

The Way We See the Lord

1 Kings 22:48-53, 2 Kings 1:1-18

The way we see the Lord reflects the kind of person we are. This story is about three captains who were sent to Elijah. The first two brought the king's anger to Elijah. The third approached him with humility. The response each captain got reflected the attitude they brought to Elijah.

Elijah and the Three Captains

The First Captain

Then the king sent to Elijah a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'" So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

The Second Captain

Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!'" So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

The Third Captain

Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: "Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight." And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king.

In the spiritual world, people who are filled with anger against the Lord see Him as a destroying fire, but people who love the Lord see Him as the sun of heaven, giving light and warmth to all. The way people see the Lord is a reflection of their own state of mind. Think about the way the people below acted and circle how each might see the Lord in the spiritual world.

Ahab	Consuming fire	Sun of heaven
Elijah	Consuming fire	Sun of heaven
Jezebel	Consuming fire	Sun of heaven
Jehoshaphat	Consuming fire	Sun of heaven
Micaiah	Consuming fire	Sun of heaven
Ahaziah	Consuming fire	Sun of heaven