

Discoveries About the One True God

1 Kings 18

Take-home truth: If we believe in the One True God, we must follow Him and Him alone.

Discovery #1: GOD USES ALL KINDS OF **SERVANTS**.

See 1 Kings 18:1-15 (New International Version)

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (New Living Translation)

Discovery #2: GOD DEMANDS **NO COMPROMISE**.

See 1 Kings 18:16-21 (NIV)

“But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first!

⁵Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.”

Revelation 2:4-5 (NLT)

You must worship no other gods, for the LORD, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you. Exodus 34:14 (NLT)

“So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone.

¹⁵But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:14-15 (NLT)

Discovery #3: THE ONE TRUE GOD IS **SO DIFFERENT** FROM FALSE GODS.

See 1 Kings 18:22-39 (New International Version)

- God is not hindered by **geography**.
- For God, **odds** don’t matter.
- God can’t be coaxed into **action**.
- For God, **handicaps** are no obstacle.

Discovery #4: GOD GRACIOUSLY INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO **RETURN** THEIR **HEARTS** TO HIM.

Don’t love the world’s ways. Don’t love the world’s goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

1 John 2:15-17 (The Message)

Discovery #5: GOD **JUDGES** SIN.

Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there. 1 Kings 18:40 (New International Version)

Discovery #6: GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE **OBEDIENT** TO HIM.

Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. 1 Kings 18:45 (New International Version)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, . . . Acts 3:19 (NIV)

After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land."² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria,³ and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of his palace. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the LORD.⁴ While Jezebel was killing off the LORD's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.)⁵ Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find some grass to keep the horses and mules alive so we will not have to kill any of our animals."⁶ So they divided the land they were to cover, Ahab going in one direction and Obadiah in another.⁷ As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him, bowed down to the ground, and said, "Is it really you, my lord Elijah?"⁸ "Yes," he replied. "Go tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'⁹ "What have I done wrong," asked Obadiah, "that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to be put to death?"¹⁰ As surely as the LORD your God lives, there is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you.¹¹ But now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.'¹² I don't know where the Spirit of the LORD may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshiped the LORD since my youth.¹³ Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the LORD? I hid a hundred of the LORD's prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water.¹⁴ And now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' He will kill me!"¹⁵ Elijah said, "As the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today." 1 Kings 18:1-15 (New International Version)

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah.¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"¹⁸ "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals.¹⁹ Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. 1 Kings 18:16-21 (New International Version)

Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.²³ Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire."²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called

on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins.³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel."³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time.³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!" 1 Kings 18:22-39 (New International Version)