

# 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