

## THE ALTAR #3 THE ALTAR IS MADE FOR FIRE

1Kings 18<sup>22</sup> Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men.<sup>23</sup> Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*.<sup>24</sup> And call ye on the name of your gods, and **I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.** And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. KJV

<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that* I *am* thy servant, and *that* I have done all these things at thy word.<sup>37</sup> Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.<sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.<sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.<sup>40</sup> And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there. KJV

We have learned the altar represents our relationship with the Lord. It is for thanksgiving, praise, connection, and covenant. The twelve stones was Israel as a whole returning to the covenant of their forefathers.

We have also learned that the altar demands a sacrifice. That sacrifice must be properly presented. Wood laid in order (our plans), the flesh cut (we are to be a living sacrifice) and placed upon the wood, and water would be used to soak the entire altar (our prayers and knowledge of the word).

Now two altars have been built; One to Baal and one to the God of Israel. The only thing that is lacking on both altars is fire. **It is now Elijah (1) against 850!**

The prophets of Baal who have prayed to him but Baal hasn't sent the fire. They work themselves into frenzy. They have jumped on the altar, by cutting themselves they spill their own blood on their altar, and nothing is happening.

Elijah has done everything God required. Now the sacrifice, the altar, and the trench is drenched in water.

Elijah prays a 63 word prayer and the fire falls.

What happens when the fire falls?

**I. When the fire falls God gets all the glory.**

<sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

A. The fire was not resourced by man but by God.  
<sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell...

**B. Elijah made it absolutely impossible for man to be the source of the fire. If fire came it would be from God almighty alone.**

Man could take not credit for this supernatural act! This fire came from heaven.

## **II. When the fire falls men are humbled and broken.**

<sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces:

### **A. The awesome manifestation of God's fire brings fear to the heart of man.**

We need a new found fear of God. When God moves in dramatic way man is made aware of the **power** and **holiness** of God. God is to be feared.

Matt. 10 <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. NIV

### **B. Man cannot stand in the presence of the Holy God.**

There are 3 other examples of what happens to people when they face the fire of God's altar.

#### **1. The fire that came out of the **tabernacle.****

Lev. 9 <sup>23</sup> And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. <sup>24</sup>

**And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces. KJV**

#### **2. Samson's parents were broken by the fire.**

Judges 13 <sup>20</sup> For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD

ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on *it*, and fell on their faces to the ground. KJV

3. When the nations of the earth are about to be judged the 24 elders in heaven fall on their faces.

**Rev. 11** <sup>16</sup> And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, **fell upon their faces**, and worshipped God,..

<sup>19</sup> And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were **lightnings**, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. KJV

### **III. When the fire falls the sacrifice for sin has been accepted.**

<sup>37</sup> Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

<sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

#### **A. Elijah prays a 63 word prayer.**

- \* He asked God to confirm his actions were from Him.
- \* He asked God to reveal Himself as God.
- \* Her asked God to turn the heart of the people back to Him.

#### **B. The time of the fire is intentional.**

<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass **at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice**, that Elijah the prophet came near...

- This was the time the Pascal Lamb was offered. It was 3 o'clock in the afternoon.
- This was the same time Jesus, God's lamb, died. Matt. 27: 46-50.
- It was at that time of the day, that the angel Gabriel delivered to Daniel that glorious prediction of the Messiah, Dan. 9:21, 24, etc.

When the fire fell it was God's way of saying, "the altar, wood, the flesh, the water, are accepted. Your sin is forgiven. I will reveal myself to you."

When we approach the Father through the pattern Elijah has given us it will bring the fire.

- When the fire fell at Pentecost it was a message to the church that the sacrifice of Jesus has been accepted in the heavens. He manifested His power to His Church.

#### **IV. When the fire falls sin is dealt with.**

<sup>40</sup> And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

A. The prophets of Baal are killed. (850 1Ki 18:19)

#### **B. Ties of leadership to sin are severed!**

Ahab and Jezebel are being set up to be killed.

They had brought idolatry and witchcraft to Israel.

Everything Satan had built was destroyed in seconds by the fire of God.