



[Elijah and God's Power](#)

1 Kings 18

Wayne Braudrick

December 14, 2025

Life Change: We trust Jesus with everything

The deafness when you've heard it all before...

Without question Elijah is one of the most distinctive and diversely talented individuals in the Bible. He is prophet, preacher, political reformer, and miracle worker all at the same time. At the heart of this multifaceted person, though, rests one overriding conviction. Elijah hates Baalism as much as Jezebel loves the cult, and he desires to magnify Yahweh over Baal and defeat the interloping religion once and for all. He makes it his mission to teach that Yahweh lives, that Baal does not exist, and that ethical standards flow from a commitment to the living God. – Paul House, *1,2 Kings*

Obadiah serves faithfully

Elijah is supernaturally empowered

God suffers for His people

YHWH's people have direct contact

Do not forget that anytime one of these creatures sets itself to prayer; there is the very real possibility that it will recognize that it has actually come into direct contact with the Enemy...

Every move you make now is fraught with peril for your cause. This is nowhere truer than in the practice of prayer, where the Enemy inexplicably and unfairly offers to meet with his pets. Each time that is allowed to happen your danger multiplies. – C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters* #4

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ADVENT THROUGH ELIJAH'S EYES

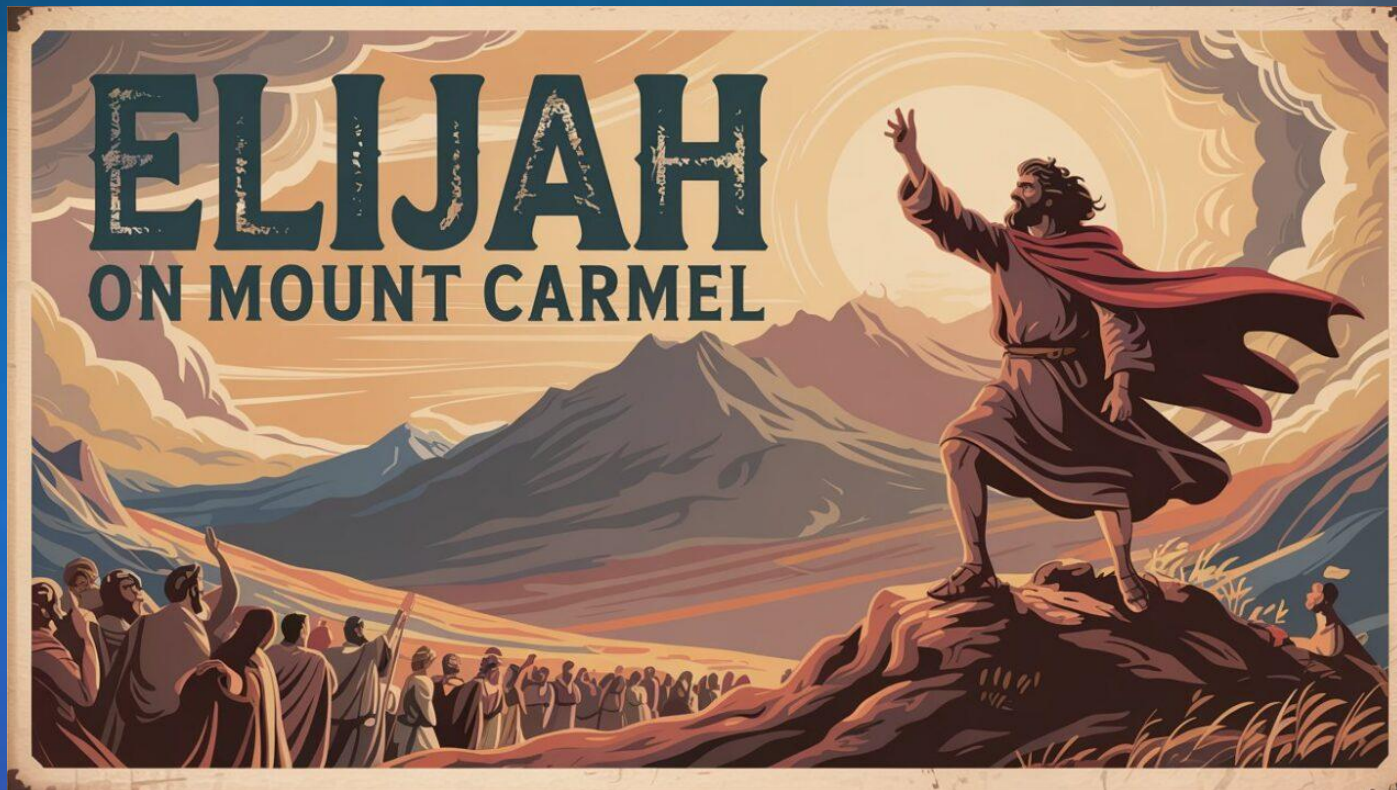
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¹ After a long time, the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year: “Go and present yourself to Ahab. I will send rain on the surface of the land.”

JUDG

RUTH

1 SAM

2 SAM

1 KINGS

2 KINGS

1 CHRON

2 CHRON

EZRA

¹ After a long time, the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year: “Go and present yourself to Ahab. I will send rain on the surface of the land.” ² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

The famine was severe in Samaria. ³ Ahab called for Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. Obadiah was a man who greatly feared the Lord ⁴ and took a hundred prophets and hid them, fifty men to a cave, and provided them with food and water when Jezebel slaughtered the Lord’s prophets. ⁵ Ahab said to Obadiah, “Go throughout the land to every spring and to every wadi. Perhaps we’ll find grass so we can keep the horses and mules alive and not have to destroy any cattle.” ⁶ They divided the land between them in order to cover it. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went the other way by himself.

⁷ While Obadiah was walking along the road, Elijah suddenly met him. When Obadiah recognized him, he fell facedown and said, “Is it you, my lord Elijah?”

⁸ “It is I,” he replied. “Go tell your lord, ‘Elijah is here!’”

⁹ But Obadiah said, “What sin have I committed, that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to put me to death? ¹⁰ As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent someone to search for you. When they said, ‘He is not here,’ he made that kingdom or nation swear they had not found you.

¹¹ “Now you say, ‘Go tell your lord, “Elijah is here!”” ¹² But when I leave you, the Spirit of the Lord may carry you off to some place I don’t know. Then when I go report to Ahab and he doesn’t find you, he will kill me.

But I, your servant, have feared the Lord from my youth. ¹³ Wasn't it reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel slaughtered the Lord's prophets? I hid a hundred of the prophets of the Lord, fifty men to a cave, and I provided them with food and water. ¹⁴ Now you say, 'Go tell your lord, "Elijah is here!"' He will kill me!"

¹⁵ Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of Armies lives, in whose presence I stand, today I will present myself to Ahab."

¹⁶ Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him. Then Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, the one ruining Israel?"

¹⁸ He replied, "I have not ruined Israel, but you and your father's family have, because you have abandoned the Lord's commands and followed

the Baals. ¹⁹ Now summon all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire.

24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who answers with fire, he is God.”

All the people answered, “That’s fine.”

25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god but don’t light the fire.”

26 So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “Baal, answer us!” But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, “Shout loudly, for he’s a god! Maybe he’s thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe

he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!" ²⁸ They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed over them. ²⁹ All afternoon they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near me." So all the people approached him. Then he repaired the Lord's altar that had been torn down: ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones—according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel will be your name"—³² and he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold about four gallons. ³³ Next, he arranged the wood,

cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. He said, "Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the offering to be burned and on the wood."

³⁴ Then he said, "A second time!" and they did it a second time. And then he said, "A third time!" and they did it a third time. ³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; he even filled the trench with water.

³⁶ At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah approached the altar and said, "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant, and that at your word I have done all these things. ³⁷ Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back."

³⁸ Then the Lord's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood,

the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, “The Lord, he is God! The Lord, he is God!”

⁴⁰ Then Elijah ordered them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let even one of them escape.” So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and slaughtered them there. ⁴¹ Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a rainstorm.”

⁴² So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the summit of Carmel. He bent down on the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ Then he said to his servant, “Go up and look toward the sea.” So he went up, looked, and said, “There’s nothing.” Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”

⁴⁴ On the seventh time, he reported, “There’s a cloud as small as a man’s hand coming up from the sea.”

Then Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Get your chariot ready and go down so the rain doesn’t stop you.’”

⁴⁵ In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a downpour. So Ahab got in his chariot and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ The power of the Lord was on Elijah, and he tucked his mantle under his belt and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Without question Elijah is one of the most distinctive and diversely talented individuals in the Bible. He is prophet, preacher, political reformer, and miracle worker all at the same time. At the heart of this multifaceted person, though, rests one overriding conviction. Elijah hates Baalism as much as Jezebel loves the cult, and he desires to magnify Yahweh over Baal and defeat the interloping religion once and for all. He makes it his mission to teach that Yahweh lives, that Baal does not exist, and that ethical standards flow from a commitment to the living God.

– Paul House, *1,2 Kings*, p. 212 (NAC)



- **Obadiah remains faithful to YHWH while under a horrible regime where 850 false teachers are supported by the public treasury while Bible teachers are persecuted.**
- **Elijah can dematerialize/move with supernatural speed, empowered by God, whose monumental miracles employ wind, water, earth, and fire.**
- **Paganism's anthropocentrism is especially seen in cutting – shedding one's own blood to animate god.**
- **The lack of direct connection to deity in paganism contrasts with direct connection to YHWH for believers.**

- **Jesus stands up to an entire Sanhedrin and priestly caste paid for out of the treasury. He then empowers His followers to stand up faithfully in the most horrible circumstances.**
- **He can dematerialize/move with supernatural speed, as John points out in festival cycles, and Jesus displays His power over everything, including wind, water, earth, fire, and death.**
- **He shows that the one who would gain life trusts Jesus, who was cut for you.**
- **Messiah teaches believers have such direct access to God that we pray to “Our Father.”**

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בֵּית עַל הַ alhabayit = the top of the house; vizier or major duomo

³ Ahab called for Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. Obadiah was a man who greatly feared the Lord ⁴ and took a hundred prophets and hid them, fifty men to a cave, and provided them with food and water when Jezebel slaughtered the Lord's prophets.

נְבִיאִים nebiim = someone who spoke for God; later, member of guild dedicated to preaching



You don't understand. My boss is a jerk. A governing entity is squeezing me to death. I'm facing persecution in the neighborhood. High taxes and red tape make it hard to support the people of God. In the real world, it's tough.

**⁷ For God gave us a spirit not of fear
but of power and love and self-control. [2 Timothy 1 ESV]**

**¹⁶ We have come to know and to believe
the love that God has for us... ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; instead,
perfect love drives out fear [1 John 4 CSB]**

13 Wasn't it reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel slaughtered the Lord's prophets? I hid a hundred of the prophets of the Lord, fifty men to a cave, and I provided them with food and water.

19 Now summon all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

1 Kings 18 CSB

Sadly, religious intolerance is making a comeback today, including in the U.S. One need only recall the shootings at places of worship...While religious persecution has become widespread globally, the Middle East and the Islamic World have a sadly distinctive track record. Christians are under assault in multiple ways across the region. In the scholarly literature on this animosity toward Christian communities as well as in some of the journalism, one sadly encounters efforts to minimize or even deny it...Further, anti-Semitism, [now] mainstream in many societies, [is] downplayed dramatically.

**– Russell A. Berman, “Under Assault”
in *Caravan* December 9, 2025**



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1 Kings 18 CSB



courtesy WB



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1 Kings 18 CSB

Elias e os profetas Baal
Louiz Brito
2012



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Christus bedaart de storm
James Ensor
1891



Advent principle: This candle is lit to celebrate the Almighty power of Jesus. He controls the elements and does so directly. While Elijah prayed to God for miraculous power over water, earth, wind, and fire, Jesus just speaks and all elements obey Him.



**⁷ For God gave us a spirit
not of fear
but of power
and love
and self-control.**

2 Timothy 1 ESV



courtesy WB



Jael and Sisera
James Northcote
1787

An aerial photograph showing a landscape with a large, rectangular reservoir in the upper left, surrounded by green fields. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of green trees. In the middle ground, there are several large, modern buildings, possibly a university or government complex, situated on a hill. The background shows a flat, open landscape with more fields and some distant structures.

Wadi Kishon

Jezreel

Sense of place:

- 1. Evil oppressors are eliminated here.**
- 2. Lightning/flooding is involved.**

- Paganism's anthropocentrism is especially seen in cutting – shedding one's own blood to animate god.

- Jesus shows that the one who would gain life trusts God the Son, who was cut for you.



Baal dies (again)
ca. 1100 BC

Asherah stitching Baal
ca. 1800 BC



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1 Kings 18 CSB



He allows you the joy of serving as His vice-steward, but the earth is the Lord's and He alone is sovereign.

Jesus will return to remake the world an eternal perfection, and nothing humans do will delay or accelerate His plan.

By contrast, the Maker of heaven and earth does not need your help.





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1 Kings 18 CSB

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1 Kings 18 CSB

In the ancient world, doubt was never a positive thing. Modern people see doubt as a sign of a good mind – Bereans who search for truth. But the ancients had a different mentality. A double-minded person was considered unstable in all his ways. – J.D. Atkins



¹² In him [“Christ Jesus our Lord” from verse 11 context] we have boldness and confident access through faith in him.

Ephesians 3 CSB

**I stand before the great eternal throne
The one that God Himself is seated on
And I, I've been invited as a son
Oh I, I've been invited to come
So wake the hope that slumbers in my soul
Stir the fire inside and make it glow
I'm trusting in a love that has no end
The Savior of this world has called me friend
And I, I've been invited with the Son
Oh I, I've been invited to come and
Believe the unbelievable
Receive the inconceivable
And see beyond my wildest imagination
Lord, I come with great expectations
- "Great Expectations" Steven Curtis Chapman**



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C.S. Lewis

John
Post

Letters from a senior to a junior devil

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**My dear Wormword,
You have already failed in that your patient has joined that
infernal church. [Now comes] the question: what to do about
your patient's loathsome lurch toward prayer? Your naïve
suggestion that perhaps "do nothing" is the best course is fool-
hardy. Do not forget that anytime one of these creatures sets
itself to prayer; there is the very real possibility that it will
recognize that it has actually come into direct contact with the
Enemy. Should that happen, you are in dire straits indeed. No,
passivity cannot be your strategy here.**

It is a fine thing if the patient thinks of prayer as some sort of magic spell or incantation. Teach him that just saying the right words is the important thing. If you can keep him sufficiently distracted so that he does not notice the Enemy's presence, your patient can easily be shown that "parroting a bunch of empty phrases doesn't do one any good after all!"

**Keep prayer distant from any sense of belief or expectation. These creatures have been carefully taught to distrust anything they cannot see, measure, and understand. As you know...you must keep the patient from any faith or expectations getting caught up in his prayers. Every move you make now is fraught with peril for your cause. This is nowhere truer than in the practice of prayer, where the Enemy inexplicably and unfairly offers to meet with his pets. Each time that is allowed to happen your danger multiplies. Your affectionate uncle,
Screwtape**

C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters* #4

- **God empowers His followers to stand up faithfully in the most horrible circumstances.**
- **Jesus commands power over everything, including wind, water, earth, fire, and death.**
- **The one who would gain life simply trusts God the Son, who sacrificed for you.**
- **Messiah teaches believers to pray “Our Father” because we have direct access to God.**



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