

Elijah or Merlin - Who Would Win To-day?

Exodus 8:19

If you were to take a survey of the general population; of who exercised the greatest spiritual powers; who would they mention? Houdini, Doug Henning, Benny Hinn, Harry Potter etc. And Merlin has been around for many centuries; being featured in many books and shows; including Walt Disney and Harry Potter.

But if you want to see real power; read the Bible, the Word of God. In Genesis; there is the creation and the Flood. And who can forget the destruction of Sodom and Gomorah. In Exodus; there are many miracles that God did to get His people free from slavery in Egypt. There's the account of God coming down to Mount Sinai. And of Our Lord Jesus going before them in the cloud and fire. In Joshua; God stopped the Jordan River at the height of the spring flood, so His people could cross and conquer the Promised Land, against great odds. And didn't all the judges win miraculous victories; especially Gideon, Samson, & Deborah.

Remember; David as a teen with five small stones and a sling-shot, killing the giant, Goliath; and then vanquishing his army. And there were other kings who were blessed by God's Mighty Power. Jehosaphat had three invading armies destroy each other before him. Hezekiah had the Angel of the Lord destroy the invading army of 185,000 men.

Some of the prophets too were involved in many great happenings. Elijah stood by as God sent fire down from heaven, and then made the priests of baal a deal they couldn't refuse. & at the end of his career, a chariot of fire was sent to take him up to heaven. And because Elisha saw him go up, he was given a double portion of the Spirit. Because of this, he did twice as many miracles as Elijah; so when he was surrounded by a foreign army at Dothan, he didn't have to kill them. His prayer was answered and they were struck blind, and afterwards they were healed.

And then, in the New Testament; the Son of God comes into the human race as the Son of Man; born of a virgin. Our Lord Jesus Christ encountered the forces of evil everywhere He went. 1 John 3:8B - For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Matthew 4: 23 & 24 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Even the dead were brought back to life. John 11: 41 to 53 - Then they took

away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

And when the religious system compromised itself with evil, Our Lord Jesus took definitive action. Luke 19: 45 to 48 - And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

The devil even thinks that he has won when Our Lord is crucified; but it is part of Our Heavenly Father's strategy. Matthew 26:28 - For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

And it just gets better. First, Our Lord fulfils the sign of Jonah.

Mark 16: 9 - Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Then, with His Mission successfully completed, Our Lord goes home.

Acts 1: 6 to 11 - When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria,

and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Next, at the appointed time, God's special blessing is given.

Acts 2: 1 to 4 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And the grand finale is coming in the not to distant future, when all of humanity, both dead and living, are summoned to appear before Our Heavenly Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15: 51 to 58 - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

And whereas the magicians use their incantations to bring up a bunny; believers have much better. Luke 10: 19 - Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

And when it all finishes; satan and his merlins will not be on top.

Philippians 2: 9 to 11 - Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

With all these mighty miracles, how can we lose? Now the devil doesn't give up easily. He infiltrated the church, and filled it with so much unbelief and hardness of heart; that they became powerless. Then he promised his

counterfeit power to those who would follow him. Many people, especially teens, are lured into his trap; only to find out too late that they have sold their souls to the devil. And so; the battle lines are drawn up.

Unbelievers and deceived believers; knowingly or unknowingly; are used in a futile attempt to thwart Our Lord Jesus and His saints.

Mark 8: 33 - But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Acts 19: 13 to 20 - Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men : and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

A while ago, there was a similar occurrence in Spain.

World Weekly News; April 10, 1990 - A Catholic priest (Luis Ponce), exploded in flames when a demon-possessed schoolgirl attacked him with balls of white-hot energy that shot from the palms of her hands!

How did others fare in spiritual contests?

A few years ago, the leading actor, who played Harry Potter, was stabbed to death outside a bar. Apparently his on-screen abilities didn't transfer into real life. & the main old wizard died during the making of one of the movies. But don't be too hasty in discounting the devil & his forces. If you come out from the covering of Our Lord's Blood; you will find out in a hurry what he can do. But for those who are in a righteous Godly relationship; the spiritual battles are fantastic; and will lead us closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Why don't we look at some of the spiritual battles; as recorded in the Bible. Jannes and Jambres were the chief wizards in Pharaoh's court.

How did they compare with Moses?

Exodus 7: 8 to 13 - And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod

before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exodus 7: 20 to 22 - And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8: 6 & 7 - And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; & the frogs came up, & covered the land of Egypt. & the magicians did so with their enchantments, & brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

So far, the magicians have been able to equal God's miracles. Let's see what happens next. Exodus 8: 16 to 19 - And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Their dark arts could not overcome God's Power; and they had to admit it.

But why didn't they then turn to the True and Living God?

Paul encountered a sorcerer in Acts 13: 6 to 12 - And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist & a darkness; & he went

about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Peter encountered a situation in Acts 8: 4 to 24 - Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them : and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

So how did Peter know that something was not right with Simon Magus?

God's Holy Spirit was leading him here, as He did in the matter of religious game playing. Acts 5: 1 to 11 - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, & kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, & brought a certain part, & laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it

remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him . And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: & the young men came in, & found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church & upon as many as heard these things. Spiritual warfare is raging all around us. How do God's people measure up? Some are not prepared for battle, and hide in fear.¹ Kings 18: 12 & 13 - (Obadiah) - And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth. Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water? These prophets claimed to fear God; but they really feared the forces of Jezebel. At least they were honest with themselves; they were not prepared for the upcoming conflict.

I've read about a man who thought that he could shut down some occultists in Central America. As he challenged them, they returned spiritual fire. He beat a hasty retreat, and turned green, and would have died unless Our Lord poured out Grace and Mercy, and as others prayed for him, he was delivered. So how do we get ready?

"Men who met God", by A W Tozer describes the process.

Both Moses and Elijah went through it, and so were used for God's Glory.

1 Kings 18: 21 to 46 - And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under : and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under : And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It

is well spoken. And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under . And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it , and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it , they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there. And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And

it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot , and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

What a tremendous victory, of Our God over satan and his forces.

Are there any similar upcoming conflicts? Revelation 11: 3 to 6 - And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

After their task is completed, the devil is allowed to kill them.

Revelation 11: 11 to 13 - And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

What a victory for Our Lord Jesus! And what did Our Lord promise us?

John 14: 12 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

The question is; are we willing to be made more in the Image of Our Lord and Saviour? Are we staying under the Blood, and developing the weapons of our warfare? Are we willing to break the alabaster box; and relying on the Holy Spirit; to endure the moments of crisis that will follow?

Because only then will we be like Moses, Elijah, Peter, Paul etc., in overcoming the Merlins of this dark age.

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