs modern Elijahs, people who will faithfully declare the Word of the Lord.