



ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB



1 Kings 18-19

After King Baasha, Israel had many wicked kings. One of those evil kings was Ahab. He killed the prophets of God and led the people to worship a false god named Baal. The word of the Lord came to the prophet Elijah and said, "Go and present yourself to Ahab."

The prophet Elijah came to Ahab and said, "You have ruined Israel because you have abandoned the Lord's commands and followed Baal instead. Gather the entire nation, and bring the prophets of Baal, too."

Once everyone had gathered, Elijah said, "How long will you go between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him. Bring two bulls—one for me, and one for the prophets of Baal. We will each prepare them on an altar as a burnt sacrifice. Prophets of Baal, you will call on your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God that answers with fire is the one true God."

The prophets of Baal cried out to their false god from morning until noon, **but nothing happened.** Elijah made fun of them, saying, "Maybe your god is taking a walk, or maybe he is sleeping!" They danced and shouted all day, but there was no sound; no one answered; no one paid attention.

Then it was Elijah's turn. He repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. **He then prepared the bull on the altar and asked that water be poured on top.** So much water was poured that it gathered in a trench around the altar. **Elijah prayed to God: "Lord, today, let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant. Answer so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and you have turned their hearts back."**

Then the Lord's fire fell. It completely consumed the burnt offering, the wood and stones of the altar, and even the water gathered in the trench. **The people were amazed, falling facedown and saying, "The Lord, he is God!"**

Ahab told his wicked wife, Jezebel, everything that had happened. Jezebel sent word to Elijah saying she was going to kill him. Elijah ran for his life. When he was far enough away, he prayed and said, "Lord, I have had enough. I'm no better than the prophets before me."

The next day, the Lord spoke to Elijah. He told Elijah to go out to a mountain. A great wind passed by. Then an earthquake. Then fire. But the Lord was not in any of these. Then **there was a soft whisper. In that whisper, God said, "What are you doing here, Elijah? Go and anoint a new king over Israel.** I will preserve for myself people who still worship me and who have not bowed down to Baal. Go and anoint a new king and follow me." **Elijah obeyed God.**



Christ Connection: *God sent fire down from heaven to prove that He alone is Lord. God sent the Holy Spirit like flames of fire on Jesus' disciples to empower them to tell others that Jesus is God's Son who saves people from sin.*