

May 11, 2025

1 Kings 18

Choose You this Day!

Choosing is the act of selecting from two or more options.

We make choices every day we live. We choose to get up when the alarm clock goes off, choose what clothes to put on, and choose what to eat for breakfast. We choose a job, a marriage partner, and a place to live. You've chosen to read this Sunday School lesson.

Most choices have consequences. A young person who chooses to take drugs may be arrested, become sick, or even die. If you choose an immoral lifestyle, you may experience guilt, disease, or broken relationships. Some choices carry only minor consequences, while the impact of others is very serious.

In this lesson you will see that the people of Israel were faced with a very important choice. Will they make the right or wrong choice?

- 1 Ki. 18:1** After three years without any rain (1 Ki. 17:1), God told Elijah to go to King Ahab. What did He say He would send?
- 1 Ki. 18:17** What did Ahab call Elijah?
- 1 Ki. 18:18** Elijah said Ahab was the real cause of Israel's trouble. What had Ahab done?
- 1 Ki. 18:19** Who did Elijah tell Ahab to bring to Mount Carmel?
- 1 Ki. 18:20** Everyone gathered on Mount Carmel.
- 1 Ki. 18:21** Elijah spoke to all the people: "How long halt ye between two _____? If the _____ be God, follow Him: but if _____, then follow him."

Baal was one of the main gods of the Canaanites (the people living in the Promised Land before the arrival of the Israelites). God told His people never to worship false gods such as Baal. The Israelites still claimed to follow God, but they also worshiped many other false gods. It would be somewhat like a wife telling her husband she still loved him, but she had found another man she also loved and wanted to be married to both men at once.

- 1 Ki. 18:21** How did the people respond to the clear choice Elijah put before them?
- 1 Ki. 18:22** Elijah said he was the only remaining prophet of God. How many prophets of Baal were there?
- 1 Ki. 18:23-24** Elijah suggested a showdown. How did he say the true God would prove Himself?

- 1 Ki. 18:25-26** Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. They cried out to Baal all morning, but nothing happened.
- 1 Ki. 18:27** What did Elijah say about Baal?
- 1 Ki. 18:28-29** What extreme measures did the false prophets take?
Did Baal answer their prayers?
- 1 Ki. 18:30-33** Elijah prepared the altar, dug a trench around it, and put the wood and the bullock on the altar. What did he tell the people to do?
- 1 Ki. 18:34** How many times did they soak the altar?
- 1 Ki. 18:35** How much water was there?
- 1 Ki. 18:36-37** Elijah prayed, “Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may _____ that Thou art the _____.”
- 1 Ki. 18:38** What did God do?
- 1 Ki. 18:39** How did the people react to this amazing sight?
What did they say?
- 1 Ki. 18:40** What did Elijah do with the prophets of Baal?

Concluding Thoughts: Elijah put a choice before the people of Israel, but they refused to choose. Someone has said that when we fail to choose we have already made our choice. The Israelites refused to choose God until He proved Himself with a spectacular miracle. They tried to “sit on the fence” between God and Baal, but God refuses to accept “fence-sitting” religion. He wants us to choose Him wholeheartedly and completely turn from false gods.

Many people today try to do what the Israelites did. They give lip service to Almighty God while serving the gods of self, sex, sports, career, possessions, or hobbies. Those gods are false gods, and they are useless when compared to Almighty God. Those gods cannot give you an abundant and blessed life now or take you to heaven when you die, but **God can do both.**

How long are you going to halt between two opinions? If God is really God, then serve Him completely. But if self, sex, sports, career, possessions, or hobbies really are your gods, serve them.

Most choices have consequences. If you choose to worship the false gods you will suffer bad consequences. If you turn your life completely over to the Lord Jesus Christ you will have wonderful blessings and benefits. Please don't make the wrong choice.

If you've never trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior please read the verses printed on the back of this book. Confess your sins and ask Jesus to save you. It's time to choose. Will you do it now?

Project: Memorize **1 Kings 18:21**. Prove your commitment to God by attending Sunday School and church this Sunday. Watch out for false gods that seek to distract you from serving the Lord.