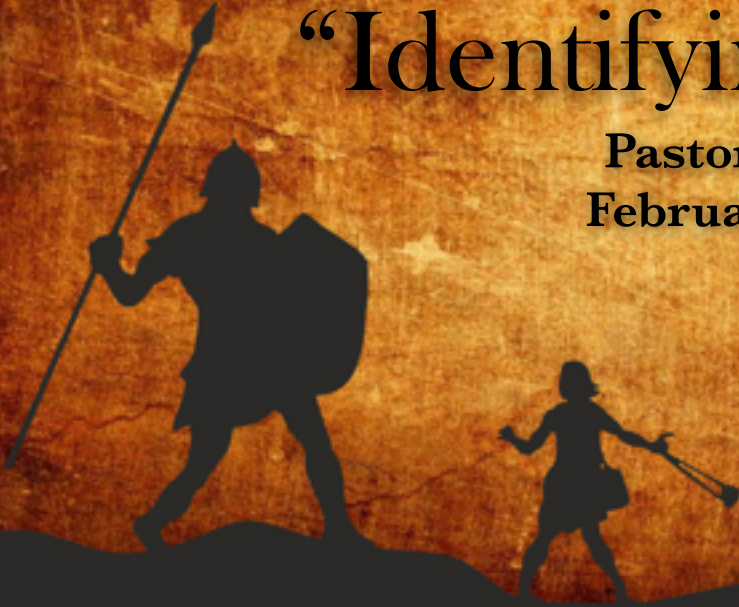


“Identifying The Giants”

Pastor Grant Williams
February 8, 2017 - Part 5



Ephesians 6:11-13 AMPC

11 Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural)

13 Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

Ephesians 6:11-13 KJV

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

*12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in **high places**.*

*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

How do we **Withstand?**: read the Word daily, believe the Word, speak the Word and act on the Word. We need to put on the whole armor of God which is our equipment that is needed to not only defend but to take ground against the enemy or giants in the land.

Paul wrote the church and told them why we need to put on the whole armor of God. He is telling us is going to be spiritually difficult to be a christian at the “Time Of The End” or “Last Days”...

2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV

*1 This know also, that **in the last days perilous times (spiritually difficult times) shall come.***

2 Timothy 3:1-5 AMPC

*1 But understand this, that **in the last days will come (set in) perilous (spiritually difficult) times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].***

Satan has been and will continue to use the 7 spheres or mountains to influence culture. He is ruler over this worlds spheres - the bible says so. As followers of Jesus Christ we need to keep up our guard, not live in fear or worry, but live in such a way that we don't fall away.

Matthew 10:16 AMPC

16 Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and [without falsity) as doves.

Why would Jesus say this? Remember, Paul told us it would be spiritually difficult to be a christian and Jesus tells us, I need you to be be my witness and make disciples but know, it will be difficult so you need to know the characteristics of the enemy.

Matthew 10:16 wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and [without falsity) as doves

The serpent is a very sharp sighted, cunning creature, and uses various strategies for its own preservation, and especially of its head; it is to be imitated by the followers of Christ, as to make use of all proper methods to preserve themselves from the insults and rage of men, and not expose themselves to unnecessary dangers: they should be careful to give no just occasion of offense, or irritate, to avoid all snares and traps that are laid for them; and, at the same time, maintain the innocence and harmlessness of the dove, being free from all wicked cunning and craftiness, without bitterness, hate and wrath; not meditating and seeking revenge, but meek and humble in their deportment, leading inoffensive lives, and proceeding in the course of their calling, though liable to many insults, and much oppression.

Remember, satan is crafty, he is subtle. Adam and Eve were physically walking and talking with God daily and they were deceived.

Genesis 3:1 AMPC

1 Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?

One of the things that we are going to be getting into in a few weeks which I would like to lay down a little ground work tonight is: Don't be known for just pointing out bad fruit, but be known for having good fruit yourself. That good fruit is not derived from just pointing out the bad fruit.

Matthew 7:12-29 KJV

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:12-29 AMPC

12 So then, whatever you desire that others would do to and for you, even so do also to and for them, for this is (sums up) the Law and the Prophets.

13 Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and many are those who are entering through it.

14 But the gate is narrow (contracted by pressure) and the way is straitened and compressed that leads away to life, and few are those who find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves.

16 You will fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

17 Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration], but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit.

18 A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration].

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.

20 Therefore, you will fully know them by their fruits.

21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

23 And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].

24 So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them] will be like a sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock.

25 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man who built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great and complete was the fall of it.

28 When Jesus had finished these sayings [the Sermon on the Mount], the crowds were astonished and overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His teaching,

29 For He was teaching as One Who had [and was] authority, and not as [did] the scribes.

We need to watch out for one another but also lift each other up. Even the pastor, who's job it is to make sure that the church is growing spiritually is to utilize the same methods. Not just everyone or everything is bad (no faith) or everything is wonderful and just keep a smile on your face (false hope). We need to teach, preach and live the whole counsel of God's Word.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 AMPC

11 Therefore encourage (admonish, exhort) one another and edify (strengthen and build up) one another, just as you are doing.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 AMPC

1 I charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by (in the light of) His coming and His kingdom:

2 Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold,

4 And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.

We need to be mindful, wise, not afraid, fruitful which is all possible through the power of the Holy Spirit - Jesus said we could do all of these things. He wouldn't command us to do something that we couldn't do. He is not a liar. (Number 23:19)

Remember, the 7 spheres/mountains or pillars play a key role in the development of our seed. The holy spirit will guide us (the whole armor) into all truth in all of these areas.



We looked at Jezebel and the spirit of or characteristic of Jezebel in regards to these 7 spheres of influence and now I want to show you in God's Word what happened to Elijah when encountering Jezebel. This is not just evil Jezebel, but going through a victorious season in your life, from job promotion, new baby, marriage, first home, miraculous healing etc. We all have different seasons in our lives and we need God's Word.

We need to recognize how the enemy works just as we studied how Jesus was tempted by the 7 spheres or mountains in the gospels He replied, **IT IS WRITTEN**. The Bible also says that satan left and came back to try at a more convenient time. Satan comes back around, so don't take off your armor because you're agent through a triumphant season.

Luke 4:13 AMPC

13 And when the devil had ended every [the complete cycle of] temptation, he [temporarily] left Him [that is, stood off from Him] until another more opportune and favorable time.

Every time you have a Jezebel in these 7 spheres, especially the church, God has, and is, training and raising up a remnant to put a stop to anything that is against the expansion of the Kingdom Of God. Elijah was a remnant.

Biblical Definition Of, *the (a) Remnant:*

...what remains when the others have left

The remnant are those who survive calamity, that survive battles, that survive false teachers. The remnant keeps on standing when other don't, that keep surviving when others won't. The remnant is bold when other won't even open up their mouths.

At the time of Jezebel when she was killing off the seed of the prophets there was still a remnant that did not fall.

1 Kings 19:18 AMPC

18 Yet I will leave Myself 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.

1 Kings 19:18 MEV

18 Still, I have preserved seven thousand men in Israel for Myself, all of whose knees have not bowed to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

That remnant may have been temporarily hiding in a cave but they still have not bowed. They might have been afraid of Jezebel (she was killing the men of God) but they still would not compromise the Word Of God - that is the remnant.

At the time of Athaliah who was the daughter of Jezebel. The Bible says that she killed or destroyed the royal seed.

2 Kings 11:1 KJV

1 And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

She killed 70 babies, she thought she got them all but God didn't let her get number 71. That one was to be raised in the presence of God by a nurse that hid that baby and raised it until its time.

Just like Moses and just like John the Baptist who was raised out there in the wilderness where no one know except for a handful of people: Mary, Elizabeth and Zachariah. But the bible says when the day of his showing came...

Luke 1:80 AMPC

80 And the little boy grew and became strong in spirit; and he was in the deserts (wilderness) until the day of his appearing to Israel [the commencement of his public ministry].

There was a time of preparation, a time of separation for God to protect John from the Jezebels in order to be strong and convinced in the Word Of God that is was the only way.

Mark 1:3-5 AMPC

3 A voice of one crying in the wilderness [shouting in the desert], Prepare the way of the Lord, make His beaten tracks straight (level and passable)!

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness (desert), preaching a baptism [obligating] repentance (a change of one's mind for the better, heartily amending one's ways, with abhorrence of his past sins) in order to obtain forgiveness of and release from sins.

5 And there kept going out to him [continuously] all the country of Judea and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, as they were confessing their sins.

You might feel like you've been hid in the wilderness, like the Jezebels of this life have come up against you but God is training you and raising you up for such time as this to fight and conquer the enemy.

John the Baptist was in a dry place like many of you are tonight. He was in a place that didn't have much vegetation, didn't have many trees. He was not in a place that would appeal to the flesh. But the people, the remnant, got to the point where they didn't need anything that appealed to the flesh. They needed the power of the Almighty God to liberate them from their sin.

So, Athaliah kills everyone (70 babies) exceptt for one, Joash the remnant. In the New Testament, Herodias had the head of John The Baptist on a platter thinking she stopped the see but God, but God raised up one more - Jesus Christ.

Matthew 14:8 AMPC

8 And she, being put forward and prompted by her mother, said, Give me the head of John the Baptist right here on a platter.

Jesus Christ takes John disciples (the remnant) with him and carries on the ministry. He preaches the same message that John The Baptist preached found here in Matthew 3.

Matthew 3:2 AMPC

*2 And saying, **Repent (think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***

Then Jesus after fasting for 40 days, having the 7 spheres or mountains offered to Him by satan found out about the news of John The Baptist

Matthew 4:12-17 AMPC

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested and put in prison, He withdrew into Galilee.

13 And leaving Nazareth, He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the country of Zebulun and Naphtali—

14 That what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be brought to pass:

15 The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, in the [a]way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles [of the peoples who are not of Israel]

16 The people who sat (dwelt enveloped) in darkness have seen a great Light, and for those who sat in the land and shadow of death Light has dawned.

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, crying out, Repent (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

In the time of the of the teacher from the church in Thyatira in Revelation 2:18-29. Remember from a last week, she was giving false words over people trying to make herself look like a prophetess. She was doing things contrary to Gods Word so God said don't worry about it, I will deal with here and her spiritual children and the church will keep going. How will it keep going? because of the remnant. How do you know that there is going to be a remnant. God's Word...

Romans 11:3-5 AMPC

3 Lord, they have killed Your prophets; they have demolished Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.

4 But what is God's reply to him? I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal!

5 So too at the present time there is a remnant (a small believing minority), selected (chosen) by grace (by God's unmerited favor and graciousness).

You and I are not alone. Sometime we may feel like it because others have left the faith. They have listened to a false teacher, life's worries have overtaken them, they lost hope... but there is still a Remnant. Remnant means: what remains when the others have left. But God knows that we need allies...we need friends that are also a remnant.

Webster's Dictionary 1828 definition: *ally or allies*

- 1. To unite, or form a relation, as between families by marriage, or between princes and states by treaty, league or confederacy.**
 - 2. To form a relation by similitude, resemblance or friendship.**
- Note. This word is more generally used in the passive form, as families are allied by blood; or reciprocally, as princes ally themselves to powerful states.**

There are many people in the United States that wish that the church of Jesus Christ or the remnant would just go away. They are constantly asking why don't you get out of here? ...just as a reminder to everyone, we are planning that, just not on their time table.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

In our past studies, I have shown you in the bible where there are cycles that keep repeating themselves prophetically over and over again. When you start with the first Jezebel in the bible, there is an Elijah there and when you go to the book of Revelation at the End Of Time, there is woman riding a beast, who is called a harlot.

Revelation 17:3-6 KJV

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

That spirit of Jezebel was slaying and murdering saints in the Old Testament and we have this harlot in Revelation who is drunken with the blood of the saints. We know that the spirit of Jezebel is coming on stronger, and just like the prophets or the remnant had to rise up in the Old Testament, God is and will raise up His remnant at the End Of Time to come up against the false spirit that is trying to tear down the church.

So, what happened to Elijah? how does he parallel our lives as we face the Jezebels today? First, I want to give you a little background in Elijah in Chapter 17 which is the set up for this story in 1 Kings 18.

Elijah - The Drought

Elijah appeared in the Land of Israel at a crucial time. The Land of Israel was then divided into two kingdoms: the kingdom of Judah and the kingdom of the Ten Tribes. On the throne of the latter sat King Ahab, but the true ruler of the land was his wife, queen Jezebel, originally a Phoenician princess who never gave up her Phoenician way of life. Her influence was very great not merely over her husband, but throughout the kingdom.

As a result, the worship of the Baal, the god of the Phoenicians, spread with ever greater force, and was the cause of the trouble in the land of Israel. One day the prophet Elijah and King Ahab met. Elijah warned the king of the divine punishment that would be visited upon his land if he did not abolish idol worship and did not cause a general return of all Israel to God.

Ahab scoffed at the idea, saying: "Didn't Moses already warn us in the Torah that the rain would cease and the land would not give forth its produce, if we should worship other gods? Yet, nothing happened as yet!"

"God has been patient with you, but you don't seem to realize it. Now you will see that not merely shall Moses' words be fulfilled, but mine also. I tell you in God's name that as from today there shall be no rain until I shall say the word!"

From that day years of drought and famine began in the Land of Israel. The famine spread even abroad, beyond the borders of the land, so that no bread could be purchased for its weight in gold!

Elijah - The Ravens Feed Elijah

God told Elijah to withdraw to a deserted place, by the brook of Cherith near the Jordan. "Of the brook you will drink, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you", God promised him. Twice daily, in the morning and in the evening, the ravens came and brought him bread and meat from the royal table of the King of Judah.

Imagine the king's surprise when the ravens swooped down upon his table and disappeared again with part of his meal! When this became a regular occurrence the king ordered that a special portion of bread and meat be served with his meals, and the ravens never failed to pick it up.

1 Kings 17:5-7 GNT

5 Elijah obeyed the Lord's command, and went and stayed by Cherith Brook.

6 He drank water from the brook, and ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening.

7 After a while the brook dried up because of the lack of rain.

Some time elapsed, and God's Word came to Elijah commanding him to go to the land of Sidon, where a noble Jewish woman would provide his food.

When Elijah reached the gates of Zarephath in the land of Sidon, he saw a woman gathering sticks. Elijah called to her, "Please bring me a little water and a morsel of bread". "All I have," answered the good woman, "is a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a cruse. I was just going to prepare the last meal for my child and myself. Shall I give it to you?"

"Fear not," the Prophet assured her. "Go and bake a little cake for me first, and then you will bake some cake for yourself and your son. For these are the Words of God: 'The jar of meal shall not waste, nor shall the cruse of oil fail, until God sends rain and the famine will be over!'"

It was a test that required great faith, but the woman did not hesitate. She went and did as the man of God, Elijah asked her, and to her amazement!... The handful of meal never seemed to grow less, nor was the oil diminishing for many days.

Before Elijah left her, he had occasion to repay her for her kindness. It came to pass that her little son fell very sick and was about to die. All hope to save his life seemed at an end, Elijah prayed to God and revived him.

1 Kings 17:21-24 GNT

21 Then Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times and prayed, “O Lord my God, restore this child to life!” 22 The Lord answered Elijah's prayer; the child started breathing again and revived.

23 Elijah took the boy back downstairs to his mother and said to her, “Look, your son is alive!”

24 She answered, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the Lord really speaks through you!”

Obadiah

In the meantime (paralleling with Elijah), Jezebel, the wicked queen, continued to persecute *the true prophets*, and anyone who dared to speak in the name of God of Israel was immediately put to death at her command. But right in her very palace was a man who, at great risk to his very life, tried to save the remaining true prophets of Israel.

His name was Obadiah, who later became a famous prophet. Obadiah hid 100 prophets in 2 secret caves, and sustained them with bread and water. (Water was even scarcer than bread, for there had been no rain for years). Jezebel, however, thought that she had exterminated all the true prophets, and that only Elijah was left.

Officers were then sent throughout the land to find Elijah, but they could not find him. However, when the time came for him to make his appearance, he did, fearlessly.

It was in the third year of the famine that God told Elijah to appear before King Ahab. The king had already recognized that the famine was God's punishment, but he was still wavering between right and wrong, and it was Elijah's task to let the king and all the Jews recognize the truth and cause them to return to God with all their hearts

1 Kings 18 GNT

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 After some time, in the third year of the drought, the Lord said to Elijah, "Go and present yourself to King Ahab, and I will send rain."

2 So Elijah started out. The famine in Samaria was at its worst, 3 so Ahab called in Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. (Obadiah was a devout worshiper of the Lord, 4 and when Jezebel was killing the Lord's prophets, Obadiah took a hundred of them, hid them in caves in two groups of fifty, and provided them with food and water.)

5 Ahab said to Obadiah, "Let us go and look at every spring and every stream bed in the land to see if we can find enough grass to keep the horses and mules alive. Maybe we won't have to kill any of our animals."

6 They agreed on which part of the land each one would explore, and set off in different directions.

7 *As Obadiah was on his way, he suddenly met Elijah. He recognized him, bowed low before him, and asked, "Is it really you, sir?"*

8 *"Yes, I'm Elijah," he answered. "Go and tell your master the king that I am here."*

9 *Obadiah answered, "What have I done that you want to put me in danger of being killed by King Ahab?"*

10 *By the living Lord, your God, I swear that the king has made a search for you in every country in the world. Whenever the ruler of a country reported that you were not in his country, Ahab would require that ruler to swear that you could not be found.*

11 *And now you want me to go and tell him that you are here?*

12 *What if the spirit of the Lord carries you off to some unknown place as soon as I leave? Then, when I tell Ahab that you are here and he can't find you, he will put me to death. Remember that I have been a devout worshiper of the Lord ever since I was a boy.*

13 *Haven't you heard that when Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord I hid a hundred of them in caves, in two groups of fifty, and supplied them with food and water?*

14 *So how can you order me to go and tell the king that you are here? He will kill me!"*

15 *Elijah answered, "By the living Lord Almighty, whom I serve, I promise that I will present myself to the king today."*

16 *So Obadiah went to King Ahab and told him, and Ahab set off to meet Elijah.*

17 *When Ahab saw him, he said, "So there you are—the worst troublemaker in Israel!"*

18 *"I'm not the troublemaker," Elijah answered. "You are—you and your father. You are disobeying the Lord's commands and worshiping the idols of Baal.*

19 *Now order all the people of Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring along the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah who are supported by Queen Jezebel."*

20 *So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and the prophets of Baal to meet at Mount Carmel.*

21 *Elijah went up to the people and said, "How much longer will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is God, worship him; but if Baal is God, worship him!" But the people didn't say a word.*

22 *Then Elijah said, "I am the only prophet of the Lord still left, but there are 450 prophets of Baal.*

23 *Bring two bulls; let the prophets of Baal take one, kill it, cut it in pieces, and put it on the wood—but don't light the fire. I will do the same with the other bull.*

24 *Then let the prophets of Baal pray to their god, and I will pray to the Lord, and the one who answers by sending fire—he is God." The people shouted their approval.*

25 *Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Since there are so many of you, you take a bull and prepare it first. Pray to your god, but don't set fire to the wood."*

26 *They took the bull that was brought to them, prepared it, and prayed to Baal until noon. They shouted, "Answer us, Baal!" and kept dancing around the altar they had built. But no answer came.*

27 At noon Elijah started making fun of them: “Pray louder! He is a god! Maybe he is day-dreaming or relieving himself, or perhaps he's gone off on a trip! Or maybe he's sleeping, and you've got to wake him up!”

28 So the prophets prayed louder and cut themselves with knives and daggers, according to their ritual, until blood flowed.

29 They kept on ranting and raving until the middle of the afternoon; but no answer came, not a sound was heard.

30 Then Elijah said to the people, “Come closer to me,” and they all gathered around him. He set about repairing the altar of the Lord which had been torn down.

31 He took twelve stones, one for each of the twelve tribes named for the sons of Jacob, the man to whom the Lord had given the name Israel.

32 With these stones he rebuilt the altar for the worship of the Lord. He dug a trench around it, large enough to hold about four gallons of water.

33 Then he placed the wood on the altar, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the offering and the wood.” They did so,

34 and he said, “Do it again”—and they did. “Do it once more,” he said—and they did.

35 The water ran down around the altar and filled the trench.

36 At the hour of the afternoon sacrifice the prophet Elijah approached the altar and prayed, “O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove now that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command. 37 Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you are bringing them back to yourself.”

38 *The Lord sent fire down, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench.*

39 *When the people saw this, they threw themselves on the ground and exclaimed, "The Lord is God; the Lord alone is God!"*

40 *Elijah ordered, "Seize the prophets of Baal; don't let any of them get away!" The people seized them all, and Elijah led them down to Kishon Brook and killed them.*

The End of the Drought

41 *Then Elijah said to King Ahab, "Now, go and eat. I hear the roar of rain approaching."*

42 *While Ahab went to eat, Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel, where he bowed down to the ground, with his head between his knees.*

43 *He said to his servant, "Go and look toward the sea." The servant went and returned, saying, "I didn't see a thing." Seven times in all Elijah told him to go and look.*

44 *The seventh time he returned and said, "I saw a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand, coming up from the sea." Elijah ordered his servant, "Go to King Ahab and tell him to get in his chariot and go back home before the rain stops him."*

45 *In a little while the sky was covered with dark clouds, the wind began to blow, and a heavy rain began to fall. Ahab got in his chariot and started back to Jezreel.*

46 *The power of the Lord came on Elijah; he fastened his clothes tight around his waist and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.*

Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 18

- o God told Elijah to call together the 450 priests of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah.**
- o Elijah asked the people, "How long will you waver between two opinions?"**
- o Holy Ghost fire came down from heaven, consuming the sacrifice on Elijah's altar.**
- o When all the middle-of-the-road believers saw this, they all fell on their faces and worshiped the Lord!**
- o The people then realized they had been duped.**
- o Their exposure to the worthless idolatry had kept them under bondage.**
- o So they took those 850 heathen priests and slew them all!**
- o Then Elijah told King Ahab, "Get ready for rain!"**
- o He went up on the mountain and prayed down a mighty thunderstorm, ending the drought.**
- o Then the Spirit of God fell upon him - and Elijah outran Ahab's chariot for sixteen miles, back to the palace in Jezreel!**
- o 1 Kings 18:46 "And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah".**