

Setting

Locate the following places on the Bible map:

- Samaria
- Brook Kishon (Kishon River)
- Carmel
- Jezreel

Key Terms and People

Elijah: Prophet of God from Tishbe. His name means “My God is Yahweh.”

Ahab: Seventh king of Israel.

Obadiah: A servant over Ahab’s house and a follower of the LORD (not to be confused with the prophet Obadiah). His name means “servant of Yahweh.”

Jezebel: Wife of Ahab and daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon.

Story Moments

Elijah Confronts Ahab

18:1–4. The events of this chapter begin “in the third year.” (18:1) The “third year” of what (hint: see 17:1–2)? _____

What does the Lord tell Elijah to do in 18:1? _____

Who is Obadiah in relation to Ahab? _____

What had Queen Jezebel attempted that Obadiah had thwarted? _____

Why did he do this? _____

18:5–6. What do Ahab and Obadiah do that demonstrate the severity of the drought in the land? _____

18:7–16. What does Elijah tell Obadiah to do? _____

What does Obadiah fear will happen if he obeys Elijah? _____

What does Elijah promise Obadiah? _____



18:17–19. How does Ahab address Elijah²⁰ and what is Elijah’s response? _____

Why has Ahab earned this designation of “troubler”? _____

What does Elijah command Ahab to do? _____

Elijah Confronts the Prophets of Baal

18:20–21. Who does Elijah speak to at the top of the mountain? What decision does he challenge them to make? _____

²⁰ The nickname “troubler” comes from the Hebrew word ‘acar and “suggests one who is consorting with dark supernatural forces in order to render harm.” (Simon John de Vries, *1 Kings*, 217.)

18:22. Elijah claims to be the only prophet of the Lord. In what way is this true and in what way is this false? _____

18:23–25. List the terms of the challenge in your own words: _____

18:26–29. How long do the prophets of Baal cry out for their sacrifice to be received? _____

What kinds of acts do they perform in an attempt to be heard? _____

How does Elijah react to their prayers? _____

How does the end of 8:29 summarize the results of their prayers? _____

18:30–32. What does Elijah do before he can offer a sacrifice? _____

18:33–35. How does Elijah prepare his altar? _____

18:36–37. Summarize Elijah's prayer. What does he want God to do in this moment? _____

18:38. How does God respond to Elijah's prayer? _____

18:39–40. How do the people respond to God's miracle? _____

Cross References

James 5:17-18

¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Note: the audience for this miracle is not necessarily Ahab or the prophets of Baal, but the people of Israel (compare 18:21 with 18:39).

The LORD Sends Rain

18:41–44. What instruction does Elijah give his servant? _____

What does his servant observe? _____

How does Elijah respond to his servant? _____

According to James 5:17–18, what is Elijah doing while he bows to the ground? _____

18:45–46. What finally happens in 18:45? How does God answer Elijah's prayer? _____

Where do both Elijah and Ahab go? _____

Ask Yourself

How does God use Obadiah to protect his prophets in a time of danger? When do I see God's divine appointments in my life?

Elijah perceives that he is the only one left serving the Lord (18:22). Do you ever feel the same way? What does God use to show you that you are wrong?

How does God use Elijah's fervent prayer in this chapter? How is his dependence on God a good reminder for me when I face opposition?