

Study #3 Bible Reading: 1 Kings 18:21-39

21 Elijah stepped before all the people. “How long are you going to waver?” he asked them. “If the LORD is God, follow Him; and if Baal, follow him.” The people didn't answer him.

22 “I'm the only prophet of the LORD who is left,” Elijah told the people, “and there are 450 prophets of Baal. 23 Bring two bulls and let them choose one for themselves, cut it in pieces, lay it on the wood, and put no fire under it. I will take the other bull, put him on the wood, and put no fire under it. 24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and then the god who answers by fire, he is God.”

“That is good,” all the people answered. 25 “Choose one bull for yourselves,” Elijah told the prophets of Baal, “and prepare yours first, because you are many, and call on the name of your gods, but don't add any fire.”

26 They took the bull, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon. “Baal, answer us!” they said. But no one spoke or answered. So they danced with a limping step at the altar they had made. 27 By noon Elijah started to mock them. “Call out loud,” he said, “because he's a god. Perhaps he's thinking! Or is busy; or he has gone away! Or he may be sleeping and has to wake up!”

28 So they called out loud, and according to their custom they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood flowed on them. 29 And in the afternoon they raved on until the time of the evening offering. But no one spoke or answered or paid attention to them.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near me.” And all the people came near him. He rebuilt the LORD's altar that was torn down. 31 Elijah took 12 stones, as many as there were tribes of the sons of Jacob to whom the LORD had said, “Your name will be Israel.” 32 With the stones he built an altar in the LORD's name and made a trench around the altar, deep enough to hold two measures of seed. 33 He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and laid it on the wood. 34 “Fill four jars with water,” he said, “and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” Then he said, “Do it again,” and they did it again. Then he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time. 35 The water flowed around the altar, and even the trench was filled with water.

36 At the time when the evening offering was made, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. “LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,” he said, “let the people learn today that You are God in Israel, that I'm Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. 37 Hear me, LORD, hear me, so these people may know that You, LORD, are God and You turn their hearts back to You.” 38 So the LORD's fire fell down and consumed the burnt offering, wood, stones, dirt, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 All the people saw it and fell face down to the ground. “The LORD is God!” they said, “the LORD is God!”