

THE BADDEST MEN ON THE PLANET

Elijah: The Blazing Prophet

1 Kings 18:16-20 (NIV)

*So, Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." **So, Ahab sent word throughout all Israel** and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.*

1 Kings 18:21 (NIV)

*Elijah went before the people and said, "**How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.**" But the people said nothing.*

1 Kings 18:22-24 (NIV)

*Then Elijah said to them, "**I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.** Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."*

1 Kings 18:25-27, 29 (NIV)

*Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. **But there was no response; no one***

answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You’ll have to shout louder,” he scoffed, “for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!” Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. **But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.**

Pretenders Never Deliver

1 Kings 18:30-35 (ESV)

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed.

And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, **“Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time.” And they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time.” And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.**

The Odds Are Never Impossible With God

Ephesians 3:18-21 (NIV)

*I pray you... may have **power...** to grasp **how wide and long and high and deep** is the love of Christ, and to know this love that **surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus...*

1 Kings 18:36-39 (NIV)

*At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: **“O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”** Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”*

The Greatest Miracle is a Turned Heart