

Date: 20 January 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Prophet of Fire: Who Is a Prophet?

Scripture text: 1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17

1. Elijah is the prophet of fire because most of the miracles he performed involved fire. He ministered in Israel during a time of great spiritual apostasy and was sent to rebuke Ahab the king of Israel. Elijah was called to be a prophet to restore the witness of Israel during the reign of king Ahab and when Jezebel his wife sought to abolish the worship of Jehovah and kill God's prophets.

2. A prophet is but an ordinary man, yet the Lord chooses to use him so that all glory will go to Him alone. In Hebrew, Elijah means "Jehovah is God" and nothing much is said about him except that he was a Tishbite from Gilead. His origin is not important, what matters is that he took heed to God's calling even though he experienced similar struggles, fears and temptations as us (James 5:17).

3. When rebuking Ahab, Elijah was humble because he acknowledged that he was merely the mouthpiece of God sent to the king. The miracle of withholding the rain for three years and six months was for man to know that Jehovah is the living and true God who is in control of all things. The heathen gods that they worshiped were false gods. A prophet must be a faithful messenger of God and speak all that God commands him without adding or subtracting to it (Deuteronomy 18:18). The fulfillment of prophecies glorifies God and His power. Jesus Christ was the perfect Prophet who spoke all that God commanded Him.

4. A prophet must be a contender of the faith and rebuke sin without the fear of man. He does so when he forthtells the Word of God by revealing the sins of the people and teaching them to repent. A prophet must also foretell the Word of God by telling the people what the future holds so that they will respond in a godly manner. Prophets who receive visions and dreams directly from God no longer exist from the time the Bible was completed. The Bible records all we need to know about God and man. All believers are also called to be preachers and contenders of the faith.