

## Elijah: Channel of God's Power

# The Power of God

### In This Series...

1. We are reminded that no matter how godly we may be, there are still times of growing and stretching in our faith. (Even Biblical giants have problems!)  
*"Elijah was a man just like us..."* - James 5:17
2. We are learning that God has a plan, a response, and a lesson for every situation that we face, and that obedience is the key to our continued spiritual growth.

### The Context

*"After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." <sup>2</sup>So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab."* — 1 Kings 18:1,2



It was the third year of the drought prophesied by Elijah.

*"I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land."* - Luke 4:25  
*"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years."* - James 5:17

Elijah was still obedient even when it was very risky.

*"As surely as the LORD your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you."* - 1 Kings 18:10

Elijah did these things at the Lord's direction.

*"...that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command."* - 1 Kings 18:36

**Lesson:** Make sure that you are involved in what God is blessing instead of asking God to bless what you happen to be doing.

### The Confrontation

*"...and Ahab went to meet Elijah. <sup>17</sup>When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup>"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup>Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." <sup>20</sup>So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup>Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you*

*waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him."* - 1 Kings 18:16-21

Elijah accused Ahab of apostasy.

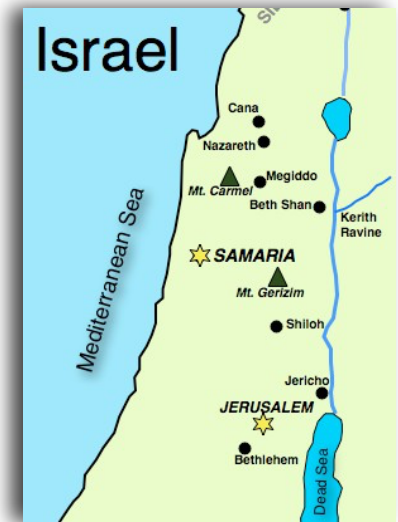
*"You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals."* - 1 Kings 18:18

Elijah challenged all Israel to a contest on Mt. Carmel.

The prophets of Baal and Asherah were specifically invited but only the prophets of Baal agreed.

Elijah challenged the people to make a commitment, but they were silent.

*"Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him."* - 1 Kings 18:21



**Lesson:** Leadership often means that you walk alone until the results are in!

### The Challengers

*"Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. <sup>23</sup>Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. <sup>24</sup>Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire — he is God."*

*<sup>25</sup>Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." <sup>26</sup>So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. <sup>27</sup>At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." <sup>28</sup>So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. <sup>29</sup>Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention."* - 1 Kings 18:22-29

Elijah gave the prophets of Baal the first opportunity. By doing this, the people would be able to see their futility.

The Baal prophets prayed, danced and shouted all day and Elijah taunted them.

Elijah did not care about political correctness, but about obedience.

**Lesson:** Although we all want to live in harmony, there is a time to draw a line. A person cannot be “politically correct” if it destroys their faith.

## The Champion

“Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. <sup>31</sup>Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” <sup>32</sup>With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup>He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.” <sup>34</sup>“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. <sup>35</sup>The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. <sup>36</sup>At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. <sup>37</sup>Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” <sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. <sup>39</sup>When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD — He is God! The LORD — He is God!”

- 1 Kings 18:30-39

## • The Reminder

Godly leadership is critical for all of us.

“Come here to me.” - 1 Kings 18:31

God’s altar hadn’t been used for a long time!

(in ruins) *You don’t need to build a new*

*“altar,” just repair the old one!*

These were the chosen people.

“Your name shall be Israel!”



## • The Altar

Blood was always the first element in forgiveness.

A bull was only used as a sin offering.

“Sacrifice a bull each day as a sin offering to make atonement. Purify the altar by making atonement for it, and anoint it to consecrate it.” - Exodus 29:36

## • The Water

After the blood, there is always water (baptism).

The water was scarce because of the drought. This was faith!

There were twelve barrels of water — one for each of the tribes.

Once the sacrifice and wood were drenched, Elijah could not light the fire himself. He was totally dependent on God.

## • The Prayer

It was said at the right time in accordance with God’s Word.

“At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed...”

- 1 Kings 18:36

It was short and to the point.

Elijah’s prayer was that the people would see God and repent.

## • The Response

The people acknowledged that Jehovah was the true God.

Unfortunately, they did not say, “He is *our* God!”

**Lesson:** After this story, nothing changed in Israel. People often say that they would change if God would just reveal Himself. But this simply isn’t true.



## Consider

*Are you courageous enough to stand up for what you believe even in the face of conflict?*

*If not, what would it take for you to become more courageous?*

## Elijah: Channel of God's Power

# The Power of God

### In This Series...

1. We are reminded that no matter how godly we may be, there are still times of growing and \_\_\_\_\_ in our faith. (Even Biblical giants have problems!)

*"Elijah was a man just like us..."*

- James 5:17

2. We are learning that God has a \_\_\_\_\_, a response, and a lesson for every situation that we face, and that obedience is the key to our continued spiritual growth.

### The Context

*"After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." <sup>2</sup>So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab."*

— 1 Kings 18:1,2

It was the \_\_\_\_\_ year of the drought prophesied by Elijah.

*"I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land."*

- Luke 4:25

*"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years."*

- James 5:17

Elijah was still \_\_\_\_\_ even when it was very risky.

*"As surely as the LORD your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you."*

- 1 Kings 18:10

Elijah did these things at the \_\_\_\_\_ direction.

*"...that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command."*

- 1 Kings 18:36

**Lesson:** Make sure that you are involved in what \_\_\_\_\_ is blessing instead of asking God to bless what you happen to be doing.

### The Confrontation

*"...and Ahab went to meet Elijah. <sup>17</sup>When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup>"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup>Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." <sup>20</sup>So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup>Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you*

*waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him."*

- 1 Kings 18:16-21

Elijah accused Ahab of \_\_\_\_\_.

*"You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals."*

- 1 Kings 18:18

Elijah challenged all Israel to a \_\_\_\_\_ on Mt. Carmel.

The prophets of \_\_\_\_\_ and Asherah were specifically invited but only the prophets of Baal agreed.

Elijah challenged the people to make a commitment, but they were \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him."*

*But the people said nothing."*

- 1 Kings 18:21

**Lesson:** Leadership often means that you walk \_\_\_\_\_ until the results are in!

### The Challengers

*"Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. <sup>23</sup>Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. <sup>24</sup>Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire — he is God."*

*<sup>25</sup>Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." <sup>26</sup>So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. <sup>27</sup>At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." <sup>28</sup>So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. <sup>29</sup>Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention."*

- 1 Kings 18:22-29

Elijah gave the prophets of Baal the \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity. By doing this, the people would be able to see their futility.

The Baal prophets prayed, danced and shouted all day and Elijah taunted them.



Elijah did not care about political correctness, but about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lesson:** Although we all want to live in \_\_\_\_\_, there is a time to draw a line. A person cannot be “politically correct” if it destroys their faith.

## The Champion

“Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. <sup>31</sup>Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” <sup>32</sup>With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup>He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.” <sup>34</sup>“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. <sup>35</sup>The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. <sup>36</sup>At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. <sup>37</sup>Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” <sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. <sup>39</sup>When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD — He is God! The LORD — He is God!”

- 1 Kings 18:30-39

## • The Reminder

Godly leadership is critical for \_\_\_\_\_ of us.  
“Come here to me.” - 1 Kings 18:31

God’s altar hadn’t been used for a long time!  
(in ruins) You don’t need to build a new  
“altar,” just repair the old one!

These were the \_\_\_\_\_ people.  
“Your name shall be Israel!”



## • The Altar

Blood was always the first element in \_\_\_\_\_.

A bull was only used as a \_\_\_\_\_ offering.  
“Sacrifice a bull each day as a sin offering to make atonement. Purify the altar by making atonement for it, and anoint it to consecrate it.” - Exodus 29:36

## • The Water

After the blood, there is always water (\_\_\_\_\_).  
The water was \_\_\_\_\_ because of the drought. This was faith!

There were twelve barrels of water — one for each of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Once the sacrifice and wood were \_\_\_\_\_, Elijah could not light the fire himself. He was totally dependent on God.

## • The Prayer

It was said at the right \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with God’s Word.

“At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed...”

- 1 Kings 18:36

It was \_\_\_\_\_ and to the point.

Elijah’s prayer was that the people would see God and \_\_\_\_\_.



## • The Response

The people acknowledged that Jehovah was the \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Unfortunately, they did not say, “He is \_\_\_\_\_ God!”

**Lesson:** After this story, \_\_\_\_\_ changed in Israel. People often say that they would change if God would just reveal Himself. But this simply isn’t true.

## Consider

Are you \_\_\_\_\_ enough to stand up for what you believe even in the face of conflict?

If not, what would it take for you to become more courageous?