

## Elijah And The Prophets Of Baal

There had been no rain in the land for a long long time. Ever since Elijah had told King Ahab that God was angry with him, there had not been a drop, not a drip, no rain had fallen.

The King was very angry. He called magicians and enchanters and lots of other people who worshipped a God they called Baal, to try and make it rain. But no one could, not one of them.

God said to Elijah: "I'm going to show them whose Boss, whose the most powerful. I'm going to show them that I am much more powerful than this Baal they pray to. You wait and see."

God told Elijah to go up to the top of a mountain called Mount Carmel, and to call all the people to meet him there. Elijah climbed the mountain and sent out a message to all the people. Eventually a great crowd gathered. It was a bit like a football match. Among the crowd were lots of the magicians and enchanters that the King had asked to make rain.

"We will have a competition," said Elijah. "Build an altar out of a big pile of stones, put some wood on it and on top of that put a dead cow for a sacrifice. I'll do the same. Then we will each pray to our god. You to your Baal, me to the God of heaven. We will ask them to send fire to light the wood and burn the sacrifice. Which ever God sends fire is the winner and the true God. OK?"

The magicians and enchanters agreed and began to build their altar. They put the wood and the sacrifice on top.

"You try first," said Elijah.

So the magicians and enchanters started to sing and dance and pray to Baal. They prayed all day. They prayed all night. They sang louder and louder, they shouted! They fell to the ground and pleaded. They even cut themselves with sharp knives. But nothing happened, nothing at all.

"Maybe Baal is not listening," said Elijah. "Maybe he's gone on holiday, or he's asleep. Maybe he's busy with something else and can't be bothered with you right now!"

They danced all the more. They shouted all the more. They sang all the more. They prayed all the more, but nothing happened, nothing at all. Eventually the magicians and enchanters flopped down on the ground exhausted and very disappointed.

Elijah stepped forward and said: "fetch some water." Some of the people managed to find some large jars of water. "Pour it over everything!" said Elijah. They poured the water on the wood and the stones making them soaking wet.

Then Elijah looked up to heaven and said: "O God! Show your power now. Not for me, but so that all these people may believe in you."

Suddenly there was a great rumbling sound. Then a great crash and an ear splitting crack. The people watched in amazement as a great ball of fire came flying down from the sky and crashed into Elijah's pile of stones and wood. There was a great roar of fire and everything was burned up. Even the stones had gone the fire was so hot.

The magicians and enchanters were terrified and they all began to run down the mountain. All the other people were pretty scared too and soon everyone was gone, just Elijah and his serving boy were left.

They looked up at the hot burning blue sky and suddenly a little cloud started to appear, and then another and another and another. The sky started to get black, and blacker and blacker. Then suddenly great drops of rain started to fall. The first rain for three whole years.

So God had proved his power. Power that no one could question, . But did Ahab and the people take notice? Not a bit of it! So Elijah had many more adventures with God to come!

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