### 1 Kings

## Chapter 18

1Then after three years, the Lord came to EliJah and said:  
  
 ‘You must now go and speak to Ahab, for I’m going to allow rain to fall on his land once again!’  
  
2So EliJah went to appear before [King] Ahab... And by then, the famine had become very severe in Samaria. 3Well at the time, Ahab had called for his Prime Minister AbDiu, who was a man who had great respect for Jehovah.  
  
4For, back when JezeBel had many of the prophets of Jehovah killed, he was the one who gathered 100 of them and hid them in two caves in groups of fifties, and sent food and water to them.  
  
5Then [King] Ahab said to AbDiu:  
  
 ‘Come!  
  
 ‘Let’s travel throughout the land and search all the streams and springs to see if we can find a pasture that has water where I can take my horses and mules, so they don’t die in their stalls!’  
  
6And at that, they parted company along the road, with [King] Ahab going one way and [Prime Minister] AbDiu going the other... 7So AbDiu was by himself when EliJah arrived.  
  
And when AbDiu saw him, he ran and fell to his face and asked:  
  
 ‘Are you my lord EliJah?’  
  
8And EliJah said:  
  
 ‘I am!  
  
 ‘Now, go tell your master that EliJah is here.’  
  
9But AbDiu replied:  
  
 ‘What has your servant done that you would hand me over to Ahab, for he will kill me! As Jehovah your God lives; there isn’t a nation or kingdom where my master hasn’t searched for you!  
  
 10‘And when they said that you weren’t there, he burned the kingdoms and their cities when he couldn’t find you. 11So you just want me to just go and tell my master that EliJah is here?!  
  
 12‘What if, after I leave you, Jehovah sends a wind that picks you up and carries you into an unknown land? Then, if I were to go and tell Ahab and he doesn’t find you here, he would kill me!  
  
 ‘Now, your servant has feared Jehovah since his youth... 13And perhaps you haven’t been told, my master, about what I did when JezeBel killed the prophets of Jehovah; I took 100 of them and hid them in caves in groups of fifties. Thereafter, I fed them with bread loaves and provided them with water.  
  
 14‘But now you say that I should just go and tell my master that EliJah is here?!  
  
 ‘He’ll kill me!’  
  
15And EliJah said:  
  
 ‘As the Almighty Jehovah that stands before me lives; I’ll appear before him today.’  
  
16So AbDiu went to find Ahab and he reported what had happened.  
  
Then Ahab ran to meet with EliJah, 17and when he saw him, he asked:  
  
 ‘Are you finally going to [stop plaguing] IsraEl?’  
  
18And EliJah said:  
  
 ‘No. I’m not going to [stop plaguing] IsraEl!  
  
 ‘For you and the house of your fathers have left Jehovah your God and started following the BaAls!  
  
 19‘But now, you must gather all IsraEl to Mount CarMel along with all the prophets of BaAl – all 450 of them – and all the prophets of the sacred poles – all 400 of them who eat at the table of JezeBel!’  
  
20Therefore, Ahab sent word throughout all IsraEl to call those prophets to Mount CarMel.  
  
  
21[And when they got there] EliJah stood up in front of all the people and said:  
  
 ‘How much longer are you going to be lame on both of your hams?  
  
 ‘If Jehovah is God, then you should follow Him!  
  
 ‘But if BaAl is God, he’s the one you should follow!’  
  
Well at that, no one said a word.  
  
22Then EliJah said:  
  
 ‘I’m the only prophet of Jehovah who is left [in the land]... But here are 450 prophets of the BaAl and 400 prophets of the sacred poles!  
  
 23‘So now, have them bring two oxen to us, then let those men choose which one they want and cut it up, and put it on the Altar.  
  
 ‘Also pile some wood there, but don’t light the fire.  
  
 ‘I’ll do the same thing to the other ox, and I won’t light the fire either.  
  
 24‘Then, they can call in the names of their gods, and I’ll call upon the Name of my God Jehovah! Whichever one is able to light the fire [will prove to be] the true God!’  
  
And at that, all the people said:  
  
 ‘What you’ve proposed is very good!’  
  
25So EliJah then turned to those prophets of shame and said:  
  
 ‘Now, choose the calf you want and get it ready.  
  
 ‘There are many of you, so you should all call on the names of your gods and have them light the fire!’  
  
26So they selected the calf and prepared it for offering, and they started calling on the name of the BaAl from morning until noon saying:  
  
 ‘Listen to us, O BaAl! Hear us!’  
  
However, there was no reply, because there was no one who could really hear them! So then they started dancing around the Altar that they’d made...  
  
  
27Well, by noon, EliJah (the Tishbite) had started making fun of them.  
  
He was saying:  
  
 ‘Keep on shouting!  
  
 ‘Perhaps he’s just thinking about it, or maybe he’s off handling some business… Or perhaps he’s sleeping and he hasn’t gotten up yet!’  
  
28But they kept on shouting and cutting themselves with knives and spears (which was their custom) until they were all running with blood! 29They kept [acting like] prophets until midday.  
  
But after their sacrifice had stayed there until noon without any reply, 30EliJah said to the people:  
  
 ‘Now, come here to me!’  
  
And all the people came to him.  
  
Then EliJah rebuilt an old Altar that had been knocked down. 31He took 12 stones (to represent the tribes of IsraEl), just as Jehovah told him to do. For this was the very same place where the Lord had once told [Jacob]:  
  
 ‘IsraEl will be your Name.’  
  
32And these were the same stones that [Jacob himself had] erected in the Name of the Lord… It was the same broken-down Altar of Jehovah that he rebuilt that day!  
  
Then he dug a moat around it that was deep enough to hold two sacks of seeds, and he put wood on the Altar that he’d erected... 33He then cut up the whole burnt offering and placed it over the wood (he piled it all on the Altar), and said:  
  
 ‘Now, bring four buckets of [sea] water and pour them over the offering and the wood!’  
  
34Then he told them to do it a second time, and they did it again.  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘Now, do it a third time!’  
  
And they did it a third time.  
  
35And thereafter, EliJah filled the moat around the Altar with water.  
  
36Then he shouted into the sky, saying:  
  
 ‘Jehovah,  
  
 ‘The God of AbraHam, IsaAc, and IsraEl!  
  
 ‘Hear me today and send fire so that all these people will know that You are Jehovah the God of IsraEl!  
  
 ‘[Show them] that I’m Your servant and that the things I’m doing are Your works!  
  
 37‘Hear me, O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘Send fire, so these people will know that You are the Lord God, and so that the hearts of these people will turn back to You!’  
  
38Well at that, Jehovah sent fire that fell from the sky, and it consumed the whole burnt offering, the wood, the water in the moat, the stones… And even the dirt around [the Altar] was all licked up by the fire!  
  
39Then all the people fell to their faces and said:  
  
 ‘Jehovah is truly God… The God!’  
  
40And EliJah said to the people:  
  
 ‘Now, seize all the prophets of BaAl… Don’t let any of them escape!’  
  
So they grabbed them, and EliJah took them down to the Kishon Wadi and killed them all there.  
  
  
41Well after that, Elijah told Ahab:  
  
 ‘Get up and eat and drink, for there’s the sound of rain coming!’  
  
So Ahab got up to eat and drink, while EliJah then walked up Mount CarMel, where he bowed to the ground with his face between his knees.  
  
42Then he said his servant:  
  
 ‘Now, climb to the top of the mountain and look towards the sea!’  
  
43So his servant climbed to the mountaintop and looked towards the sea, and [when he reported back, he] said:  
  
 ‘I didn’t see anything.’  
  
And EliJah said:  
  
 ‘Then, go back [and check again].’  
  
[He did this] seven times.  
  
44So the servant went back [to check] seven times; and on the seventh time he [reported back and] said:  
  
 ‘Look! I can see a cloud that’s as small as the sole of a man’s foot arising from the water in the sea.’  
  
So he said:  
  
 ‘Go to Ahab and tell him to get his chariot ready and hurry off, or the rain will overtake him!’  
  
45Well all of a sudden, the sky got dark with clouds, the wind started to blow, and a tremendous rainstorm began!  
  
So Ahab wept, and went off back to JezreEl... 46Then the hand of Jehovah came over EliJah, and he tightened his belt and ran to JezreEl ahead of Ahab.