### DAY2: ELIJAH ON MOUNT CARMEL

### **TODAY'S KEY VERSE FOCUS:**

"To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." - 1 Peter 1:4-5.

Today we are going to look at a story from 1 Kings 18:20-39 that is sure to get you FIRED UP at the power of our God! This is a battle between the one true God and a false god named Baal. In 1 Kings 18 we see the Prophet Elijah going up against 450 prophets of Baal to see who was more powerful and who was the one true God. Elijah was outnumbered, but he knew the power of his God. The rules were simple – the god that could cast down fire to burn up the animal sacrifice would prove their power and place as the one true god. The prophets of Baal were up first. They danced and called out for hours for fire, but nothing happened. Elijah told them Baal must be busy, away, or asleep, so they cried out louder, but still nothing happened. Then it was Elijah's turn. Open your Bible and read 1 Kings 18:30-39 to see what happens next!

What did Elijah do to make his fire even harder to start?

How did God show His power as the one true God?

How did the people respond?



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#### **TODAY'S DEVOTION:**

Anyone who thinks the Bible is boring, probably hasn't spent much time really reading it! In today's passage, we have a wicked king, a brave prophet, food delivering ravens, a battle between good and evil, and fire and rain sent from heaven. That sounds like the makings of an action movie, but it's the real-life account of Elijah confronting King Ahab for his idolatry and worship of the false god Baal. God used Elijah and all of this drama to send a very simple message to His people: There is only one God and you should worship Him alone.

The Israelite people had fallen into the darkness of false idols. They called out to their god Baal by singing, dancing, and acting pretty crazy, but Baal did not show up to light their altar on fire. Elijah drenched his altar with water and God still lit it on fire and even dried up all of the water Elijah had poured out. God could have punished the Israelites for worshipping idols but instead He showed them grace and mercy by ending their long drought with much rain! Even when God's people turned from Him, He did not turn from them!

How often are we like the false prophets of Baal trying to make things happen on our own? Anything we place above God and anything we spend more time and energy on other than God, is an idol. Even when we mess up and put more value on the things of this world over God, He never leaves us or stops loving us. Just like he rained down on the Israelites, He will rain down His love and mercy on us.

In 1 Peter 1:4-5, Peter writes, "To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." Peter is talking about our inheritance (or gift) from God that is our salvation when we trust in God and call on Him to be our Savior. The power of God that Peter writes about is the same power that Elijah called on to light his altar on fire!



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### **TODAY'S APPLICATION:**

Who/what did the people of Israel worship in 1 Kings 18?

What are some things in your life that may be an idol or could turn into an idol?

What can you learn from Peter's relationship with Jesus?

Prayer: Thank God for giving us His Holy Word to read and study so that we can know Him and know how to follow Him well. Ask God to reveal to you what things in your life could become idols. Ask God to forgive you and help you to put your faith and identity in Him.

