

64. God Delivered at Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18:16-40 CEV

Ahab went to meet Elijah ... when he saw him ... shouted, "There you are, the biggest troublemaker in Israel!" Elijah answered: You're the troublemaker--not me! You and your family have disobeyed the LORD's commands by worshipping Baal.

Call together everyone from Israel ... meet me on Mount Carmel ... bring along the [450] prophets of Baal ... [450] prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table ... Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you try to have things both ways? If the LORD is God, worship him! But if Baal is God, worship him!"

The people did not say a word. Then Elijah continued: I am the LORD's only prophet, but Baal has four hundred fifty prophets. Bring us two bulls. Baal's prophets can take one of them, kill it, and cut it into pieces. Then they can put the meat on the wood without lighting the fire. I will do the same thing with the other bull, and I won't light a fire under it either. The prophets of Baal will pray to their god, and I will pray to the LORD. The one who answers by starting the fire is God.

"That's a good idea," everyone agreed.

Elijah said to Baal's prophets, "There are more of you, so you go first. ... They ... prayed to Baal all morning ... danced around the altar and shouted ... At noon, Elijah began making fun of them. "Pray louder!" he said. "Baal must be a god. Maybe he's day-dreaming or using the toilet or traveling somewhere. Or maybe he's asleep, and you have to wake him up." The prophets kept shouting louder ... cut themselves with swords and knives until they were bleeding. This was the way they worshiped, and they kept it up all afternoon. But there was no answer of any kind.

Elijah told everyone to gather around him while he repaired the LORD's altar. Then he used twelve stones to build an altar in honor of the LORD ... Elijah dug a ditch around the altar, large enough to hold about thirteen quarts. He placed the wood on the altar, then they cut the bull into pieces and laid the meat on the wood.

He told the people, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it over the meat and the wood." After they did this, he told them to do it two more times. They did exactly as he said until finally, the water ran down the altar and filled the ditch.

... time for the evening sacrifice, Elijah prayed: Our LORD ... God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel ... prove that you are the God of this nation, and that I, your servant, have done this at your command ... so these people will know that you are the LORD God, and that you will turn their hearts back to you. The LORD immediately sent fire ... it burned up the sacrifice, the wood ... and the stones ... scorched the ground ... around the altar and dried up every drop of water in the ditch. When the crowd saw ... they all bowed down and shouted, "The LORD is God! The LORD is God!" Just then, Elijah said, "Grab the prophets of Baal! Don't let any of them get away." So the people captured the prophets and took them to Kishon River, where Elijah killed every one of them.



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BULL
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CARMEL
DANCED
DITCH

DREAMING
ELIJAH
EVENING
EXACTLY
HONOR
HUNDRED
LARGE
LIGHTING
LOUDER
MORNING

MOUNT
NOON
POUR
PRAYED
QUARTS
SHOUTED
STOOD
TOILET
TRAVELING
WOOD