



¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" ¹⁸ He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of



1 KINGS 18:17-19 NLT

THE LORD AND FOLLOWED THE BAALS. ¹⁹ Now THEREFORE HAVE ALL ISRAEL ASSEMBLE FOR ME AT MOUNT CARMEL, WITH THE FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY PROPHETS OF BAAL AND THE FOUR HUNDRED PROPHETS OF ASHERAH, WHO EAT AT JEZEBEL'S TABLE."



1 KINGS 18:17-19 NLT

20 SO AHAB SUMMONED ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND THE PROPHETS TO MOUNT CARMEL. 21 THEN ELIJAH STOOD IN FRONT OF THEM AND SAID, "HOW MUCH LONGER WILL YOU WAVER, HOBBLING BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? IF THE LORD IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM! BUT IF BAAL IS GOD, THEN FOLLOW HIM!" BUT THE PEOPLE WERE COMPLETELY SILENT.



1 KINGS 18:20-21 NLT

23 "Now bring two bulls. The prophets of BAAL MAY CHOOSE WHICHEVER ONE THEY WISH AND CUT IT INTO PIECES AND LAY IT ON THE WOOD OF THEIR ALTAR, BUT WITHOUT SETTING FIRE TO IT. I WILL PREPARE THE OTHER BULL AND LAY IT ON THE WOOD ON THE ALTAR, BUT NOT SET FIRE TO IT.



²⁴ Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!" And all the people agreed.



26 SO THEY PREPARED ONE OF THE BULLS AND PLACED IT ON THE ALTAR. THEN THEY CALLED ON THE NAME OF BAAL FROM MORNING UNTIL NOONTIME, SHOUTING, "O BAAL, ANSWER US!" BUT THERE WAS NO REPLY OF ANY KIND. THEN THEY DANCED, HOBBLING AROUND THE ALTAR THEY HAD MADE.

1 KINGS 18:26-29 NLT

27 ABOUT NOONTIME ELIJAH BEGAN MOCKING THEM. "YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOUT LOUDER," HE SCOFFED, "FOR SURELY HE IS A GOD! PERHAPS HE IS DAYDREAMING, OR IS RELIEVING HIMSELF. OR MAYBE HE IS AWAY ON A TRIP, OR IS ASLEEP AND NEEDS TO BE WAKENED!"

1 KINGS 18:26-29 NLT

28 SO THEY SHOUTED LOUDER, AND FOLLOWING THEIR NORMAL CUSTOM, THEY CUT THEMSELVES WITH KNIVES AND SWORDS UNTIL THE BLOOD GUSHED OUT. 29 THEY RAVED ALL AFTERNOON UNTIL THE TIME OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE, BUT STILL THERE WAS NO SOUND, NO REPLY, NO RESPONSE.

1 KINGS 18:26-29 NLT

³⁰ Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. ³¹ He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, ³² and



HE USED THE STONES TO REBUILD THE ALTAR IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. THEN HE DUG A TRENCH AROUND THE ALTAR LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD ABOUT THREE GALLONS. ³³ HE PILED WOOD ON THE ALTAR, CUT THE BULL INTO PIECES, AND LAID THE PIECES ON THE WOOD.



THEN HE SAID, "FILL FOUR LARGE JARS WITH WATER, AND POUR THE WATER OVER THE OFFERING AND THE WOOD."

1 KINGS 18:30-35 NLT



³⁴ After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, ³⁵ and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

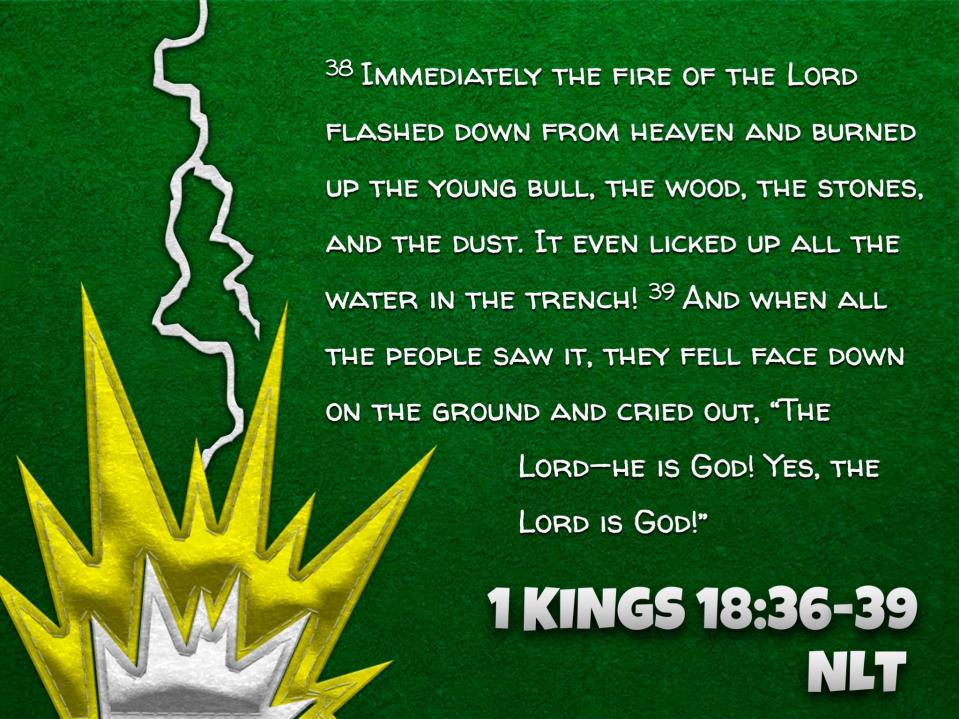


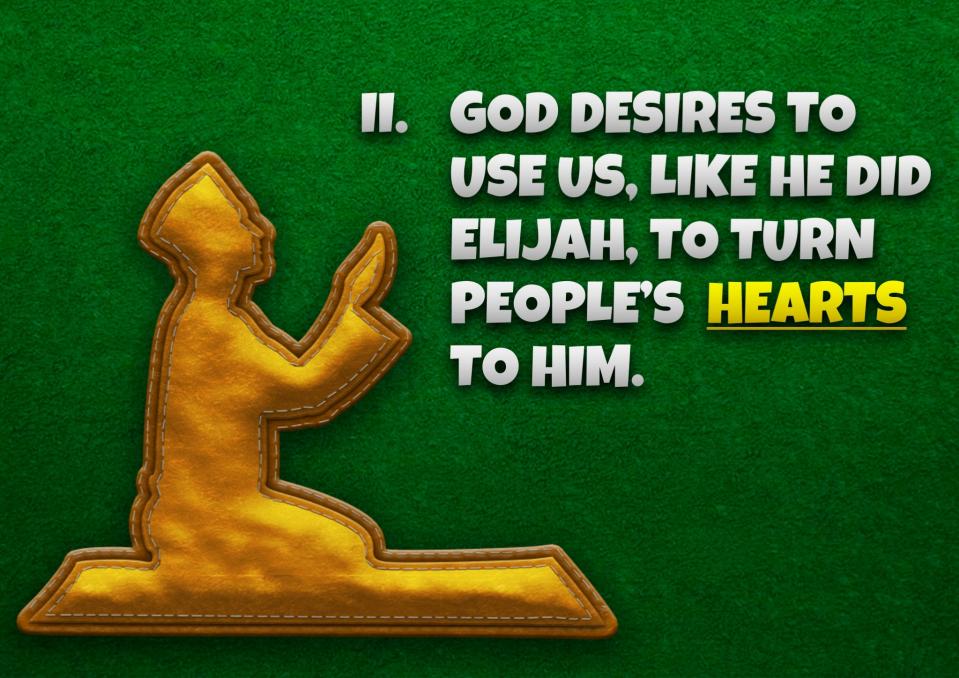
³⁶ At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant.



PROVE THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THIS AT YOUR COMMAND. ³⁷ O LORD, ANSWER ME! ANSWER ME SO THESE PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU, O LORD, ARE GOD AND THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT THEM BACK TO YOURSELF."







¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.



JAMES 5:17-18 NLT

How can we prepare ourselves to be ready for our Mt. Carmel moment?

CALL PEOPLE CLOSE

30 THEN ELIJAH SAID TO ALL THE PEOPLE, "COME CLOSER TO ME"; AND ALL THE PEOPLE CAME CLOSER TO HIM.

1 KINGS 18:30A NRSV

How can we prepare ourselves to be ready for our Mt. Carmel moment?

REPAIR THE ALTAR



FIRST HE REPAIRED THE ALTAR OF THE LORD THAT HAD BEEN THROWN DOWN;

1 KINGS 18:30B NRSV

PUT THINGS IN ORDER



³ NEXT HE PUT THE WOOD IN ORDER,

1 KINGS 18:33A NRSV

PUT ALL THE PIECES ON THE ALTAR



...CUT THE BULL IN PIECES, AND LAID IT ON THE WOOD.

1 KINGS 18:33B NRSV

MOVE IN FAITH

HE SAID, "FILL FOUR JARS WITH WATER AND POUR IT ON THE BURNT OFFERING AND ON THE WOOD." 34 THEN HE SAID, "DO IT A SECOND TIME"; AND THEY DID IT A SECOND TIME. AGAIN



MOVE IN FAITH

HE SAID, "DO IT A THIRD TIME"; AND THEY DID IT A THIRD TIME, ³⁵ SO THAT THE WATER RAN ALL AROUND THE ALTAR, AND FILLED THE TRENCH ALSO WITH WATER.



THE ALTAR IS SYMBOLIC OF <u>SACRIFICE</u> AND <u>OBEDIENCE</u> IN OUR LIVES.

BE A PERSON OF PRAYER

36 AT THE USUAL TIME FOR OFFERING THE EVENING SACRIFICE, ELIJAH THE PROPHET WALKED UP TO THE ALTAR AND PRAYED.

1 KINGS 18:36A NLT



FOLLOW ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS

PROVE THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THIS AT YOUR COMMAND.

1 KINGS 18:36B NLT



UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE

37 "HEAR ME, O LORD, HEAR ME, THAT THIS PEOPLE MAY KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE LORD GOD, AND THAT YOU HAVE TURNED THEIR HEARTS BACK TO YOU AGAIN."

1 KINGS 18:37 NKJV

6 I WILL WATCH OVER AND CARE FOR THEM, AND I WILL BRING THEM BACK HERE AGAIN. I WILL BUILD THEM UP AND NOT TEAR THEM DOWN. I WILL PLANT THEM AND NOT UPROOT THEM. 7 I WILL GIVE THEM HEARTS THAT RECOGNIZE ME AS THE LORD. THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, FOR THEY WILL RETURN TO ME WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

JEREMIAH 24:6-7 NLT

