

# Showdown at Mt Carmel

A man in a cowboy hat and vest is walking away from the viewer down a dusty street at night. The street is lined with wooden buildings, some of which have signs like "SALOON" and "RED LEAF". A bright light source, possibly a moon or a distant light, creates a strong beam of light on the ground ahead of him. The scene is dark and atmospheric, with a sense of tension and mystery.

Elijah & Elisha

# The LORD, He is God

## Background

1. Israel has fallen away from worshiping God
2. God has sent Elijah to speak on his behalf
3. It hasn't rained for 3 years because Elijah prophesied that it wouldn't
4. God has now told Elijah to come out of hiding and to confront King Ahab



# The LORD, He is God

*So Obadiah went straight to Ahab and told him. And Ahab went out to meet Elijah.*

*The moment Ahab saw Elijah he said, "So it's you, old troublemaker!"*

*"It's not I who has caused trouble in Israel," said Elijah, "but you and your government—you've dumped God's ways and commands and run off after the local gods, the Baals. Here's what I want you to do: Assemble everyone in Israel at Mount Carmel."*



# The LORD, He is God

*And make sure that the special pets of Jezebel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of the local gods, the Baals, and the four hundred prophets of the whore goddess Asherah, are there."*

*So Ahab summoned everyone in Israel, particularly the prophets, to Mount Carmel.*

*Elijah challenged the people: "How long are you going to sit on the fence? If GOD is the real God, follow him; if it's Baal, follow him. Make up your minds!"*



# The LORD, He is God

*Nobody said a word; nobody made a move. Then Elijah said, "I'm the only prophet of GOD left in Israel; and there are 450 prophets of Baal. Let the Baal prophets bring up two oxen; let them pick one, butcher it, and lay it out on an altar on firewood—but don't ignite it. I'll take the other ox, cut it up, and lay it on the wood. But neither will I light the fire. Then you pray to your gods and I'll pray to GOD. The god who answers with fire will prove to be, in fact, God."*



# The LORD, He is God

*All the people agreed: "A good plan—do it!"*

*Elijah told the Baal prophets, "Choose your ox and prepare it. You go first, you're the majority. Then pray to your god, but don't light the fire."*

*So they took the ox he had given them, prepared it for the altar, then prayed to Baal. They prayed all morning long, "O Baal, answer us!" But nothing happened—not so much as a whisper of breeze. Desperate, they jumped and stomped on the altar they had made.*



# The LORD, He is God

## Highlighting the Story

1. This is not license to test the Lord
  - a. We can make the mistake of placing God on trial and testing Him “God if you show yourself to me I will believe in you.”
  - b. In this situation Elijah had a special commission by God to do this.

Let's keep reading....



# The LORD, He is God

*By noon, Elijah had started making fun of them, taunting, "Call a little louder—he is a god, after all. Maybe he's off meditating somewhere or other, or maybe he's gotten involved in a project, or maybe he's on vacation. You don't suppose he's overslept, do you, and needs to be waked up?" They prayed louder and louder, cutting themselves with swords and knives—a ritual common to them—until they were covered with blood.*



# The LORD, He is God

Cutting themselves was ritualistic in their service to the Baals

2. Worshiping other gods actual can cause us harm.

a. This is God's motive to reconcile his people to him, this is out of love.

b. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."



# The LORD, He is God

God' plan for us is no different.  
Reconciled through Jesus!

- c. Our tendency is to be led away by our desires but the truth is God knows best and walking away from that will lead to harm and destruction.



# The LORD, He is God

*This went on until well past noon. They used every religious trick and strategy they knew to make something happen on the altar, but nothing happened—not so much as a whisper, not a flicker of response.*

*Then Elijah told the people, "Enough of that—it's my turn. Gather around." And they gathered. He then put the altar back together for by now it was in ruins. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Jacob, the same Jacob to whom GOD had said, "From now on your name is Israel."*




# The LORD, He is God

*He built the stones into the altar in honor of God. Then Elijah dug a fairly wide trench around the altar. He laid firewood on the altar, cut up the ox, put it on the wood, and said, "Fill four buckets with water and drench both the ox and the firewood." Then he said, "Do it again," and they did it. Then he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. The altar was drenched and the trench was filled with water.*




# The LORD, He is God

A silhouette of a man wearing a cowboy hat, standing with his back to the camera and looking towards a bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, in a hazy sky.

*When it was time for the sacrifice to be offered, Elijah the prophet came up and prayed, "O GOD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, make it known right now that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I'm doing what I'm doing under your orders. Answer me, GOD; O answer me and reveal to this people that you are GOD, the true God, and that you are giving these people another chance at repentance."*


*Immediately the fire of GOD fell and burned up the offering, the wood, the stones, the dirt, and even the water in the trench.*

# The LORD, He is God

- 
3. God isn't manipulated unlike Baal
    - a. God doesn't want to leave doubt of who he is
    - b. This story is demonstrating His Love for Israel
    - c. We don't see Elijah manipulating God into action, into loving.

We need to be careful not to try to manipulate God into action. He acts out of Love regardless of what we desire.

# The LORD, He is God

- 
4. When you see God respond appropriately
    - a. those that were gathered turned their worship to God in awe!
    - b. most often when we see the phrase “praise the lord” is it followed by “because”
    - c. Prepare well in coming to gather with his people to praise the Lord because of what he has done and who he is.

# The LORD, He is God

*Elijah told them, "Grab the Baal prophets!  
Don't let one get away!"*

*They grabbed them. Elijah had them taken  
down to the Brook Kishon and they  
massacred the lot.*

*Elijah said to Ahab, "Up on your feet! Eat and  
drink—celebrate! Rain is on the way; I hear it  
coming."*

*Ahab did it: got up and ate and drank.  
Meanwhile, Elijah climbed to the top of  
Carmel, bowed deeply in prayer, his face  
between his knees. Then he said to his young  
servant, "On your feet now! Look toward the  
sea."*



# The LORD, He is God

*He went, looked, and reported back, "I don't see a thing."*

*"Keep looking," said Elijah, "seven times if necessary."*

*And sure enough, the seventh time he said, "Oh yes, a cloud! But very small, no bigger than someone's hand, rising out of the sea."*

*"Quickly then, on your way. Tell Ahab, 'Saddle up and get down from the mountain before the rain stops you.'"*

*Things happened fast. The sky grew black with wind-driven clouds, and then a huge cloudburst of rain, with Ahab hightailing it in his chariot for Jezreel. And GOD strengthened Elijah mightily. Pulling up his robe and tying it around his waist, Elijah ran in front of Ahab's chariot until they reached Jezreel.*



# The LORD, He is God

SO WHAT?!

2 Things

1. Some of us actually struggle with worshiping actual deities
  - a. “what you believe is true to you and what I believe is true for me.
  - b. There is only one truth



# The LORD, He is God

2. Israel's sacrifices were cattle, and then would devote time to go to the temple and praise.

- Our sacrifices are our resources and time.

- Where do you prioritize your resources

- Where do you prioritize your time

That is most likely what you idolize or worship.



# The LORD, He is God

Take a moment in this song to remember  
what God has done for you, for us, for  
your family and friends.

Then, let's respond together by singing to  
him knowing in our hearts

“The Lord He is God”

