

# The Book Of 1 Kings

Wednesday Noon Bible Study  
Good Shepherd Baptist Church  
Pastor Henry Wallace

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## Lesson 54

### 1<sup>st</sup> Point When You Are Calling On The Right King (1 Kings 18:39)

- One of the most dramatic events in the Old Testament, maybe in all of human history takes in these verses.
- Bible Courses have been written on this great event
- It is virtually impossible to exhaust all the truths; all the lessons in this event.

Let's begin to examine many of these truths, these lessons.

- First, Elijah called the people to assemble themselves to him
  - Elijah understood what God had called him to do at that moment
  - They were called from the chaos and confusion of sin, to clarity and order.
- Second, It was time to repair the altar
  - Sin destroys; sin will destroy the very foundations of society (Psalm 11:3)
- Third, Note: Elijah took 12 stones to repair the altar. It is important to note that this altar of the LORD had been built on this site long before but it needed to be repaired. With the repairing of the altar that the people had permitted The 12 stones represented the 12 tribes of Israel. Remember at this time the kingdom was divided, but they were still one people with a single LORD, a single covenant, and a single destiny.
- Fourth, Elijah would dig a trench around the altar

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Point Truth Over Theatrics (1 Kings 18:36-37)

- Every preacher, every teacher needs to take note of the behavior of this prophet Elijah.
- Without the theatrics of his adversaries Elijah simply addressed God as one addresses another living person.
- **If we listen carefully to Elijah's words, we see that they were designed to demonstrate to the onlookers that all he had done as God's servant, had been done in obedience to God's command and not on the prophet's own initiative.**
- Note **1 Kings 17:1** & **1 Kings 18:15**.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Point The Requests Of The Prophet Of God (1 Kings 18:37)

- It's truly amazing what can be said in a few words.
- *Saints, let's not buy into this idea that a prayer has to be long in order for it to be powerful and effective.*
- Elijah simply asked God:
  - To show the people that HE is the TRUE God
  - To turn the people back to HIMSELF


### 4<sup>th</sup> Point The Instant & Consuming God (1 Kings 18:38-40)

- No mortal playwright could script such a dramatic event!
- Instantly fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice and even the surrounding soil and water. Note **Deuteronomy 4:24** & **Deuteronomy 9:3** & **Hebrews 12:29**

- Instantly and spontaneously:
  - *The crowd's comprehension ...all the people saw it...*
  - *The crowd's contrition ...they fell on their faces...*
  - *The crowd's cry...and they said...*
  - *The crowd's confession....The LORD, HE is the GOD; the LORD HE is the GOD.*
  - *The consequence (v. 40) the people slaughtered the 850 false prophets. The slaughtering of these false prophets was in obedience to the command of God through Moses. (Deuteronomy 13:12-15)*
- There is a lesson for us saints here. Not only must we acknowledge that the Lord is God, but we must also hate that which is evil and remove it from our lives.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Point    Judgment Prepares The Way For Blessings (1Kings 18:41-42)**

- When sin is dealt with, the blessings of God will come.
- The king will ride off down the mountain to celebrate the end of the drought by eating and drinking.
- But note that Elijah walked back up the mountain to pray.
- We can't help but notice Elijah's posture in prayer.
- Three and a half years earlier he had prayed for a drought.
- What does **Malachi 3:6** say?
- God answered Elijah's petition as he persevered in prayer.
- Elijah knew how to watch and pray!

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