

The Trouble With Elijah IV

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Like Elijah, pro-life activists are doomed to fail in efforts to reconstitute the Supreme Court. Elijah's execution of 450 baby-sacrificing prophets of Baal was as futile as it was anomalous. King Ahab, not Elijah, was head of Israel's supreme court. But, Ahab was a Baal worshiper and his Queen, Jezebel, could still threaten Elijah with death (I Kings 19:2). When Elijah retreated in confusion, God directed him back to Israel to minister to 7,000 Israelites "which have not bowed unto Baal" (I Kings 19:18). He also charged Elijah to anoint Jehu king over Israel to visit judgment upon Ahab's house and end Baal worship in Israel (I Kings 19:15-17).

In the meantime, Elijah's fiery prayers shook Ahab's house (I Kings 18:36f; II Kings 1:9f). Queen Jezebel's bloody purge of God's prophets (I Kings 18:4) was halted. The prophets, hidden by Obadiah, were released to establish preaching communities in Bethel and Jericho under the auspices of Elijah (II Kings 2:3, 5). After Ahab's death, King Jehoram went so far as to "put away the image of Baal that his father had made" (II Kings 3:1-2). But this reform was mere window dressing. Baal worship was still entrenched in Israel. It remained for bloody King Jehu to wipe out Israel's Baal worship in one fell swoop (II Kings 10:18-28).

Nevertheless, despite the prophets in her midst, Israel continued to drift into lawless anarchy. As Amos declared, "I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites . . . saith the LORD. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not"(2:11-12). Finally, the Bible cites Israel's idolatry as the cause for her removal into Assyrian captivity. "They left all the commandments . . . and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire . . . and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger" (II Kings 17:16-17).

Further, before Jehu's mass execution of Baal's adherents, Baal worship was exported to Judah via marriage between the houses of Ahab and King Jehoshaphat (II Kings 8:16-18). When Jehoiada overthrew Athaliah, Jezebel's daughter, "all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down . . . and slew Mattan the priest of Baal" (II Kings 11:18). Later, Baal worship's infant sacrifice was reinstated by both King Ahaz and King Manasseh respectively. But, their idols were destroyed during the subsequent reigns of Hezekiah and Josiah. Sadly, the iconoclasm of these righteous kings failed to save Judah because her people "despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments" (Amos 2:4).

Like Baal worship, America's "god of sexual convenience" requires the sacrifice of babies. The Abortion Holocaust in this country was not foisted upon America by some wicked Jezebel. Instead, the Roe v. Wade decision merely reflects values of the sexual revolution that pervaded this country in the late 1960s. Our governing officials still show little sign of using their authority to deliver innocent, unborn Americans being "drawn unto death" (Proverbs 24:11f).

Rather, we must pray God will raise up preachers who will call Americans to repent of our obsession with sex, in the power of Samuel, Elijah and John the Baptist. Let us recall that Samuel preached fully 20 years before "the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only" (I Samuel 7:4). But, the hideous passing of infants through fire to Baal was banished in Israel at the grass roots for over 100 years thereafter. Let us be admonished that God's stern remedy for an abortion-induced "generation gap" is fiery preaching. "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the

children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Malachi 4:6). Amen.