



Silverdale Baptist

Days of Elijah ~ Standing for God ~ 10/21-22/2023

1 Kings 18:17-40

Big Idea

This is the story of a contest of power between Elijah and the prophets of Ba'al and Asherah. The contest's goal is to prove there is only one true God, Yahweh.

Getting Started

What are your top three favorite Old Testament Bible stories?

Leader note: *The story of Elijah versus the prophets of Ba'al and Asherah in 1 Kings 18:17-40 is one of the most famous stories in the Bible. Elijah had announced a drought in Israel three and one-half years earlier. There had been neither rain nor dew the entire time. Most of the water sources had dried up. The situation was desperate, but God had their attention. Elijah confronts the king and challenges the prophets of the false gods to a contest of power at Mt Carmel. Elijah confronts the people of Israel to choose once and for all whom they would worship. "If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." The challenge is the same for us. How long will we worship half-heartedly? If the Lord is God, and He is, we should abandon the world and pursue Him with our whole hearts.*

Learn

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 KINGS 18:17-24

1. The Risk of Standing For God

*Ahab went to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you **troublers of Israel?**" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have **abandoned** the commandments of **the LORD** and followed the Baals. (1 Kings 18:17-18)*

Elijah said to the people, "I, even **I only, am left** a prophet (1 Kings 18:22)

What are the risks Elijah faces by standing for God?

What accusation does King Ahab make against Elijah?

In what ways does the world accuse Christians of the same thing?

2. The Choice to Stand For God

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "**How long will you go limping between two different opinions? ... And the people *did not answer*** (1 Kings 18:21)

Not Choosing Is Choosing

*If the LORD is God, follow Him; **but if Baal, then follow him.*** (1 Kings 18:21)

What is Elijah's challenge to the people?

How is not choosing actually a choice?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 KINGS 18:25-29

3. The Futility of Standing Against God

And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and **no one answered**. And at noon, Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." And they **cried aloud and cut themselves** (1 Kings 18:26-29)

The prophets of Ba'al stood against God. What happened?

How did Elijah respond to them?

Even with all of their passion and sincerity, nothing happened. Why?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 KINGS 18:30-40.

4. The Elements Needed to Stand for God

- **Repair Your Altar**

Then Elijah ... **repaired the altar** of the LORD (1 Kings 18:30)

- **Lay Down Your Sacrifice**

"Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." (1 Kings 18:33)

- **Pray in Faith**

O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." (1 Kings 18:36-37)

What elements did Elijah need to stand for God?

What does the water represent in this story?

In this contest of power, what was Elijah's motive?

5. The Affirmation of Those Standing for God

*Then **the fire of the LORD fell** and consumed the burnt offering ... And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "**The LORD, He is God**; the LORD, He is God." (1 Kings 18:38-39)*

What are the differences between how the prophets of Ba'al worshiped and how Elijah worshiped?

Apply

What risks do you face by taking a stand for God?

In what areas of your life have you chosen not to stand for God?

Do you need to rebuild your altar? What do you need to do for that to happen?

What is the one thing, the most important thing, you need to lay on the altar before God?

Does your relationship with God look more like the prophets of Baal or Elijah? Are you seeking to be obedient to God, "Lord, I have done all these things at Your word," or are you trying to manipulate God as the false prophets did?

We live in the days of Elijah. The world is against us. People worship the gods of sex, power, and money. Sadly, people inside the church sometimes look just the same. Will you take a stand? Will you risk everything, as Elijah did? "...choose this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"
(Joshua 24:15)

Pray

God, we ask that You create a willingness in our hearts to dethrone all the idols that are standing in the place where only You should be. We repent of the sin of idolatry. God, forgive us for wavering and not choosing to stand for You in this pagan world. Forgive us for our broken down and neglected altars. We return to You. Today, we choose You! We confess, The Lord, He is God. The Lord, He is God. Let the fire of Your presence and Holy Spirit fall now on Your people.