

## **Obadiah the Devout**

1 Kings 18:1-16

(1 Kings 16:31-32)

by Don Falkos

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King Ahab of Israel married a Phoenician princess named Jezebel. She worshiped Baal and persuaded Ahab to worship Baal. He built a temple to Baal in Samaria. When the prophets of the Lord spoke out against Baal, Jezebel set about to kill every last one of them. But Obadiah, the overseer of Ahab's palace, was a devout worshiper of the Lord. He hid a hundred of the Lord's prophets in two caves and provided them with food and water.

In the third year of drought, the Lord told Elijah, "Go and present yourself to Ahab. Tell him I will send rain soon."

The drought was accompanied by famine, which was quite severe in Samaria. So Ahab summoned Obadiah, and said, "We must check all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find enough grass to keep the horses and mules alive. Otherwise, we'll have to kill them." Ahab went searching in one direction, Obadiah in the other.

As Obadiah walked along, he recognized Elijah coming toward him. He bowed to the ground and said, "Is it really you, my lord Elijah?"

Elijah said, "Yes, it is. Now go and tell your master, 'Elijah is here.' "

"Why are you sending me to my death? Ahab has been searching for you everywhere. But when I leave to tell my master, 'Elijah is here,' who knows where the Spirit of the Lord will carry you. Then when Ahab comes and you're not here, he'll kill me."

Elijah replied, "As the Lord Almighty lives, I will surely present myself to Ahab this very day." Obadiah went to find Ahab and told him, "Elijah is here." And Ahab went to meet him.