

PROPHET OF FIRE & RAIN—Choose By Pastor Robby Bradford

(1 Kings 18:16-20) So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, “So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?” “I have made no trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the Lord and have worshiped the images of Baal instead. Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the **450 prophets of Baal** and the **400 prophets of Asherah** who are supported by Jezebel.” So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel.

→ **No majority, no matter how overwhelming, can move the truth.**

(1 Kings 18:21 NLT) Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between **two opinions? If the Lord is God**, follow him! But **if Baal is God**, then follow him!” But the people were completely silent.

→ **A divided soul limps through life.**

(Joshua 24:14-15 NLT) “So **fear the Lord** and **serve him wholeheartedly**. Put away **forever** the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. **Serve the Lord alone**. But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then **choose today whom you will serve**. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

(Matthew 6:24 NLT) “**No one can serve two masters**. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

→ **Make a categorical decision who will be the god of your life.**

(1 Kings 18:22-29 NLT) Then Elijah said to them, “**I am the only prophet** of the Lord who is left, but **Baal has 450 prophets**. Now bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without setting fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it. Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!” And all the people agreed. Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls, and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood.” So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was **no reply** of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling 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!" So **they shouted louder**, and following their normal custom, **they cut themselves** with knives and swords until the blood gushed out. They **raved** all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was **no sound, no reply, no response**.

→Energy, emotion and worship are ineffectual when focused on the wrong things.

(1 Kings 18:30-32 NLT) Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. He took **twelve** stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the Lord.

→You may drift far from God, but it doesn't change your identity.

(1 Kings 18:32b-35 NLT) Then **he dug a trench** around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with **water**, and pour the **water** over the offering and the wood." After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, and the **water** ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

→God doesn't need us to make it easy for him to succeed.

(1 Kings 18:36-38 NLT) At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and **prayed**, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **prove today** that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. **Prove** that I have done all this at your command. O Lord, answer me! **Answer me so these people will know** that you, O Lord, are God and **that you have brought them back to yourself.**" **Immediately** the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!

(Hebrews 12:28-29 NLT) Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a **devouring fire**.

(1 Kings 18:39 NLT) And when all the people saw it, they **fell face down** on the ground and cried out, "**The Lord he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!**"

(Ephesians 3:20 NLT) Now all glory to God, who is able, through **his mighty power at work within us**, to accomplish **infinitely more** than we might ask or think.

→What do you desperately need from God today?