

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

I KINGS 18

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Elijah has been in seclusion for three years, and after being hidden away, now it is time for him to show himself and confront the evil of his nation. Elijah meets Obadiah, the household steward of Ahab, the wicked king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Obadiah recognizes him and immediately Elijah asks Obadiah to find Ahab and tell him that Elijah is back in the country and wants to see him. Obadiah says in effect, "So you want to get me killed, right?" Obadiah began to tell Elijah all he had done to serve the LORD and to protect the people that were loyal to the true and living God. Elijah convinced Obadiah that this was not a trick, that he would show up as he needed to confront Ahab with his sin.

When Ahab saw Elijah, he began to blame and accuse him of being the cause of the drought and a "troubler" of Israel. Elijah instead said, "you and your house are the trouble since you have forsaken the true and living God and His sacred commandments." Elijah then challenged Ahab to bring all the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah to meet him on Mt. Carmel to see whose God is true and alive and whose god is false and no god at all.

The great gathering on the highest point of Carmel pitted Elijah, whose name means "Yah is my God," and the prophets of Jezebel against each other for all of Israel to see. Elijah asked the prophets of Baal and Asherah to build an altar without fire and he would build an altar without fire, and each would ask their God to answer their prayers and summons to send fire from heaven to burn the sacrifices laid on the newly constructed altars. Elijah allowed the prophets of the false gods to go first. He mocked them as he knew there would be no fire, because there is only one true and living God. After they were exhausted, Elijah repaired the altar of God which had stood there at one time. Then he prepared the sacrifice and had buckets of water drench the sacrifice and altar until it puddled at the base of the altar. Elijah called on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and He answered by fire for all of Israel to see!

Prayer and Action Steps

Elijah filled with the Spirit of the living God was courageous in confronting the evil of his day. May God so move each of us that we would be courageous to stand against evil in our day!

Date _____ Scripture _____

- ▶ Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- ▶ Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- ▶ Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
