

“The God Who Lights The Fire”
Or
“Look Toward the Sea. What Do You See?”

I Kings 17 – 19 . . . II Kings 2
By Tom Taylor

The severe famine in Israel had lasted for three years
When the Lord told Elijah to tell King Ahab the Lord was sending rain

Obadiah – man of God – was Ahab’s Right-Hand-Man
And had hidden 100 prophets of God when Jezebel sought to find, kill, erase
The Lord’s every prophet from the land

The King Ahab and The Man Obadiah went out to find grass for the palace
livestock

Ahab went one way, Obadiah another...and Obadiah was in for a shock:
For there stood the prophet Elijah - Obadiah fell straight to the ground
The prophet said, “Go tell the king that I’m here.” Obadiah made not a sound....

Finally, he said – Please don’t do this to me – what’ve I done that you want me
to die?

The King has scoured this nation and others searching for you....desperate to
see you eye to eye

What if the Lord moves you elsewhere? I tell the King you’re here, but no!?
You’ll be safely with the Lord, but I . . . I? I have no place to go!!

Elijah calmly spoke: “Don’t worry...as the Lord lives, I’ll meet with Ahab today.”

Obadiah told Ahab who soon saw Elijah and said: “The man who’s destroyed
Israel, eh?”

Elijah said, “No, it’s you who’s destroyed Israel – you rejected the Lord to serve
Baal”

Bring your prophets, those who eat at Jezebel’s table, to Mount Carmel, where
I’ll meet Israel!

When all had gathered, Elijah said,
“How long will you go back and forth?”
“If the Lord is God, follow Him; if Baal is god, follow him” –
And the people all said, . . . nothing!

Elijah said "I am but one prophet of God - Baal's prophets are 450."
"Give each (group/side) a bull to prepare for sacrifice...put on top of the wood...but not put fire on the wood."
"They will call on the name of their god, and I will call on the name of the Lord."
"The God Who lights the fire, HE is God!"

The people said, "Yes! That sounds fair" ~ Elijah said, "You go first" ~ They said, "Fine, we don't care."
So they prepared the bull, prepared the wood – and the people thought things were lookin' good....
They called on the name of Baal, you see, they called on the name of Baal
They stayed and prayed...they pranced and danced: The Bottom Line? They failed!!

Elijah couldn't help himself - he could 'hold it in' no longer
"Maybe y'should shout louder, he could be taking a nap, right? – your prayers must be stronger!"

Perhaps he's taking a potty break – everybody does, you know
Remember that ol' saying – 'When y'gotta go, y'gotta go!"

They shouted 'til they could shout no more – then they cut themselves and bled
Blood gushed out, without a doubt, from their feet up to their head
They kept it up all afternoon – it was a striking, memorable sight
Did it pay off? What happened? What happened??...NOTHING! If 'at's what you said, you got it right!

FINALLY, Elijah built his altar of 12 stones – one for each Israeli tribe
Dug a trench around the altar, put the wood on it, placed the bull atop the wood
(I'm thinkin' he must've felt good inside!)
He invited the folks to "bring water and pour it on the sacrifice"
They did it 3 times – the altar's totally wet, the trench full of water
(I bet Elijah's thinkin' "that's nice.")

Then he walked up to the altar to pray...like countless Believers still do
"Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Let all know that you are God, and I'm Your servant
Answer me so this people will turn back to You!"

Suddenly fire fell from heaven and burned up the water, the wood, the sacrifice
and the 12 stones

The people fell down and cried out, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is
God!"

Elijah shouted: "Grab the prophets of Baal, do not let them escape!"
The people grabbed them every one...Elijah delivered to each his fate

He then said to Ahab, "Eat something...rainstorm's coming."

Then the prophet of God went up to the mountain top to pray

He then said to his servant, "Look toward the sea. What do you see?"

The servant said, "I don't see anything."

5 more times Elijah's prayer was followed by the same response -

The 6th time: Elijah prayed again, then said to his servant,

"Look toward the sea. What do you see?"

THIS time the servant said, "I see a small cloud, about the size of a man's hand,
coming from the sea."

Elijah said, "Quick, go tell Ahab to rush home A.S.A.P. so the rain doesn't stop
him"

Ahab got in his chariot and rushed home as fast as he could

The sky grew dark, the wind began to blow – heavy rain poured down!

God's power was on Elijah, who ran faster than Ahab's chariot, and was the first
to get back to town!