

E2E- Part 89

1 Kings 18

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May 18, 2025



1. Elijah's status as one of the great followers of God came at a huge personal cost as he surrendered to God's will.
2. The idol worship of Baal has taken over Ahab's household and is widespread throughout the land. Elijah makes it his mission to demonstrate that Yahweh is the living God and that Baal is not only false, but does not exist.
3. Elijah has been in hiding for three and a half years due to the severe drought and famine. God commands Elijah to come out of hiding and go directly to King Ahab, and He will bring rain.
4. Elijah gathers all of Israel, 450 prophets of Baal, and 400 prophets of the Asherah at Mt. Carmel. He asks the people how long they will waver between belief in Baal and belief in God, yet no one answers publicly.
5. Baal is considered the "god of fire," so it should pose no problem for the Baal worshipers to summon fire upon the altar. Elijah knows that only the omnipotent God Almighty can control the elements.
6. The frantic ritual of the Baal worshippers yields no answer, exposing their "god" as nothing more than an absurd, senseless idol of carved wood.
7. Elijah constructs an altar for the sacrifice and drenches it with four barrels of water. This is remarkable given the severe drought, and also eliminates any natural explanation for the supernatural fire that God is about to bring.
8. Even though Elijah is outnumbered 450 to 1, God is not bothered by "disadvantage" or odds.
9. The fire God sends consumes everything; the wood, the bull, the water, the soil, and the rocks are all devoured.
10. God's purposes will always be fulfilled, and He uses every detail of history, including the unbelief of the Israelites in the story, to demonstrate His power and worthiness of praise.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

•**Akar** (aw-kar´) to roil water; - to disturb or afflict: — trouble, stir

Paçach (paw-sakh´) to hop, skip over; by implication, to hesitate; (literally) to limp, to dance:— become lame leap

TODAY'S WORSHIP

God Is For Us
Yes I Will
Taste and See

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Think about someone you know that, up till now, has rejected Jesus as God, Lord, or Savior. Just for fun - what supernatural act would you love to see God do in their life that would prove He is the one true God?
- How would you define the difference between a "Believer" in Jesus and a "Disciple" of Jesus?
- Why do you think the Israelites gathered at Mount Carmel declined to publicly take a side between Baal and Yahweh?
- In what ways can different external forces in our lives influence us to just "keep quiet" when it comes to taking a stand for God and what He values?
- How might these or other external influences or concerns motivate someone to choose to be a "Believer" instead of a "Disciple?"
- Are there any "Ahab's" or "Jezebels" in your life that are making it difficult for you (either directly or indirectly) to live boldly for Jesus? What can you do about it?
- Despite the overwhelming evidence that Yahweh is the one true God, why do you think neither Ahab nor Jezebel repented of their wrong beliefs and turned to Yahweh? What might have motivated them?
- Why do you think some people today, despite recognizing the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection, would still choose not to follow Him as their Savior and Lord?
- In light of this passage, teaching, or discussion - what action step do you think God may be directing you to take? Write it down and ask God to help you to follow through with it this week.