

“Fire from Heaven”

1 Kings 18:36–40

Letting the Battle Belong to the Lord

How does a believer let the battle belong to the Lord?

I. Elijah calls fire down from Heaven.

1 Kings 18:36–37 — ³⁶ *At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, **today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word.**”*
³⁷ *“Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.””*

A. According to Elijah’s prayer, what three questions were going to be settled in the heart of the people of Israel? -v36

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. What was the end goal for Elijah’s answered prayer? -v37

C. Application: How could we use this same goal to pray for those who are struggling spiritually?

II. God answers Elijah’s prayer immediately.

1 Kings 18:38–39 — ³⁸ *Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God.””*

A. Beyond just sending fire, what more did God do? -v38

B. What did the people realize was true? -v39

1. How is the principle in **Ephesians 3:20-21** at work in how God answers?
2. Why was it vital that God answer immediately in this situation?

III. Severe consequences for the enemies of God.

1 Kings 18:40 — *“Then Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape.” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.”*

A. How can we know that slaying the prophets of Baal came from the Lord? (see Exodus 20:3-5)

B. Lesson:

1. What can we say about all who make false claims against the Lord?
2. Is Elijah’s zeal for the Lord something to be imitated or something to be careful of?
3. How are we stand for the Lord in times of great opposition?