

Faith -Part 3B - Powerful Acts of Faith

As we continue to study powerful acts of faith pay close attention to what the men of God in the bible, said and did.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #1: Elijah on Mr. Carmel

1 Kings 18:16-45

Watch how Elijah has no fear through this entire demonstration of the power of God

Elijah gives God credit – directly in the face of the enemy

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3D #1: 1 Kings 18:16-20

Ahab and his fathers house troubled Israel – because they followed Baalim and forsook the commandments of the Lord.

So Elijah prepares for a show down

Don't eat at Jezebel's table

¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

¹⁸ And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

¹⁹ Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

²⁰ So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

Powerful Acts of Faith 3D #1: 1 Kings 18:21-24 - The one that answers by fire

Who is more powerful?

1 prophet of God to 450 prophets of Baal – going against 450 enemy/evil prophets takes faith!

Its interesting that the people conceded that whoever answered by fire would be called God – fully doing the wrong thing, but just a tiny amount of sense left over[it is well spoken].

Why didn't the 450 prophets just come after Elijah?

²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, 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.

²² Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

²³ Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

²⁴ And 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. **And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.**

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3D #1: 1 Kings 18:25-28

Even cutting themselves was not enough to “activate” their god

The blood gushed out of them – they were literally going “all out”

Baal is either sleeping, or somewhere out to lunch!

Verse 27 suggests the same absurdness as in

Deuteronomy 4:28

²⁸ And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

1 Kings 18:25-28

²⁵ And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

²⁶ And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

²⁷ And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

²⁸ And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3D #1: 1 Kings 18:29-32-He built an altar in the name of the Lord

The trench was to prove to the prophets of Baal and their leader that no tricks were taking place

Remember what was said in vs. 25 – but no fire underneath it

Its hard to burn wet wood!

²⁹ And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

³⁰ And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #1: 1 Kings 18:33-36

Water a 2nd time and a 3rd, and fill the trench...

Elijah turned on the fire hose because he wanted there to be no doubt who was Lord of all



³³ And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

³⁴ And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

³⁵ And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, 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.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #1: 1 Kings 18:37-40

The sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and the water in the trench were consumed.

It takes a lot of fire to consume stone – and this wasn't a slow melting process, it was quick!



³⁷ 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.

³⁸ 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.

³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

⁴⁰ And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #1: 1 Kings 18:41-45

Besides his initial prayer Elijah makes another statement of faith showing he believed what he said when he prayed by saying there is a sound of the abundance of rain

In the natural – there was no sound present (though he may have perceived it spiritually)

For 6 times he could have given up – well, God responded by fire, but it doesn't look like he is going to follow through with the rain. Sounds like a similar pattern to the walls of Jericho.

Jeremiah 1:12

12 Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

*Prepare thy Chariot – get the down – **that the rain stop thee not** – another statement of faith.*

Even when there is only a little cloud – Elijah stays strong in faith

1 Kings 18:1-45

41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down **that the rain stop thee not.**

45 And it came to pass in the mean while, that **the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.** And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Parting the red sea

Exodus 14

Watch the parallels here between Israel crossing the red sea, and Israel fighting the philistines

Both times they are afraid – thoroughly steeped in fear.

With the philistines – David was the one using strong faith

With the Egyptians – Moses was the one using strong faith

What's up with Israel – how quickly we forget what God has done for us.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Exodus 14:1-5

God tells Moses a specific place for Israel to make camp – to prepare them for being protected from the Egyptians – but he made it look like they were blocked in, so that pharaoh would pursue them. The protection was going to be super-natural, not a strong place of defense.

14 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

²Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

³For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

⁴And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord. And they did so.

⁵And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Exodus 14:6-10

Again Israel is sore afraid

In verse 10, it looks like they are crying to God for help – but they are not – look in verse 11.

600 chariots of the good kind, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains (meaning well trained and knowledge) were driving them.



⁶And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

⁷And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

⁸And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.

⁹But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.

¹⁰And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Exodus 14:11-15-So you want to go back to Egypt?

You have lead us out into the wilderness to die

Eating leaks and onions by the Nile



Ooh what breath for dining out in style

So you want to go back to Egypt – Keith Green

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_No9sl69oQ

¹¹ And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

¹² Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

¹³ And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

¹⁴ The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

¹⁵ And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Exodus 14:16-20



God protected them all night until the waters could part and the land could dry – and Pharaoh's army couldn't touch them.

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Exodus 14:21-25-And Moses stretched out his hand



We have seen wind that blows trees and makes waves – but to part a sea, that is extra strong

Notice also that they weren't getting stuck in the mud

If Moses hadn't of stretch out his hand - the strong east wind wouldn't have blown all night

This wasn't instant – Moses had to hold (remember Hold!!! – from 2 weeks ago?) his faith all night – even though the barrier of protection was there with the cloud of darkness and the pillar of light, they were still trapped.

And just to be clear – the horses weren't heathen's

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.



23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

²⁵ And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

Powerful Acts of Faith: 3B #2: Exodus 14:26-30-And the people believed the Lord

Follow through on your faith: If Moses hadn't stretch out his hand again, the sea wouldn't have drowned the Egyptians: The children of Israel walked on dry land

²⁶ And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

²⁷ And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

²⁸ And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

²⁹ But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

³¹ And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.

The takeaway

Elijah didn't flinch – not even once, neither should we!

He was so bold in faith – that he got right up in the face of the devil and his followers

God answered by fire – Elijah believed in rain, even when there was no evidence of it

The Egyptians thought Israel were trapped

1 Corinthians 1:27

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

A song of praise came forth from the Israelites after the Egyptians are drowned

Exodus 15:1

15 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Faith never considers the circumstances.

Correlating Music

Saddle up your horses – Steven Curtis Chapman -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alAuc5DWJ1M>