

Elijah

The Battle of the Gods

Sunday, October 29, 2000

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!” - 1 Kings 18:38-39, NASB

The Background

Time: approximately 848 BC

Location: Israel, the Northern Kingdom

Key Players: The LORD

The Angel of the Lord

The Word of the Lord

Elijah, the Prophet of the LORD

Ahab, the King

Jezebel, the King's wife

Obadiah, Ahab's palace chief

450 Prophets of Baal

The People - a cast of thousands

Situation: Divided Kingdom

Spiritual Apostasy

Severe Drought

Corrupt and weak Ahab

Evil and powerful Jezebel

The Outline

1 Kings Chapter 18

v 1-4 God sends Elijah to Ahab, to prophesy rain

v5-6 Ahab and Obadiah search for water

v7-15 Elijah's promise to Obadiah

v16-19

Elijah tells Ahab to call for the priests of Baal

v20-24

Elijah gives rules for the “Battle of the Gods”

v25-29

Priests of Baal try and fail - Baal doesn't answer

v30-35

Elijah prepares a very wet sacrifice

v36-38

The Lord answers Elijah's prayer - fire aplenty

v39

People's reply: “The Lord, He is God!”

v40

Elijah kills all 450 priests of Baal

v41

Elijah prophesies heavy rain and end of drought

v42-44

Elijah follows up with prayer

v45-46

The Lord answers Elijah's prayer - rain aplenty

1 Kings Chapter 19

v 1

Ahab tells Jezebel about “The Battle of the Gods”

v2

Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah

v3-4

Elijah flees into the wilderness

v5-7

Elijah refreshed by the Angel of the Lord

v8

Elijah continues to Horeb

v9-10

Elijah visited by the Word of the Lord

v11-13

The Lord passes by

v14

Elijah's complaint

v15-16

The Lord's Reply: Go!

Anoint Hazael king of Syria

Anoint Jehu king of Israel

Anoint Elisha as prophet

v17-18

The Lord's rebuke of the Northern Kingdom

v19-21

Elijah anoints Elisha

The Final Word

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

- James 5:16b-18, NASB