ELIJAH CONFRONTED AHAB

1 Kings 18–19



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."

Once everyone had gathered, Elijah said, "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, but nothing happened. Then it was Elijah's turn. He prepared the bull on the altar and asked that water be poured on top. Elijah prayed to God: "Lord, today, let it be known that you are God in Israel. 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. 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.

The next day, the Lord spoke to Elijah. There was a soft whisper. In that whisper, God said, "What are you doing here, Elijah? Go and anoint a new king over Israel." 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.

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THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Read each sentence and write a T for true or a F for false.

_____ 1) Ahab worshiped the one true God.

_____ 2) God told Elijah to go to Ahab and gather the prophets of Baal.

_____ 3) The prophets of Baal cried out to their false god, but nothing happened.

_____ 4) Elijah asked for gasoline to be poured on the altar.

_____ 5) God sent fire from heaven, and the whole altar was burned up completely.

_____ 6) The people fell down and said, "The Lord, he is God!"

_____ 7) Ahab repented after seeing God's power.

_____ 8) God spoke to Elijah in a whisper and told him to anoint a new king over Israel.

» What does this story teach us about God?

» What did the people say in response to the fire falling from heaven?

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

God proved He is the one true God. When Jesus was on earth, He performed miracles and spoke truth that proved He is God. After Jesus went back to heaven, 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. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are declaring that He is God and only He can save us from sin.

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» Elijah had men pour water on the altar three times. Why do you think he did that?

» The people wavered between following God and following a false god. Do people do that today? How?

» Jezebel hated Elijah because he stood against her wicked ways. Why do some people hate Christians? Why is the world against the good news of Jesus?

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.

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» Find 1 Kings 8:60 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, praising Him for His greatness and power.

READ THE WORD

Think about God's greatness and power to save sinners. Read one of the following passages each day this week:

- ❑ Zephaniah 3:17
- ❑ Romans 1:16
- ❑ Romans 1:18-19
- ❑ Isaiah 9:6
- ❑ Isaiah 44:6-8
- ❑ Jude 1:25

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