

Character Study: Elijah

Part 4 – Elijah Challenges the False Prophets

I Kings 18:1-40

What's happening?

- The Lord instructed Elijah to go back to King Ahab and let him know that the drought would end soon. (18:1-2)
- Elijah went to King Ahab and told him to gather together all the false prophets (850 total) and meet him on Mount Carmel. (18:17-19)
- Elijah saw that the Israelites were not willing to stand up for the Lord, so he gave the false prophets a challenge that would reveal the true God. He told them to build an altar and place a bull on it, then pray to their god, asking him to consume the bull with fire. Elijah would then build a similar altar and pray asking the God of Israel to do the same. (18:20-25)
- The false prophets took Elijah up on his challenge, but despite their desperate cries, their bull was never consumed with fire. Elijah then placed a bull on his altar, poured water all over it three times, and then prayed to God. God instantly sent fire down which completely consumed the bull. (18:26-38)
- It was clear who the real God was. The Israelites fell on their faces and claimed the Lord as their God. The false prophets were executed. (18:39-40)

What's God doing?

> God had a bold task for Elijah to perform. But He had molded Elijah into a man of faith who would confidently obey Him. God used the obedience of Elijah to show the Israelites that He was the only true God.

What's to learn?

→ When we are surrendered to obey the Lord, nothing can stop us, no matter how seemingly difficult the task is that God wants us to do!

→ God is only pleased when we are totally committed to Him. Just as the Israelites needed to completely turn from the false gods to the one true God, we too must follow God with our whole hearts.

→ In situations where there is only one person dedicated to the Lord, God can still use that person to accomplish things that impact multitudes!