

Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

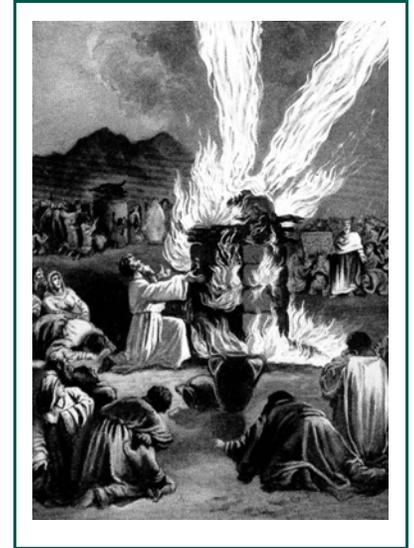
1 Kings 18

YES. NO. NOT YET. Those are some of the ways God will answer our prayers. Today's story shows the LORD answering the prayer of Elijah. He will show once again that "The LORD,

He is God!"

Prayer

Preserve Thy Word, O Savior, to us this latter day
And let Thy kingdom flourish, enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
O, keep our faith from falling, keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us while wand'ring here below.
Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-40

And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." {2} So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria...

{17} Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" {18} And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. {19} "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

{20} So Ahab sent for all the children

of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. {21} And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

But the people answered him not a word.

{22} Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. {23} "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but 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 the God who answers by fire, He is God."



So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

{25} Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

{26} So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

{27} And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

{28} So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. {29} And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

{30} Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

{31} And 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 shall be your name." {32} Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and

he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs (a measure) of seed. {33} And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

{34} Then 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. {35} So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

{36} And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. {37} "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

{38} Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

{39} Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

{40} And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Outer Aim - God, through Elijah, led Israel to choose the LORD not Baal.

What the Story Tells Us - Make the False sentence True by crossing out one word in the sentence that is false and writing the correct word from the story on the blank. The number in () will help you find the answer in the Story on pgs. 1-2.

1. The LORD told Elijah to go see King Saul. (1) _____
2. Elijah wanted the people to gather on Mt. Horeb. (19) _____
3. There were also 100 prophets of Baal gathered there. (22) _____
4. The prophets of Baal would build one altar for a sacrifice and the Prophet Isaiah would build an altar for the LORD. (23-24) _____
5. The god who answered the prayers would send down rain on the altar to show he is the true god. (23-24) _____
6. When Baal did not answer the prophets they hit themselves. (28) _____
7. Elijah repaired the altar of the LORD by building an altar with 10 stones for the tribes of Israel. (31) _____
8. To show that the LORD has power Elijah had dust poured on the altar 3 times. (33-34) _____
9. The LORD answered Elijah's prayer by sending rain that consumed everything. (38) _____
10. The people cried, "Baal, He is God!" (39) _____
11. Elijah had the false prophets whipped. (40) _____

Inner Aim - God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

Your Turn - Fill in the chart below using the answers from the box.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ▶ false god | ▶ answers prayers |
| ▶ true God | ▶ sent fire |
| ▶ hears prayers | ▶ sent no fire |
| ▶ can't hear prayers | ▶ has no power |
| ▶ can't answer prayers | ▶ has power to save |

the LORD	Baal
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶

What God's Word Tells Us - Cross out the letters B, M and Z to find the missing Bible verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

B P R B Z M A M Y W Z B B I T B H Z
 O M B U Z T C E M M A Z S I Z N M G

Passages

Matthew 4:10 - 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The First Commandment - Sydow Catechism ©2000

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

Hymn - TLH #396

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe;

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt;

That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile;

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up the dying bed.

Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank You for the love You have shown me in so many ways. You have made me Your child and given me saving faith in Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that I will want to share with others that wonderful message of salvation through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In His name I pray. Amen.