

The Holy Land Season 3

Consumed by Fire



Scripture

- **I Kings 18:17-40**

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel?”

He said, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals.

Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.” So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people said, “That is a good idea.”

So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.” Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the alter which they made. It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.” So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. When midday was passed they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention. Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the alter of the LORD which had been torn down. Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.”

So with the stones he built an alter in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the alter, large enough to hold two measures of seed. Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time,” and they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time. The water flowed around the alter and he also filled the trench with water.

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. 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. Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.” 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.

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Other Scriptures

- Matt. 17:3
- Mark 1:4
- John 17:14-16

Main Points

- Everyday there is a battle—who will you choose to serve?
- Elijah the Prophet-9th Century BC
- Ahab-King of Israel 885 to 850 BC and wife Jezebel.
- Mount Carmel Themes:
 - Lukewarmness
- Are there areas of compromise in your life?
- Spirits come in through the eye gates and ear gates.
- The conviction of sin is a gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Which God will you serve?

Discussion Questions

1. Can you identify an area or areas of compromise or lukewarmness in your life?

2. What do you plan to do about those areas?

3. Like the alter and everything around it, God can consume your life, your passions, your desires, and your soul today. Will you ask Him to do so right now? Date this moment as a turning point in your life with God, the Father; the day you personally chose to follow the LORD God, rather than the world, the flesh, or the devil. Be sure to journal the immediate and long term changes you begin to notice.