



The Power of God

By Terry Kountz on February 22, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 1 Kings 18

The account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18 is a powerful demonstration of the sovereignty and power of God. In the midst of a spiritual crisis in Israel, Elijah boldly confronts King Ahab and challenges the prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel.

Elijah's challenge is simple: each group will prepare a sacrifice, and the God who answers by fire will be recognized as the one true God. The prophets of Baal go first, calling on their god to send fire to consume their sacrifice. Despite their fervent pleas and even self-inflicted wounds, there is no response from Baal.

Then Elijah steps forward with confidence, repairing the altar of the Lord and placing his sacrifice upon it. He drenches the sacrifice and the altar with water, calling upon the name of the Lord. In an awe-inspiring display of divine power, the Lord sends fire from heaven, consuming not only the sacrifice but also the water and the stones of the altar.

This miraculous display leaves no doubt as to the identity of the true God. The people fall on their faces and declare, "The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!"

The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal reminds us of God's sovereignty and faithfulness. Even in the midst of spiritual darkness and opposition, God is able to reveal His power and bring about His purposes. He answers the prayers of His people in ways that are beyond our comprehension and demonstrates His glory for all to see.

Moreover, we are challenged to examine our own hearts and allegiances. Are there areas of our lives where we have placed our trust in false gods or idols? Do we recognize the sovereignty and power of the one true God, who alone is worthy of our worship and devotion?

In our own lives, let us trust in the God who answers by fire. Let us call upon His name with confidence, knowing that He is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. And may we, like Elijah, boldly proclaim the truth of God's sovereignty and faithfulness to a world in desperate need of His saving grace.

PRAYER: Lord, help us to trust in You wholeheartedly, recognizing that You alone are worthy of our worship and devotion. Give us boldness to proclaim the truth of Your sovereignty to a world in need of Your saving grace.

TOMORROW'S READING: Job 38

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