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## Return of the King 1 Kings 18:1-39 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



God's fire sent from heaven to burn up the sacrifice in front of Elijah and all of Israel is one of my favorite Old Testament accounts. The nation had strayed from God and worshiped Baal under a corrupt king. God stepped in, in one of the most dramatic ways, to bring his nation back to Him. Israel was chosen to bring about the Messiah and God was not going to let them turn from Him forever. God allowing them to return to Him shows amazing grace and reveals that He is working out His good and perfect plan even when we cannot see it. Join us this week as we explore God's grace and the confidence we can have in His authority and Power.

THEN THE FIRE  
OF THE LORD FELL

AND CONSUMED THE BURNT OFFERING  
AND THE WOOD AND THE STONES AND THE DUST,

AND LICKED UP

THE WATER THAT WAS IN THE TRENCH.  
AND WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE SAW IT,  
THEY FELL ON THEIR FACES AND SAID:

THE LORD,  
HE IS GOD; THE LORD, HE IS GOD.

- 1 KINGS 18:38-39

## 1 Kings 18:1-39 NASB

### Obadiah Meets Elijah

**18** Now it happened *after* many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth." <sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine *was* severe in Samaria. <sup>3</sup> Ahab called Obadiah who *was* over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly; <sup>4</sup> for when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.) <sup>5</sup> Then Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we will find grass and keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill some of the cattle." <sup>6</sup> So they divided the land between them to survey it; Ahab went one way by himself and Obadiah went another way by himself.

<sup>7</sup> Now as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him, and he recognized him and fell on his face and said, "Is this you, Elijah my master?" <sup>8</sup> He said to him, "It is I. Go, say to your master, 'Behold, Elijah *is here*.'" <sup>9</sup> He said, "What sin have I committed, that you are giving your servant into the hand of Ahab to put me to death? <sup>10</sup> As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent to search for you; and when they said, 'He is not *here*,' he made the kingdom or nation swear that they could not find you. <sup>11</sup> And now you are saying, 'Go, say to

your master, "Behold, Elijah *is here*.'" <sup>12</sup> It will come about when I leave you that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you where I do not know; so when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although *I* your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. <sup>13</sup> Has it not been told to my master what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, that I hid a hundred prophets of the LORD by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water? <sup>14</sup> And now you are saying, 'Go, say to your master, "Behold, Elijah *is here*"; he will then kill me.'" <sup>15</sup> Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." <sup>16</sup> So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

<sup>17</sup> When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is this you, you troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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."

### God or Baal on Mount Carmel

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent *a message* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am

left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. <sup>23</sup> 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*. <sup>24</sup> 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."

<sup>25</sup> 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*." <sup>26</sup> 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 altar which they made. <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> When midday was past, 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.

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn

down. <sup>31</sup> Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." <sup>32</sup> So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. <sup>33</sup> Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid *it* on the wood. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

### **Elijah's Prayer**

<sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> 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." <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>39</sup> When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God."

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?



14. God waited 3 years before he sent Elijah back. What does this tell us about His plan and His timing?

15. It is clear that Obadiah was suffering along with the rest of the nation as well as the prophets that were hidden in the caves. When God judges the nation should His followers expect to suffer as well?

16. The people were given the chance to turn back to God even after they had worshiped Baal, one of the greatest sins. How is this comforting to us? What does it tell us about God's grace?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*