



Lesson 117

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 18:1-40 • Setting: circa 872 B.C. • Main Characters: God, Elijah, Ahab, and Obadiah • Plot: Elijah challenges Ahab's prophets of Baal to a battle of answered prayer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “the LORD, he is the _____.” (v 39) • Climax: <i>1 Kings 18:38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.</i> |
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A Daring Challenge

1. (1 Ki. 18:1-2) After three years of severe drought and famine, the LORD spoke to Elijah, telling him to deliver another message to King Ahab – the LORD also told Elijah that _____ was in the forecast.
2. (1 Ki. 18:3-6) In Samaria, the famine had become so severe that Ahab was forced to send out search parties to locate water. Even the _____ himself joined the effort.
3. Ahab's clerk, _____, was sent in one direction while Ahab searched for water in a different direction. (We suppose they were searching Ahab's estate to save the king's private herds).
 - (a) Obadiah was a godly man who loved the LORD and had even rescued one hundred prophets from Jezebel's murderous plot. Why do you suppose Jezebel would want to kill the prophets of the LORD? _____
 - (b) (1 Ki. 18:7-15) As Obadiah searched for water, he was met by Elijah. Obadiah recognized Elijah, and he fell on his face and humbly greeted the renown prophet. Elijah told him to tell Ahab that he would be met by the prophet that very day. Why was Obadiah afraid to tell Ahab that he had found Elijah? _____
4. (1 Ki. 18:16-19) Elijah did indeed met up with Ahab. The prophet once again rebuked the king for his idolatry and challenged his prophets to a duel of religions atop _____. Ahab accepted, and the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal assembled to challenge one man of the LORD.

A Display of Power

5. (1 Ki. 18:20-24) This was the challenge: each side was given an altar (without any fire) and a sacrifice; each side would call upon the name of their deity; whichever deity

answered the prayers by sending _____ from heaven to consume the sacrifice would be declared the one true God.

(a) (1 Ki. 18:25-29) Elijah allowed the Baal worshipers to go first. From morning till noon, they cried out and danced ecstatically (KJV: "leaped upon"), then from noon till evening they continued and even began to _____ themselves. Meanwhile, Elijah calmly watched and even heckled the Baal worshipers and their false god.

(b) (1 Ki. 18:30-35) Finally, Elijah took his turn. He prepared to call down fire by rebuilding a broken altar, digging a trench around the altar, and having a total of _____ pots of water poured onto the altar and sacrifice.

6. (1 Ki. 18:36-39) What four hundred fifty prophets of Baal could not do in an entire day of gesticulating and lacerating one prophet of God does in one prayer less than _____ words long. The LORD heard Elijah and sent fire from heaven that evaporated the water on the altar and in the trench and burned up the sacrifice along with the altar stones. The people were awestruck and declared, "The LORD, he is God!"

7. (1 Ki. 18:40) Elijah directed the people, who were dramatically affected by the scene, to take the prophets of Baal to the Kishon brook and slay them (in obedience to Deu. 13:1-5). Why do you think these false prophets were slain in a creek bed? _____

Application

8. The challenge atop Carmel was one of prayer. _____ prayer is a powerful way that God shows his people that he is their God. When we fail to pray, we shortchange our ourselves of a great boost in our faith.

*Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end,
that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): God • 1. rain • 2. king • 3. Obadiah; a) She did it in retaliation for Elijah's pronouncement of drought and famine upon Samaria; b) He feared that Elijah would be carried away by the Spirit and then Ahab would be angry and kill him. • 4. Carmel • 5. fire; a) lacerate; b) twelve • 6. seventy • 7. It may have been an object lesson that showed that the LORD would fill the creek beds with water when Israel began to repent of their idolatry. • 8. Answered

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.