

Elijah defeats Baal's prophets on Mt. Carmel

This brief drama shows how Elijah overcomes stress and loneliness to serve God.

About 5 minutes, from 1 Kings 18-19

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Elijah

Ahab

Jezebel

Prompter

Shout a brief line, and echoes repeat it.

Echoes

Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Ahab How dare Elijah defy me? I am Ahab, King of Israel!
Queen Jezebel, what shall I do?

Jezebel Send your servants to go find Elijah. Kill him, Ahab!

Prompter and Echoes How wicked!

Jezebel Elijah has angered Baal and our other gods;
he attacks our idols! He is a troublemaker. Go find him!

Elijah There is no need to search for me, King Ahab.
I have come to you. You are Israel's troublemaker.
You, King Ahab, have turned all Israel away from God;
you have brought on this drought and famine.

Prompter and Echoes Idols fill the land!

Elijah Let us have a contest to see who worships the true God.
Bring to Mount Carmel all of Baal's prophets.

Ahab Very well! I will gather all Israel to watch the fun.

Jezebel Ha! Elijah, you alone are left among Jehovah's prophets,
and Baal's prophets number 450! You are a fool!

Prompter & Echoes Hateful queen!

Ahab Now, all Israel has gathered on Mount Carmel.
Let the contest begin, Elijah.

Elijah (*Shout*) Hear me, people of Israel!
If the Lord is God, then follow him;
if Baal is God, then follow him.
Both the prophets of Baal and I will cut up an ox
and lay it on an altar as a burnt offering.
The God who answers by fire, he is God.

Ahab Look! Baal's priests have slain their ox and lain it on the altar.
Watch them leap, scream, and cut themselves,
begging Baal to answer by fire.
They keep shouting "Baal, hear us!"

Jezebel Cry louder!

Prompter & Echoes Hear them scream!

Elijah Yes, call louder!
Maybe Baal is busy, or on a journey, or napping.

Prompter & Echoes The heavens remain silent.

Ahab Look. Elijah all alone is repairing the altar.

Elijah Pour water on the offering and the wood.

Prompter & Echoes Lots of water!

Elijah Now do it again!

Prompter & Echoes The offering is drenched!

Elijah Now come to me, all of you. I will pray.
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
let this people know that you are God.

Jezebel Oh, help! Fire is falling!
It consumed the ox and the wood!
It has licked up the water!

Ahab Well, now! Servants, seize Baal's lying prophets.
Let Elijah slay them!

Elijah King Ahab, I hear the roar of heavy rain;
the drought is over.

Jezebel Elijah, you have slain Baal's prophets
who have dined at my table.
I swear to the gods, I will kill you,
just as you have killed them!

Prompter & Echoes Elijah is in trouble!

Elijah Jezebel's threat makes me panic, and I flee.
I run for days. I leave my servant in Beersheba,
and I go out alone way into the desert.
Fear, fatigue and loneliness now overcome me.

Prompter & Echoes It's your own fault!

Elijah Dear God, Israel has forsaken you; only I still serve you."

Prompter & Echoes You're not alone, Elijah.
5,000 faithful Israelites have not bowed the knee to Baal.

Prompter & Echoes 5,000!

Elijah The Lord scolds me for my foolish fear, pride and pouting.
I was stupid to leave my servant behind, and go on alone.
Frustration, fatigue and foolishness
brought on my aching loneliness.

Prompter & Echoes God has the remedy.

Elijah The Lord sends me to work with people again.
He assures me that he has always been with me.
Now I know that I have never been alone!

Prompter & Echoes Never alone!