

Date: 3 March 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Prophet of Fire: No Neutrality!

Scripture text: 1 Kings 18:21-40

1. When it comes to spiritual matters, we must stand on the side of God's truth instead of being in support of truth and falsehood. We cannot be neutral. The people of Israel were limping between two opinions - whether they should follow Jehovah or Baal (a false god) (verse 21). They were neutral in choosing sides and it was a wrong choice as Jehovah is the only living and true God and He must be worshiped exclusively. The Bible tells us that no man can serve two masters. Likewise as Christians, we must follow Christ only and this must be reflected in our conduct and choices.

2. Elijah stood on the side of Jehovah even though he was a man full of weaknesses like us. He was the only one, out of 850 false prophets, who stood on Jehovah's side. We must not follow the majority if it leads us astray from obeying God's Word. We must by God's grace overcome our fears and weaknesses and choose Jesus Christ rather than the world.

3. The prophets of Baal called upon Baal to answer their prayers by consuming the sacrifices with fire. Baal was a false god and their cries were not answered (verses 26 to 29). In contrast, the LORD of Israel, Jehovah, answered the prayers of Elijah and He utterly consumed the sacrifices even though it was completely drenched (verses 30 to 38). Jehovah heard and answered Elijah's prayer because Elijah prayed for this miracle to magnify God's power and for the Israelites to return to Him again. Jehovah will vindicate and help those who stand up for Him. May the Lord help us to be courageous to stand on His side in all circumstances.