

Time for God's Fireworks



The Background



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➤ A wicked king:
Ahab

1 Kings 16:29-30

²⁹ Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria for twenty-two years.

³⁰ Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him.

The Background



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➤ A wicked
queen:
Jezebel

1 Kings 16:31

³¹ And as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him.

The Background



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➤ A false god:
Baal

1 Kings 16:32-33

³² So he erected an altar for Baal at the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria.

³³ Ahab also made the Asherah. So Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

The Background



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➤ A prophet:
Elijah

1 Kings 17:1

¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall certainly be neither dew nor rain *during* these years, except by my word.”

The Background



Image from: www.lightstock.com

➤ God brings a drought.

1 Kings 18



1 Kings 18:17-18

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, the cause of disaster to Israel?”

¹⁸ He said, “I have not brought disaster to Israel, but you and your father’s house *have*, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals.

1 Kings 18:17-18

¹⁹ Now then, send *orders and* gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, *together* with 450 prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

1 Kings 18



Image from: www.lightstock.com

➤ Elijah's challenge – v. 20-24

1 Kings 18:20-24

²⁰ So Ahab sent *orders* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

1 Kings 18:20-24

²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him *so much as a word*.

1 Kings 18:20-24

²² Then Elijah said to the people,
“I alone am left as a prophet of
the LORD, while Baal’s prophets are 450
men.

1 Kings 18:20-24

²³ Now have them give us two oxen; and have them choose the one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire *under it*.

1 Kings 18:20-24

²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people replied, “That is a good idea.”

1 Kings 18



Image from: www.lightstock.com

➤ Baal's failure – v. 25-29.

1 Kings 18:25-29

²⁵ So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose the one ox for yourselves and prepare it first, since *there are many of you*, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under the ox.*”

1 Kings 18:25-29

²⁶ Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it, and they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made.

1 Kings 18:25-29

²⁷ And at noon Elijah ridiculed them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, since he is a god; undoubtedly he is attending to business, or is on the way, or is on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep, and will awaken.”

1 Kings 18:25-29

²⁸ So they cried out with a loud voice, and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until blood gushed out on them.

²⁹ When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

1 Kings 18



Image from: www.lightstock.com

➤ Elijah's altar – v. 30-35.

1 Kings 18:30-35

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come forward to me.” So all the people came forward to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down.

1 Kings 18:30-35

³¹ Then Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.”

1 Kings 18:30-35

³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.

³³ Then he laid out the wood, and he cut the ox in pieces and placed *it* on the wood.

1 Kings 18:30-35

³⁴ And he said, “Fill four large jars with water and pour *it* on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time,” so they did it a second time. Then he said, “Do it a third time,” so they did it a third time.

³⁵ The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

1 Kings 18



➤ God's answer – v. 36-40.

1 Kings 18:36-40

³⁶ Then at the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, “LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and *that* I have done all these things at Your word.

1 Kings 18:36-40

³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that You, LORD, are God, and *that* You have turned their heart back.”

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

1 Kings 18:36-40

³⁹ When all the people saw *this*, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God!”

1 Kings 18:36-40

⁴⁰ Then Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape.” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.

Some Lessons for Us

1 KINGS

David in His Old Age

¹Now King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. ²Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king and be in his service. Let her lie in your arms,¹ that my lord the king may be warm." ³So they sought for a beautiful young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of service to the king and attended to him, but the king knew her not.

Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King

⁵Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. ⁷He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him. ⁸But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David's mighty men were not with Adonijah.

⁹Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent's Stone, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, ¹⁰but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.

Nathan and Bathsheba Before David

¹¹Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it? ¹²Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?" Why then is

Adonijah king?' ¹⁴Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

¹⁵So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king). ¹⁶Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, "What do you desire?" ¹⁷She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the Lord your God, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' ¹⁸And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it. ¹⁹He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited. ²⁰And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders."

²²While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. ²³And they told the king, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground. ²⁴And Nathan said, "My lord the king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?' ²⁵For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!' ²⁶But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited. ²⁷Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

Solomon Anointed King

²⁸Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.

1) We sometimes struggle to fully stand with God.

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him *so much as a word*.

Some Lessons for Us

2) Sometimes good people just need to see a faithful person act in courage.

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¹Or in your bosom. ²Or depend on. ³Hebrew, "servants"; both the commander

Philippians 1:13-14

¹³ so that my imprisonment in *the cause of* Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else,

¹⁴ and that most of the brothers *and sisters*, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

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3) Verses 36-37
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1 Kings 18:36-37

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