


“Elijah...said to Ahab, ‘As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.’”

1 Kings 17:1

“Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for 3 ½ years. Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

James 5:17-18

Baal: Canaanite-Phoenician god of rain and fertility



THE ANCIENTS WERE
COMMENDED:
THE SHOWDOWN

1 Kings 18:16ff

Vs. 16 “Ahab went to meet Elijah...”

Ahab – See 1 Kings 16:30-33

Vs. 17 It’s handy to have someone to blame...

Our fallen nature (Gen. 3:12-13)

Vs. 18 The truth of the matter

(See 16:21ff)

VSS. 19-21

The people hadn't totally rejected God, but...

Ex. 20:1-6

All of Israel was summoned.

All of Israel had to make a choice.

(Matt. 12:25, James 1:8, Rev. 3:15-16)

Still today, a choice must be made



VSS. 22 - 24

They already outnumbered him 850 – 1

Every single advantage was given to the false prophets, with no tricks up Elijah's sleeves.

They even got to go first!

VSS. 25 - 29

Baal's turn

Cried out from morning 'til noon, but no response

Elijah began to taunt, and their shouting and dancing
turned to slashing themselves 'til the blood flowed

“But there was no response, no one answered, no
one paid attention.”

VSS. 30 - 35

What do we see here?

Everything that was missing in Israel

The repair of the Lord's altar – Deep reverence

The 12 stones – The covenant. God's faithfulness

"In the name of the Lord" – Built in keeping with the character and nature of God.

Faith in God – Giving himself every disadvantage



VSS. 36 - 37

Elijah clearly addressed the one true God (nothing generic) Still 850-1, btw.

Clearly desired God alone to receive glory

Clearly wanted to see hearts turn back to God



VS. 38 - 39

“The GOD who answers by fire, HE IS GOD!”

Can you just imagine being on that mountain?

Falling prostrate and crying out sounds about right...



VSS. 40FF


Judgement on the false prophets (vs. 40) and then...

RAIN, confirming Elijah as a true prophet of God.

“There is a sound of heavy rain. Go look.”

“ I don’t see anything.”

Go look again. Seven times.



“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”

Heb. 11:1-2