

The Lord, He Is God

1 Kings 18:19-40

¹⁹ Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. ²³ Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

²⁵ Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

²⁶ So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. ²⁹ And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

³² Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

³⁴ Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. ³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶ 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 Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. ³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

—1 Kings 18:19–40

Read 1 Kings 18:19–40

As we read through the Bible, one thing becomes crystal clear: there is drama! Throughout the stories contained in the Bible, the enemy always seems to have the greater advantage over the righteous. The righteous often appear to be outmanned, outmaneuvered, and outgunned—at least by physical standards. However, when God steps into the conflict, it is the hostile army of the Egyptians, the oppressive giant, and the enemies of Israel who have the disadvantage and certain defeat! In this way, God proves His power over every deficit, every disadvantage, every deterrent, and every foe! God does

- b. What was Elijah's proposition?
 - 1) Why do you think this was a reasonable proposition?
 - c. What does the people's response convey to you about their spiritual condition?
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- 3. From 1 Kings 18:22, note and comment on Elijah's disadvantage.
 - 4. Use the following verses to detail the ground rules for the contest between the prophets of Baal and Elijah.
 - a. Verse 23
 - b. Verse 24
 - c. Verse 25

5. Summarize the activity and productivity of the prophets of Baal from the verses given:
 - a. Verse 26
 - b. Verse 28
 - c. Verse 29

6. What do you observe about Elijah's demeanor during this time? 1 Kings 18:27
 - a. Why do you think Elijah taunted the prophets of Baal?

7. Cite and comment on anything that stands out to you concerning Elijah's actions:
 - a. Verse 30
 - b. Verse 31
 - c. Verse 32

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Reducing deities to any level of human behavior was an insult. Therefore, any suggestion (by Elijah) that Baal was drawn away to perform a creaturely necessity was a poignant blow.⁸

d. Verse 33

e. Verses 34–35

8. From 1 Kings 18:36–37, comment on these aspects of Elijah's prayer:

a. How God was identified (verse 36a)

b. How Elijah identified himself (verse 36b)

c. Elijah's request (verse 37a)

d. Elijah's purpose (verse 37b)

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

*Prayers that are based upon God's promises and God's Word, you can be sure, are going to be answered.*⁹

—Chuck Smith

9. Describe how God responded to Elijah's prayer.
1 Kings 18:38

10. Use 1 Kings 18:39–40 to comment on:

a. The people's response

- b. What the people said
 - c. Elijah's action
11. What is your greatest takeaway from 1 Kings 18:19–40?

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

The prophets of Baal and Jezebel were violent, and had already executed over 1,000 prophets of God. Now God was bringing judgment upon them through Elijah and the people.