

## **Elijah on Mount Carmel**

1 Kings 18:17-46

by Don Falkos

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Elijah said to King Ahab, "Summon the people of Israel to meet us on Mount Carmel. And tell them to bring along all of the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal."

When the people had gathered, Elijah said, "If the Lord is God, follow the Lord. If Baal is God, follow Baal. We will prepare the bulls for sacrifice, but will not set fire to them. The prophets of Baal will call on Baal. I will call on the Lord. The one who responds by sending fire is God."

The prophets of Baal prepared a bull for sacrifice. They called out to Baal; they shouted; they danced; they cut themselves with swords. All day long they called to Baal, but nothing happened.

Elijah built an altar to the Lord and dug a trench around it. He prepared the bull for sacrifice. Despite the drought, he insisted the people of Israel pour a large quantity of water over the sacrifice until everything was saturated and the trench he had dug was full of water.

Elijah called to the Lord, "O Lord, let it be known that you are God."

Instantly fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the altar, the soil, and even licked up all the water in the trench.

The people cried out, "The Lord is God!"

Elijah commanded the people to seize the prophets of Baal, and he killed every last one of them. Then Elijah sent his servant to, "Look toward the sea." But the servant saw nothing. Seven times Elijah sent him. Finally he saw a small cloud rising from the sea.

Soon a heavy rainstorm had begun. The drought was over. As Ahab raced home, the power of the Lord fell upon Elijah and he outran Ahab's chariot, arriving there before him.