

Lesson 8

Elijah, A Man of Faith and Bravery

Lesson Text: 1 Kings 18:1-40



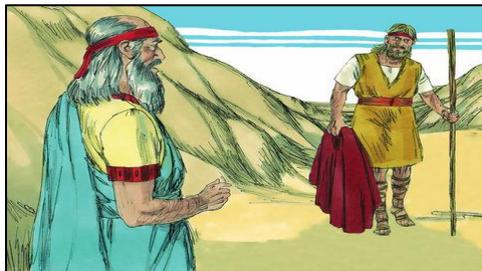
In 1 Kings 17:1, we see the prophet Elijah telling the evil King Ahab there would be a drought in the land for years. Ahab and his wife, Jezebel were idol worshippers.

Chapter 18 picks up 3.5 years into the drought. God tells Elijah to go speak to Ahab. Elijah is obedient and goes even though he knows his life will be in danger.



We are introduced to the head of Ahab's household, Obadiah and told that he feared Jehovah greatly. So much that he hid 100 prophets when Jezebel wanted them killed.

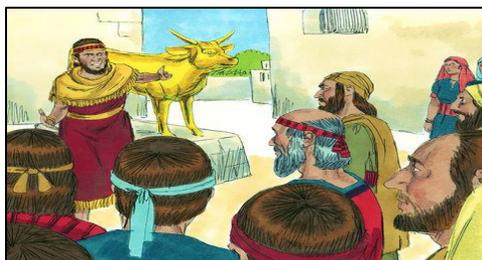
Obadiah falls on his face when he sees Elijah but is fearful when Elijah asks him to go tell Ahab that he is here. He is afraid that Ahab would kill him if Elijah disappeared again as Ahab had searched the world over trying to find Elijah after the drought Elijah predicted actually happened. Obadiah is assured that this will not happen, and that Elijah has every intention of meeting Ahab, so Obadiah goes to tell Ahab that Elijah has returned.



Ahab went to meet Elijah and when he sees him, Ahab has the nerve to accuse Elijah of being the one causing the drought and troubling Israel! Elijah shows great bravery by telling Ahab that he wasn't the one causing Israel's troubles. He goes on to tell Ahab that he was the one causing Israel's troubles and even those of Ahab's ancestors caused it because they forsook the Lord and His commandments and followed and idol (Baalim).

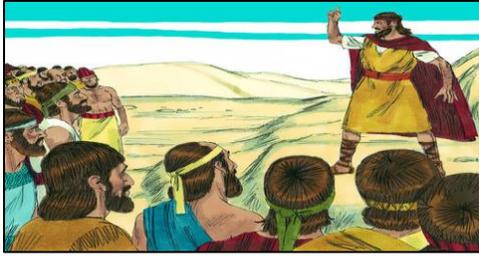


Elijah goes on to tell Ahab to gather up all the 450 prophets of Baal and all the 400 prophets of Asherah and to bring them to Mount Carmel to meet Elijah. Ahab agrees to this and sends for these false prophets.



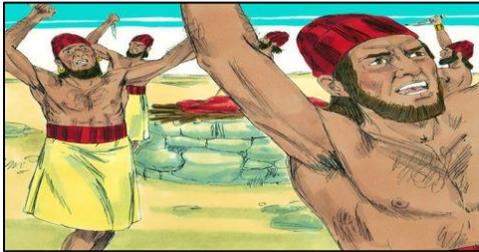
Meanwhile, Elijah confronts the people of Israel. He asks them how long they plan on going between two opinions. (The people would sometimes worship Jehovah God and other times the false gods), He said, if the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal is, follow him.

We read that the people answered him not a word. They were confused at this point.

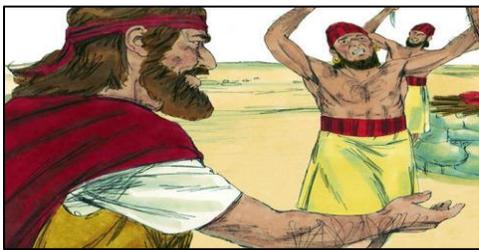


In Chapter 18 verse 22 Elijah reminds the people that he was only 1 man and he was a prophet of the Lord while Baal's prophets were 450 men.

This is when he issues a challenge to Baal's prophets. He wants to have a contest to see who is God. Was it Jehovah or was it Baal? Elijah already knew who God was, but he wanted the people to know. More importantly, God wanted the people to know that He was God.



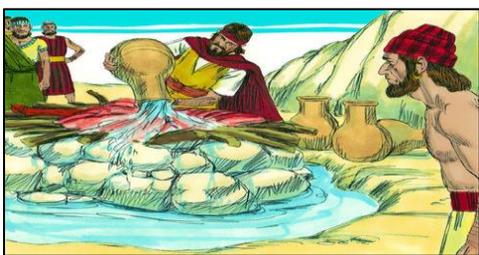
They would build two altars with each altar having a bullock and wood on it, but no fire would be added. The prophets of Baal would call on their god then Elijah would call on the name of the Lord. The one who answered with fire, would be God. The people agreed this was a good thing to do.



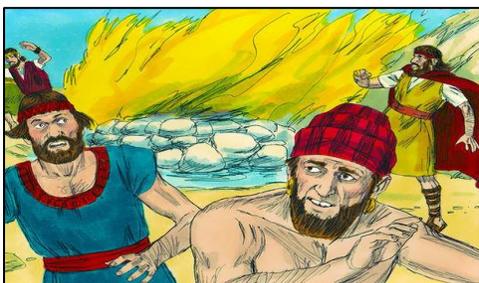
The 450 prophets of Baal chose their bullock and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon. They cried over and over begging Baal to hear, but no fire came. They even leapt on the altar trying to get Baal's attention!



At noon, Elijah starts mocking them. He told them to cry loudly for Baal was a god...he said maybe he is talking and does not hear you or maybe he is pursuing something or is in a journey. Elijah then said maybe he is asleep and needs to be woken up. Still nothing. Baal did not send fire.



They were so upset; they would do anything to get Baal to send fire, so they started cutting themselves with knives and begged for him to answer until the evening. They spent hours and hours begging for Baal to answer and still, there was no answer. Baal would never answer because he couldn't. He wasn't real, therefore didn't have the ability to answer.



Elijah then called the people to him and repaired the broken altar of the Lord. He took 12 stones and even put buckets of water on top and around the bullock, wood and in the trench. This would make it hard for fire to light with the water all over. But, not for God!

Elijah cries out to God in verses 36-37 and fire of the Lord fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust and even the water!

When the people saw this, they fell on their faces and said The Lord, He is God. Elijah follows the Mosaic Law (Deut. 17:2-5) and had the prophets of Baal killed at the brook Kishon. We are told that God sent rain after the contest.

What an example of bravery Elijah set by going against 450 prophets all alone! Let us be brave and stand up to those who are against God, even today!

Thought Questions

Elijah knew God was with him. He had faith. Faith so strong that he went up against King Ahab and hundreds of false prophets. Even though he thought he was the only one for the Lord, he stood his ground. Let us stand our ground today when it comes to the gospel of Christ!

1. Name at least 1 way we can show our faith even when people stand against God?
2. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. What do you think this verse means?
3. What is courage to you?
4. Write down 1 example of courage.
5. Think of 1 thing you will do to be courageous for our Lord.

Fill in the Blanks

1. Elijah was a _____ of God.
2. _____ was the King and _____ was the Queen during the time of the contest with Elijah.
3. Elijah went up against _____ prophets of Baal.

True/False

1. Obadiah worked for Ahab and was an idol worshiper, just like the king. _____
2. The contest between Elijah and the false prophets was held on Mount Carmel.

3. The false prophets cut themselves to get Baal's attention. _____
4. Elijah was sorry the false prophets couldn't get Baal to answer with fire. _____
5. Jehovah God answered Elijah's prayer with fire so hot it burned the sacrifice, the wood and everything Elijah had put on the altar. _____

Cryptogram: Deuteronomy 31:6

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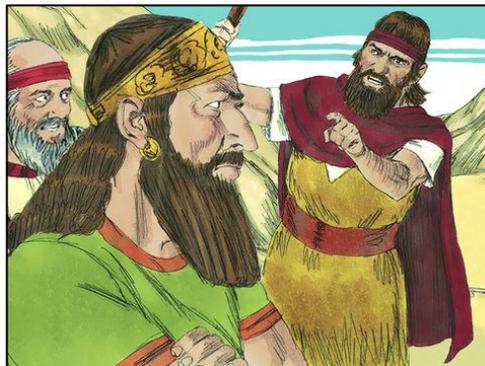
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Elijah

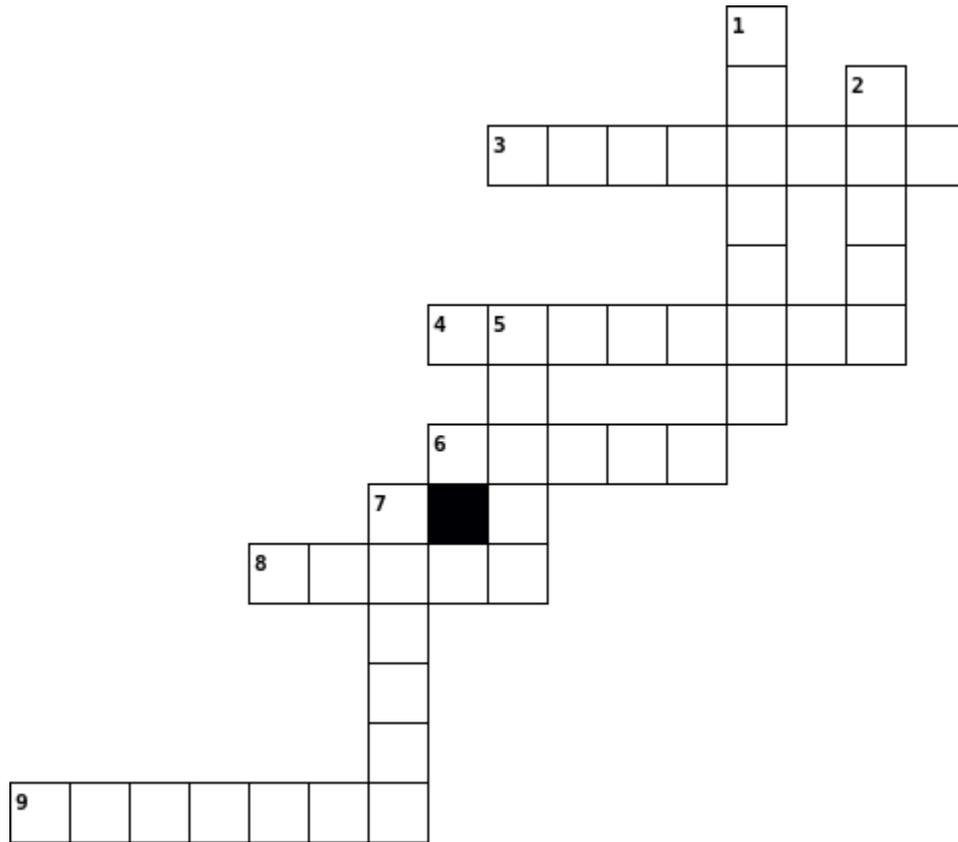
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I	R	E	A	F	I	D	T	C	H	T	V	E	R
F	A	B	A	C	I	G	S	E	R	O	R	S	C

COURAGE
 JEZEBEL
 ALTAR
 OBADIAH
 SACRIFICE
 AHAB
 BRAVERY
 MOUNT
 FIRE
 PROPHETS
 ELIJAH
 FAITH

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1328240/>



Elijah



Across

3. Head of Ahab's household
4. What it is called when it does not rain
6. What came down from God after Elijah prayed
8. False god Ahab and Jezebel worshipped
9. Mount where Elijah and the prophets of Baal met

Down

1. Mocked the false prophets of Baal
2. Accused Elijah of being the one troubling Israel
5. What God sent after the contest ended
7. Elijah poured this all over the altar of God

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