



Collusion or Collision
Endurance of the Saints
From Sermon 7.4.21

Read *1 Peter 5:8-10*

Review from Sunday's sermon: After examining biblical and historic collision characters, it's time to focus on us/our day. As the landscape and culture change quickly, the Church must be equipped to endure persecution. The devil never rests—and wants to devour faithful Churches and believers. The indwelling of the Spirit and the promises of Word provide the Christian all the riches and resources we will need, in Christ Jesus.

1. To be clear on terms and doctrines: What is Perseverance of the Saints and how does it differ from Endurance of the Saints? Perseverance of the Saints [the "P" in the famous acrostic "Tulip"] addresses the doctrine of eternal security = once saved, always saved. Endurance of the Saints concerns this life and the ability to faithfully bear the cost of speaking and living Truth. It's critical to remember that God's presence is the not the absence of trial...it's the divine gift of enduring trial.

2. Who is Elijah and what did God commission him to do? See also *1 Kings 18:18-19*. Elijah was an Old Testament prophet of God, sent to the northern kingdom of Israel. He's one of the very few people in the Bible who could perform miracles. God sends Elijah to confront the pagan king, reform the idolatrous religious establishment, and force the community to choose collusion or collision.

3. What was Elijah's reception with evil king Ahab? Flip the script. Elijah—the messenger of God—was viewed as and accused of being the problem. See *1 Kings 18:17*.

3a. What was Elijah's challenge to the people? Choose. Right now, before God and king—Collusion with the false god/prophets of Baal or Collision with the powers that be.

4. What was the response of Jezebel to reformation? Absolute rage and a vow of revenge on Elijah.

4a. How is that parallel to the treatment and opinion of the world (and the liberal church) regarding the Bible-believing Church today—and, more so, going forward? As Jesus promised, the true Church will be viewed as the ills of society, not the solution. The world does not want to feel guilt for sin, so they will silence anyone whose doctrine places them outside God's will.

5. What was Elijah's common, human reaction to the threats? See *1 Kings 19:3-4*. To run, hide, and question God's plan. It's easy, when exhausted, to feel alone and hopeless.

5a. Can you relate to Elijah's despair? Various Personal Answers

If so, in what ways? _____

If you cannot not, why do you suppose that might be? Q: Am I being a faithful ambassador of Christ? Does anyone even know I'm a believer, or do I look, act, and respond like the world?

6. Re-read the incredible account (*1 Kings 19:11-12*) of how God answered and refreshed Elijah. How does God answer and refresh us? 1st...like God told Elijah, we must go stand before the Lord (prayer, personal & corporate worship). Instead, often in the trial and hurt, we isolate from God and just expect a magical intervention. We turn the Word. See *John 16:33* & *Philippians 4:6-7*