



STORIES FROM THE BIBLE -
ELIJAH PART 1

1 Kings 17:1, 18:1-41 – part 1
18:42-46, 19:1-18 – part 2

- **1 Kings 17:1**

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'

- **1 Kings 18:1-41**

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

Now the famine was severe in Samaria,³ and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, his palace administrator. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the LORD.⁴ While Jezebel was killing off the LORD's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.)⁵ Ahab had said to Obadiah, 'Go through the land to all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find some grass to keep the horses and mules alive so we will not have to kill any of our animals.'⁶ So they divided the land they were to cover, Ahab going in one direction and Obadiah in another.

As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him.

Obadiah recognised him, bowed down to the ground, and said, 'Is it really you, my lord Elijah?'

⁸ 'Yes,' he replied. 'Go tell your master, "Elijah is here."' "

⁹ 'What have I done wrong,' asked Obadiah, 'that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to be put to death? ¹⁰ As surely as the LORD your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you. ¹¹ But now you tell me to go to my master and say, "Elijah is here."' "

12 I don't know where the Spirit of the LORD may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshipped the LORD since my youth. **13** Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the LORD? I hid a hundred of the LORD's prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water. **14** And now you tell me to go to my master and say, "Elijah is here." He will kill me!

15 Elijah said, 'As the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today.'

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, 'Is that you, you troubler of Israel?'

¹⁸ '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. ¹⁹ 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.'

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ 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.

Then Elijah said to them, 'I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets 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. ²⁴ 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.'

²⁵ 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.' ²⁶ So they took the bull that was given to them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. 'Baal, answer us!' they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. 'Shout louder!' he said. 'Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or travelling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.' ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come here to me.' They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, 'Your name shall be Israel.'

With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench round it large enough to hold two seahs^[a] of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, 'Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.'

³⁴ 'Do it again,' he said, and they did it again.

'Do it a third time,' he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: 'LORD, the 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. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.'

3⁸ 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.

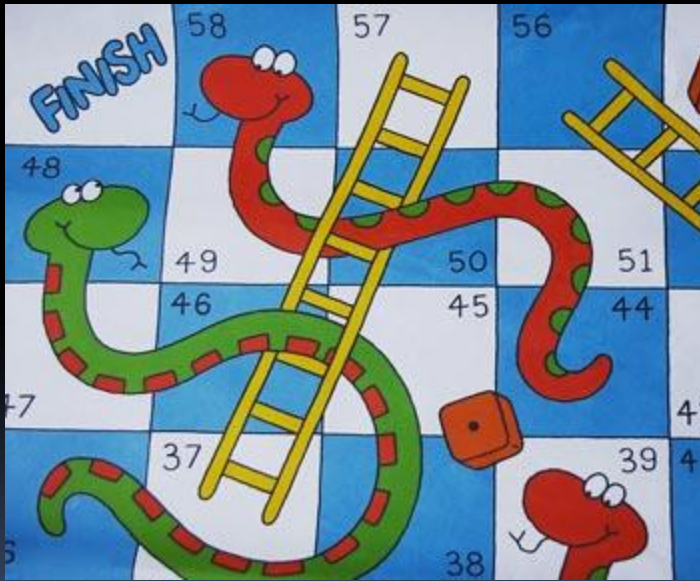
3⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, 'The LORD – he is God! The LORD – he is God!'

4⁰ Then Elijah commanded them, 'Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!' They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

4¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, 'Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.'

Kings Summary

“They have rejected me as their King” 1 Sam 8:7



- 39 Kings of Israel and Judah
- 4 Kings described as good
- 5 Kings good and bad
- 30 kings bad

Good Bad Mixture of good and bad**Kings of Israel**Jeroboam ([1 Kings 12:25-33](#))Nadab ([1 Kings 15:25-31](#))Baasha ([1 Kings 15:33-16:7](#))Elah ([1 Kings 16:8-14](#))Zimri ([1 Kings 16:15-20](#))Omri ([1 Kings 16:21-27](#))Ahab ([1 Kings 16:29-33](#))Ahaziah ([1 Kings 22:51-53](#); [2 Kings 1](#))Joram (Jehoram) ([2 Kings 1:17](#); [3:1-3](#))Jehu ([2 Kings 9:30-10:36](#))Jehoahaz ([2 Kings 13:1-9](#))Jehoash ([2 Kings 13:10-25](#))Jeroboam II ([2 Kings 14:23-29](#))Zechariah ([2 Kings 15:8-12](#))Shallum ([2 Kings 15:13-16](#))Menahem ([2 Kings 15:17-22](#))Pekahiah ([2 Kings 15:23-26](#))Pekah ([2 Kings 15:27-31](#))Hoshea ([2 Kings 17](#))**Kings of Judah**Rehoboam ([1 Kings 14:21-31](#))Abijam ([1 Kings 15:1-8](#))Asa ([1 Kings 15:9-24](#))Jehoshaphat ([1 Kings 22:41-50](#))Jehoram ([2 Kings 8:16-23](#))Ahaziah ([2 Kings 8:25-29](#); [9:29](#))Athaliah ([2 Kings 11](#)) queenJoash ([2 Kings 12](#))Amaziah ([2 Kings 14:1-22](#))Azariah (Uzziah) ([2 Kings 15:1-7](#))Jotham ([2 Kings 15:32-38](#))Ahaz ([2 Kings 16](#))Hezekiah ([2 Kings 18-20](#))Manasseh ([2 Kings 21:1-18](#))Amon ([2 Kings 21:19-26](#))Josiah ([2 Kings 22:1-23:30](#))Jehoahaz (Shallum) ([2 Kings 23:31-35](#))Jehoiakim ([2 Kings 23:36-24:7](#))Jehoiachin ([2 Kings 24:8-17](#); [25:27-30](#))Zedekiah ([2 Kings 24:18-25:26](#))

- Elijah means “The Lord is my God”.
- Prophet, worker of miracles, healings and raising from the dead. *1 Kings 17-21, 2 Kings 1-2*
- Did not die but was taken up into heaven – 2 Kings 2
- “Return” prophesied in *Malachi 4:5-6*
- Jesus said of John the Baptist “And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.” *Matt 11:14*
- Appeared with Jesus on Mount of Transfiguration – *Matt 17*
- “Elijah was a human being, even as we are”
James 5:17

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Baal

- Baal - sun god, storm god and fertility god worshipped by Canaanites and Phoenicians.
- Infiltrated Jewish worship at the time of the judges and prominent through the reign of Ahab
- "Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you;" *Deut 6:13-14*

Isaiah 44:13-20

¹³ The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses.

He shapes it in human form, human form in all its glory, that it may dwell in a shrine.

¹⁴ He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak.

He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow.

¹⁵ It is used as fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread.

But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. ¹⁶ Half of the wood he burns in the fire over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill.

He also warms himself and says, 'Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.'

¹⁷ From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships.

He prays to it and says 'Save me! You are my god!'

¹⁸ They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so that they cannot see, and their minds closed so that they cannot understand.

¹⁹ No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, 'Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left?


Shall I bow down to a block of wood?'

²⁰ Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, 'Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?'

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- **Proverbs 3:5**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;**

- **“I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name”.**



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- **Step Up**

- **Step Out**