

Date: 17 February 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Prophet of Fire: Righteous Men in a Rotten World

Scripture text: 1 Kings 18:1-6

1. This world is rotten, corrupting and all the things of this world will eventually pass away. This is due to the fall of Adam, our representative head, who first sinned against God and the curse of death was upon all mankind. We are conceived in sin and will eventually die. However, we will not remain in this state of rottenness if we believe in Jesus Christ who died for our sins. As believers, we will not experience spiritual death but have everlasting life.

2. In every age, God will save a remnant in this rotten world to shine for Christ. Elijah was used by God to be a witness for Christ before king Ahab. The spiritual witness of Israel was dim during the three years of famine and drought. Ahab was carnally-minded and was more concerned of his material possessions and prosperity than for the livelihood of his people (verse 5). In this world where we have an abundance of material possessions, let us be mindful to set our affection on the things of heaven which are eternal.

3. The wife of Ahab, Jezebel, was on the kill for all the prophets of Jehovah. One would expect Israel, the nation of God, to be a faithful witness of Jehovah yet it was but a rotten nation. By the mercies of God, He sent Elijah and Elisha to perform miracles to point the people to God as their faith and belief in God were weak. In this present world, there is much malice, destruction and deceit. We have to be discerning, be on guard against temptations and be awakened by the spiritual wickedness of the world.

4. Elijah and Obadiah ("servant of Jehovah") were lights that shone in a rotten nation. They were courageous to witness for God despite the spiritual state of the nation and the difficult circumstances. Likewise, we have been saved from the bondage of sin to remain righteous men in this rotten world. The Bible is our guide and the Holy Spirit will enable us to grow in godliness in this world and among Christians. Let us learn to fear the Lord for it is the beginning of wisdom to walk aright.