

THE POWER OF GOD DISPLAYED

The Players --

ELIJAH -- the Prophet of God (1 Kings 18:22)

AHAB -- the wicked King of Israel (1 Kings 16:30)

JEZEBEL -- the wicked wife of King Ahab (1 Kings 16:31)

450 PROPHETS of BAAL (1 Kings 18:22)

The Scene --

Contest of Power between God and Baal (1 Kings 18:22-38).

One of the greatest stories of "The Power of God Displayed" in the Bible is played out in this portion of the Old Testament Book of 1 Kings.

There had been a succession of Kings in Israel -- some good, some bad -- and Ahab was one of the worst. It is said of Ahab in 1 Kings 16:30 -- *"Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord -- **MORE than all who were before him.**"* Then with Jezebel by his side he worshipped and served Baal and his images. *"And Ahab made a wooden image -- **he did MORE to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than ALL the kings of Israel who were before him**"* (1 Kings 16:33).

When Elijah saw the wickedness that King Ahab was doing he was instructed by the Lord to go to Ahab and warn him of his wrong doings (1 Kings 18:1) -- and Ahab attempted to brush him off saying, *"Is that you, O trouble of Israel?"* (1 Kings 18:17) -- to which Elijah replied, *"I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the Commandments of the Lord, and you have followed the Baals"* (1 Kings 18:18).

So Elijah proposed a contest between the 450 prophets of Baal and himself to prove whose god really had power. He started with a challenge to the people, *"How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him -- but if Baal, then follow him -- but the people answered not a word -- 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"* (1 Kings 18:21,22).

Here is the challenge -- *"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. 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” (1 Kings 18:23,24).

The contest is on -- “So they (the prophets of Baal) took the bull which was given to 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. And they leaped about the altar which they had made. 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. So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out of them. And it was so, when mid-day was past, that they prophesied until the time of the evening offering -- but there was no voice -- no one answered, no one paid attention” (1 Kings 18:26-29).

“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. 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. 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 four bushels of seed -- and he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, laid it on the wood, and said, Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood. 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. So the water ran all around the altar -- and he also filled the trench with water. And it came to pass at the time of the evening sacrifice” (1 Kings 18:30-36a).

NOTE -- the sequence of things Elijah did -- he repaired the former altar that had been used in the past to honor God -- he used twelve stones to honor the Patriarch Jacob -- and he waited until the time of the Evening Sacrifice -- all established steps laid out by God to be acceptable to Him.

“Then Elijah the prophet came near and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word -- 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” (1 Kings 18:36b-37).

“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” (1 Kings 18:38).

“Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces -- and said, THE LORD, HE IS GOD! THE LORD, HE IS GOD!” (1 Kings 18:39).

VICTORY! -- GOD PREVAILED! -- Elijah obeyed the Lord! Elijah did everything according to God’s way -- and God honored his faith!

How about you reader -- are YOU obeying everything you know God expects of YOU?
Are YOU seeing VICTORY in YOUR life? YOU CAN! -- Totally surrender to God and He
will honor you and your prayers.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

for more information contact -- Pastor Bruce R. Burke --

OPEN BIBLE MINISTRIES

263 Edgefield Road -- Lake Ariel, PA 18436 -- Phone 570-698-7890 -- Cell 570-470-3760

E-mail openbiblemin@verizon.net