

# Faith Is Action

September 2016 • USPS 184720 • Volume 55 • Number 9

**In This Issue:**

## **BUILD AGAIN THE ALTARS**



*“I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away”* (1 Kings 19:14).

These are the desperate words of the prophet Elijah (words I have felt like praying myself!). Elijah lived in a day when the land was filled with many false prophets. King Ahab and

compromise, apostasy, and mockery of the holy things of God and standards of righteousness and truth. God’s covenants are broken and His altars torn down. I believe that we must be the *Elijahs* of this age. Elijah was the prophet who seemingly stood alone against all of the false prophets of Baal. He stood against the wickedness, ungodliness, whoredoms and fornications of his day. The situation became so dire, until Elijah declared,



# Build Again the Altars

By R.G. Hardy

his wicked wife, Jezebel, actually *fed and kept 450 false prophets of Baal*, while God’s altars were torn down, and the land was steeped in idolatry, immorality, and abomination.

We are faced with the very same conditions today: *“In the last days, many false prophets shall arise and deceive many.... and some shall depart from the faith”* (Matt. 24:11, 1 Tim. 4:1).

More and more, we are faced with

*“Lord, only I am left, and they seek my life!”*

Elijah interceded against Israel’s wickedness, saying, *“Lord, all day long they tear down thine altars...”*

The spiritual application: They tore down *the true way of worship!* They forsook the old landmarks of righteousness and tore down the standards of holiness and godliness.

Ahab and Jezebel introduced religious wickedness to Israel. Through-

out the Bible, we find that Satan has used false religion to tear down God's Word. Even today, **there is not a famine in the land for religion.** There are multitudes of religions in existence, and if you don't like any of the existing religions, Satan will oblige you by manufacturing a new one, even making you the head.

But the prophet Amos declared that the time would come when *"there would be a famine in the land for the **hearing of the Word!**"* (Amos 8:11). People don't want to hear **the Word** today—they want to hear **a word!**

*"For the time will come when they will not endure (tolerate) sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (lies)"* (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

This verse has an interesting construction in the Greek text. The verb form *"and they shall turn away their ears..."* is in the **active voice**, which means **they are performing the action.** *"And shall be turned unto fables"* is in the **passive voice**, which means something or someone is **performing the action on them.** In other words, when *they rejected the truth*, they could not remain neutral—but were then *turned to the lie.*

## A Polluted Gospel

We have reached a point when our existence is threatened by pollution of the air we breathe, the water we

drink, the food we eat, but the greater threat is the polluting of the Word of God. Perverted doctrines not only cannot save, but eternally damn the soul. Satan is trying to tear down God's altars and pervert God's way of righteousness, to remove the *true* way of salvation and substitute a religious form or cunningly devised lie that cannot save, but in fact, will *damn* men's souls!

We have more churches today than at any other time in the history of mankind. We have more religions than at any other time in the history of the world. Satan is not against religion—He is against God's plan of salvation! He is out to dig down God's altars—where man meets God, and God meets man!

God's altar in the land of Israel was a symbol of true worship. But Israel had become so wicked, until Ahab married the idolatrous Jezebel, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. He built a house of Baal and reared up an altar for Baal in the house that he built for him. Then he made a grove where the false prophets of Baal gathered and committed their abominations in the sight of God. Together, Ahab and Jezebel introduced many foul and abominable ways of worship into the land of God's chosen people. They tore down God's holy altars and desecrated His holy way until Elijah declared: *"I, even I only, am left!"*

Satan's plan is to tear down the altars of God. He wants is to remove you and me, the intercessors. If you

are living righteously, he wants to remove you, because you are a shining light in this darkened generation. *“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt hath lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted?”* (Matt. 5:3).

If you are a real Christian, and on fire for God, that is why you are feeling so much pressure and buffetings coming against you, and why the enemy is fighting you so intensely, especially in your prayer life! You and those who are standing true to God with you, are the most detrimental force to his kingdom. *He wants to tear you down, because you are building up the altars of God!* You are a light, and light always conquers darkness. You can be in a pitch-black dungeon and strike one match, and the darkness is pushed back, and the light shines forth.

## Turn Away From

God spoke to me, “Son, the same spirits that deceived the people through Ahab and Jezebel are blinding the minds of this generation: That there is *no one right way*, while the people that are called by My Name, My Church, are playing church and seeking earthly riches.”

The Church has become so tolerant, liberal, and compromising, and many possess a religious spirit. *“They have a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof, from such turn away. They have a name that they live, but they are dead!”* (2 Tim. 3:5). What they really have is a religious spirit, and they are deceived.

They offer as proof of their knowledge of God material blessings and worldly riches, fulfilling the Scripture, *“They count gain as godliness; from such withdraw thyself”* (1 Tim. 6:5). Meanwhile, the enemy is tearing down the altars of God, digging up the altars of righteousness, and substituting false worship in its place.

Satan is trying to get you and me to tear down our altar of prayer and compromise our standards of holiness and godliness. We have reached a true parallel to Elijah’s day, when Elijah became convinced that there was no one left who had not compromised. They had become so wicked and abominable that he began to *intercede against Israel!*

Paul brought this out in Romans 11:2-3: *“...Wot (Know) ye not what the scripture saith of Elias (Elijah)? How he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.”*

Elijah felt that he stood all alone against the tide of wickedness, and his enemies, especially wicked Jezebel, sought his life, and there would be none to stand for righteousness. *“But what saith the answer of God unto him?”*

***“I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal”*** (vs. 4).

Today God is calling to His 7000 and to His Elijahs to come up on Mount Carmel, the mount of prayer, to call on God to send His power

upon the altar of the Lord. We must stand up against the Ahabs and Jezebels and false prophets and preach the whole counsel of God! I'm not afraid of Jezebel and Ahab! I'm not going to compromise, because the only way we are going to see revival is for **God's 7000** to build again the altars of righteousness! I believe the Lord is weeping over our nation as He did over Jerusalem: "*How oft, how oft would I have gathered thee as a hen gathers her brood, but thou wouldest not!*" (Matt. 23:30). Oh, how God is trying to gather His people together to stand up against false worship!

## The True Worship

Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel and restored the altars of God. The altars had been torn down, and he had to rebuild them. The altars of righteousness today have been torn down, and you and I must build again the altars of prayer! Where there are no walls of righteousness, every foul and unclean spirit invades. We are going to have to walk with God and worship Him in true worship. Jesus said in John 4: 23-24: "*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. And they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*"

The fact that Jesus stated there are "true worshipers," means there must also be *false worshipers*, or those who are not worshiping **the true God of the Bible**. Paul said in 2 Tim. 2:5,

*"There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* Not Mary. Not Mohammed. Not Buddha. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life...*" (John 14:6). Does this seem exclusive? It is not exclusive in the sense of who may come to God: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16).

Peter said, "*...God is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Pet. 3:9). Paul declared, "*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (2 Tim. 2:4).

**God excludes no one from coming to Him, but He is exclusive in the way we can come to the Truth, because the Truth is in His Son, Jesus Christ.**

Jesus told Pilate: "*To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice*" (Jn. 18:37).

Jesus did not say "God" seeks for worshipers—but the "Father." This denotes *relationship*. Worship is about having a personal, intimate relationship with the Father! It's not about "where" or "which mountain," it's about "Whom"—*the Father!* And Jesus said, "*No one cometh unto the Father but by me*" (John 14:6). Paul said in Ephesians 4:5-6, "*There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One*

*God and Father off all, who is above all...*” **There is no other God.** Not Allah, but the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. **This is true worship.**

The woman to whom Jesus spoke these words was an adulteress and a harlot, but she was also a Samaritan. Their discourse turned to religious matters when she asked Jesus whether they were supposed to worship at Jerusalem or at Mount Gerazim. The question is *“How did the Samaritan’s religious sect begin?”* The answer is found in 2 Kings 17:23-41:

After the Jews of Israel were carried away into captivity to Babylon, and only few were left to tend the land, the king of Assyria sent Babylonians to Israel to inhabit the land. Judgment, in the form of lions, devoured the people, and so they asked the king to return a priest of Israel to the land to teach them the ways of God. They thought this would stay God’s judgment on the land.

This might sound like a good thing on the surface, but it wasn’t. What happened was, the people added the Judaic worship to their own gods. They did not adopt Judaism as their faith, but they mixed it in with their false worship. The result was a polluted form of Judaism which continued even until Jesus’ time. This is why there was so much hatred and hostility between Jews and Samaritans. The Jews regarded them as “half-breeds.” They were not allowed to worship in the temple at Jerusalem.

Jesus answered the woman, “Ye

*worship you know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews”* (Jn. 4:22). In other words, Jesus clearly stated, *“Salvation is out of Judah.”* This is a direct prophecy from Micah 5:2 which states *“Out of thee (Judah) shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting.”* This is a Messianic prophecy. Jesus did not tell her that it was all right to serve God in her own way as long as she served God. No, only “true worshipers” can worship the God and Father of Jesus Christ.

**We are seeing a parallel today as many seek to elevate Islam to the same level as Christianity and “other gods” to be equal with the God of the Bible and His Son, Jesus the Messiah.**

### Tolerance VS. Compromise

People are afraid of being accused of being intolerant or exclusive. It is one thing to be tolerant of other people’s rights to choose to serve whom they will. God Himself said, *“Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve...”* (Joshua 24:15). God won’t make anyone serve Him who doesn’t want to. But it is another thing to say that all faiths are equal, all gods are equal, and all ways to God are equal. Clearly the Scriptures teach otherwise. This is not being intolerant. God even tolerates the devil at this time. We are free to make our own choices, but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choices. God has said, *“I set before you life*

*and good, death and evil... Choose ye life that ye may live... For there is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death”* (Deut. 30:15-19, Prov. 14:12).

All around us the Ahabs and Jezebels of this day are tearing down the altars of God and instituting false worship to false gods, but I believe that God has reserved unto Himself **7000** who have not bowed their knees to the idol of compromise. When Elijah thought that he stood all alone against the false prophets, he feared for his life, and when he learned that Jezebel was out to get him, *he ran for his life!* But while he sat under the shade of the juniper tree and requested for himself that he might die, the angel of the Lord touched him and prepared a heavenly meal for him that sustained him for forty days while he went up into Horeb, the mount of God, where he lodged in a cave. Then the word of the Lord came unto him, and said, *“What doest thou here, Elijah?”*

*“And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenants, and **thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away.**”*

But what was the answer of God to Elijah? *“Yet have I reserved unto me seven thousand that have not bowed their knee to Baal! I have hidden them in the caves and fed them on bread and water. And I have been trying them in the fire, and putting*

*them to the test, and when they come forth they shall be as pure gold, and not as the chaff which the wind driveth away!”*

Elijah was feeling sorry for himself. He had seen God answer by fire and consume the sacrifice. He had prevailed over the prophets of Baal and slew them, but even after that great victory, he fled in fear at the rage of Jezebel. God rebuked Elijah saying, **“What are you doing here? Get up! You are not the only true prophet left. I have left to me 7000 in Israel who have not bowed to Baal.”**

### **The Last Days' 7000**

The same scene is set for these last days. We are in the “perilous times” Paul spoke of, *“when men shall be lovers of pleasures and lovers of self more than lovers of God, and haters and despisers of them that do good”* (Ref. 2 Tim. 3:1-3). But in the midst of this gross wickedness, even while the wicked are ruling and the false prophets are prophesying in high places, God has **His 7000** and His *Elijahs* who will build again His altars! God is preparing **His 7000** that He has reserved for this last-day revival, and I don't know about you, but I've made my mind up I'm going to be one of them! I'm going to build again the altars of prayer the enemy has digged down and the tabernacle of prayer he has wasted. I'm going to maintain the standards of truth and holiness that saved me and have kept me 63 years, *while many have departed from the faith!*

Paul said in Rom. 8:19-22, “*The whole creation awaiteth the manifestation of the sons of God!*” They are travailing, waiting for God’s real sons to be manifest, those who have not compromised or been infected and contaminated by the world and false worship. The world is *groaning* under the burden of Satan, waiting for their deliverance, for the **7000** who have walked with God upon the mount of prayer!

We must show the world the power of God! We must show them the glory of God. They must see our good works, and then they will glorify our Father in heaven. We must hold up the blood-stained banner which the devil hates so much and seeks to disannul. We must build again the altars of righteousness, of holiness, of prayer and fasting, and walking in the Spirit. God’s Word declared, “*Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people!*” (Prov.14:34).

There is no other foundation but righteousness: “*The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ, **depart** from iniquity*” (2 Tim. 2:19).

It can be no clearer than this, that in order to name the Name of the Lord, we must **depart** from iniquity! Don’t name the name of Christ—Don’t call yourself a *Christian* if you’re still living in sin! God’s Word demands that we “**depart** from iniquity”—“**turn away** from those

who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof”—and that “we **withdraw** ourselves from those who count gain (the prosperity gospel of greed) as godliness!” (2 Tim. 2:19, 3:5, 1 Tim. 6:5).

We are in the battle. We are being pressured to compromise on all sides and all fronts. But we must not run from the pressure! We must dig our heels in deeper. We must consecrate ourselves and dedicate ourselves more to prayer and fasting, and God will strengthen us for the challenge of the enemy as He did Elijah.

### Breaking Through In Prayer

Prayer and fasting can be likened unto a great jet airplane taking off. In order for a jet to get all those tons of steel up off of the ground and through the clouds, it strains its engines at full capacity, revving with great power and force, struggling to break through the heavy atmosphere and air currents. They vibrate in protest as the plane’s nose pushes through the bucking currents. But when it reaches a certain altitude, it breaks through to the jet stream and smoothly levels off. There it is pushed along by the tail winds as it glides gracefully through the heavens at tremendous, but gentle speeds.

Likewise, while one is pressing his way through to a higher spiritual level, he is struggling and straining in fasting and prayer, bucking against the opposition of the enemy and of his flesh. Then all of a sudden, he feels that explosion in the spirit, and

he knows he's broken through the spiritual warfare, through the devil's domain in the heavenlies, and through to heavenly places with Christ! (Ref. Eph. 6:12).

I'll tell you how to get there: Start building again the altars of God, the altars of prayer in your home. Learn to wait on the Lord, and you will not get weary. You'll run and not faint. But like the eagle, like that jet plane, you'll flap your wings and mount up into heights sublime in the Spirit, far above the beggarly elements of this world and the fleshly lusts that war against the soul! (Ref. Gal. 4:9, 1 Pet. 2:11).

If you are living right, the enemy is trying to remove you and tear down your altar of prayer, so that this world will not know anything but wickedness. (Ref. 1 John 5:19). Satan is trying to put your light out. God is looking for a people who will let their lights shine. He is looking for a remnant out of the church, even **His 7000** who will be vessels of honor in His great house: *"But in a great house there are not only vessels of honor, but some to dishonor... And if a man will purge himself, he will be a vessel of honor, sanctified, meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work"* (2 Tim. 2:20-21).

What are the good works? "Letting our lights shine before men!" And in the midst of gross darkness and false prophets and false worshipers, God is going to send revival! He will bring His mighty remnant together and prove who is the real and living God, and who are the true prophets of God!

God is going to send a rainstorm of revival, and those who are not real for God, and who are false prophets are going to be consumed as they were in Elijah's day!

The prophet Isaiah spoke a word concerning the conflict of light and darkness before the coming of Christ to set up His millennial kingdom, and he sounded a clarion call to the people of God to rise up in the strength of God:

*"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee"* (Isa. 60:1-2).

On one hand there is gross darkness and spiritual deception, but on the other hand, God's glory and the light of His truth shine brightly upon the people of God! But we must rise up! This is often the case in times of God's judgment. When it seems to be the darkest hour of the night of the soul, God calls to us in His mercy to lift us up and deliver us. I believe God's voice can speak to us through the prophets words:

*"With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea with my spirit within me I will seek thee early; **for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness...** Lord, in trouble have they visited thee; they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them..."*

*"Come, my people, enter thou into*

*thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast”* (Isa. 26:9, 16, 20).

Just as God answered Elijah when he interceded against Israel, and declared that He had **7000** reserved unto Himself that would not bow their knee to Baal, God has a people and a remnant reserved unto Him this day according to the election of grace. They will not bow their knees to the Baals of this generation! He has tested them to see of what sort their works are, and He has tried them in the fire to see if they will stand up for righteousness and come forth more precious than gold. He has preserved them as He did the **7000** in Elijah’s day to build again His holy altars.

They will lift up their voices against the Jezebels and declare, *“You are a false prophetess! You are a sinful woman! ...And as for you, Ahab, you murdered to get what you have, and you disobeyed God and married that idolatrous woman!”*

Ahab had taken Jezebel, a strange woman of a foreign nation for his wife, a practice that was clearly forbidden by God. Consequently, Jezebel introduced all of her false religions and vile worship to God’s holy people. This worship was associated with whoredoms and perversion. In their temples were female and male prostitutes who served at the altars and worshiped the gods and goddesses of fertility. When people came to worship, they committed unclean and

unlawful sex acts to consummate their worship. That is why God hated it so, and why He destroyed it.

## Silence the Truth

Jezebel set up 450 false prophets of Baal, until all Israel had become idolatrous and dug down the altars of Jehovah and righteous worship. Instead, they built groves and altars of Baal, of whoredoms and homosexuality. The false prophets flourished in the house of Ahab and Jezebel. It became so wicked until Jezebel killed all of the prophets of God. She wanted to get rid of every righteous voice, so that the people would know nothing but her unholy, vile worship!

## The Mount of Prayer

We read in 1 Kings 18 that Ahab gathered the 450 false prophets of Baal together with the 400 false prophets of the groves which ate at Jezebel’s table. He gathered the 850 false prophets together with the children of Israel unto Mount Carmel. Elijah then spoke unto the people: *“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!”* (vs. 21).

Please note: **The people answered not a word!** Where were the cries against the false god of Baal? Where were the protesters against the wicked Jezebel and her false prophets? Was there none to stand up against the evil? Was there none to lift a faithful voice to declare God’s righteousness?

Whether they were all deceived by the contamination of the false worship, or whether some were just too intimidated to take a stand for God, no one answered. But Elijah stood true!

Elijah instructed the people to prepare two bullocks for sacrifice, but to put no fire under them. Then he declared unto the false prophets, *“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!”* (vs. 24).

If you are familiar with the story, you know that those 450 false prophets of Baal called on the name of Baal early in the morning until noon, saying, *“O Baal, hear us!”* But there was no voice. They cried until they were hoarse. They cried until they became so frustrated and distraught, they cut themselves with knives and lancets till the blood gushed out!

So Elijah began to mock them saying, *“Cry louder... Maybe he’s taking a nap, or he went on a journey, or he’s talking to someone else!”*

Finally, when the time of the evening sacrifice approached, Elijah called the people to his altar where the bullock was prepared. He then instructed the servants to fill four barrels with water and to pour it upon the sacrifice and on the wood, which they did. He then instructed them to do it a second and third time, until the water ran down the altar and filled the trench around it!

When all this was done, Elijah cried out, *“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. 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”*** (vs. 37).

When Elijah had finished praying this one prayer, 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! And when the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and said, **“The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God!”**

Then Elijah commanded them to take the false prophets of Baal unto the brook Kishon, and there *they slew them, and not one of them escaped!*

## Restoring the Altars of Prayer

In every generation and dispensation, God has always had a remnant, a people who will not compromise. And in this day, **God is calling for His 7000 to build again His altars!** He is looking for godly people to lift up a standard of righteousness so the heart of the nation will turn back to Him. Like He did upon Mount Carmel in the day of Elijah, God is going to witness to this generation with mighty signs and wonders and miracles, and declare His omnipotence. And He is going to work through His holy remnant!

This is the promise that we have received by the Holy Ghost as prophesied by Joel:

*“And it shall come to pass after-*

*ward, that I will pour my spirit out upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said and, in **the remnant whom the Lord shall call**" (Joel 2:28-32).*

God is calling! Yet, Jesus said "Many are called, but few are chosen!" God only needs His few! *His Elijahs! His 7000! His remnant!* Together we can build again the altars of righteousness that are fallen down, and offer up the holy, acceptable, and living sacrifice, even our bodies, which is our reasonable service (Rom. 12:1-2).

## Epilogue

Saints, this is not a new message, but neither is it out-dated. We are standing on the threshold of a strategic time in our nation's history, and in a contest between light and darkness. The stakes are high: Over 50 million babies have been aborted and their blood cries out to God. The Biblical institution of marriage has been

struck down. Gender identity crises mock God's design. The infiltration of radical Islam threatens our safety while Christianity is mocked and censored.

Will you take your stand as one of God's righteous 7000 who will not bow down or give up? The only way to reclaim ground we have lost and maintain the standards of righteousness we believe, is to rebuild the altars of prayer.