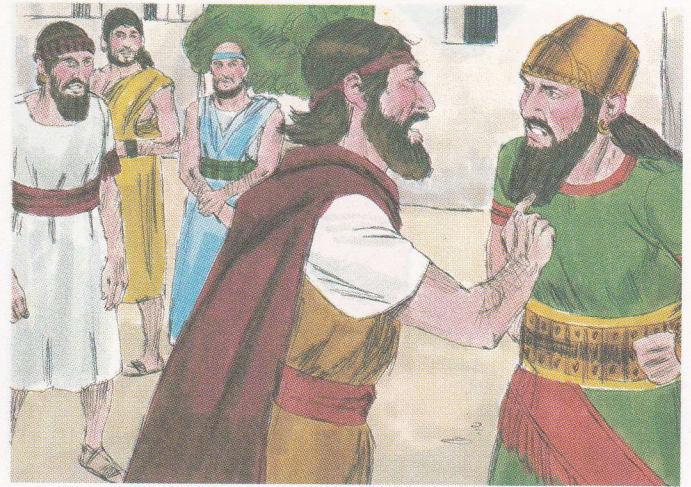
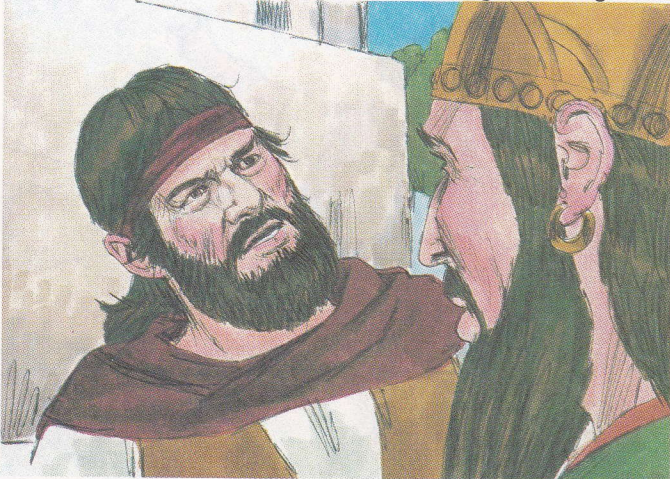


Elijah on Mount Carmel



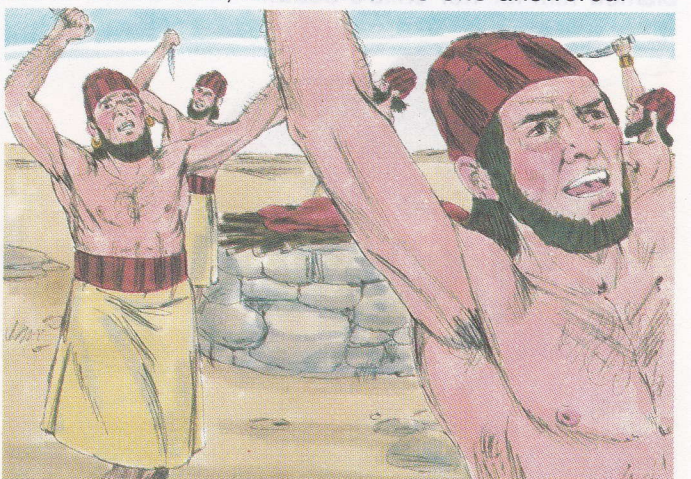
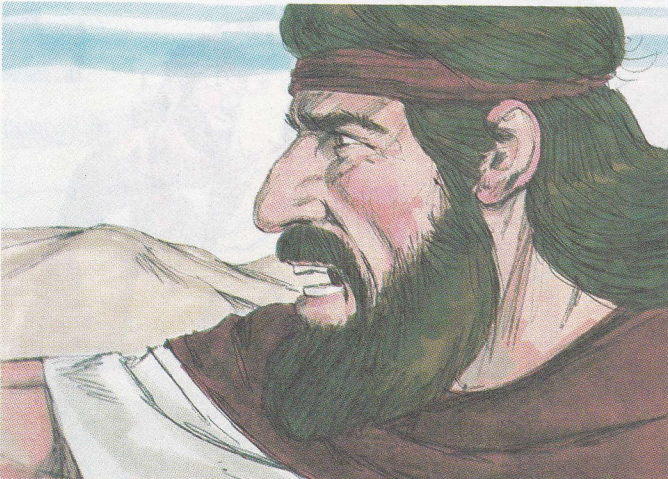
1 There had been no rain for about three years. The famine was very bad in Samaria. Jezebel, the queen of Israel, was killing the prophets of the Lord. Then God sent Elijah to see King Ahab again.

2 When they met, Ahab said, "There you are, you troublemaker!" Elijah replied, "You are the troublemaker. You are the one disobeying the Lord by worshipping Baal!"



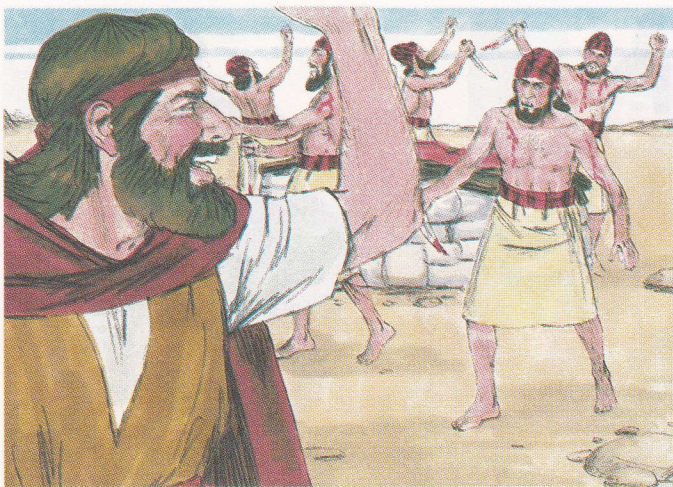
3 Elijah said, "Order all your people to meet me at Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah whom Jezebel supports."

4 When everyone had gathered on Mount Carmel, Elijah said, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him!" No one answered.



5 Then Elijah said, "Let the prophets of Baal prepare a sacrifice and place it on the wood—without lighting the fire. Then I will do the same. The god who answers our prayers with fire—he is God."

6 The prophets of Baal prayed until noon. They danced around the altar they had built, shouting, "Answer us, O Baal!" But no answer came.



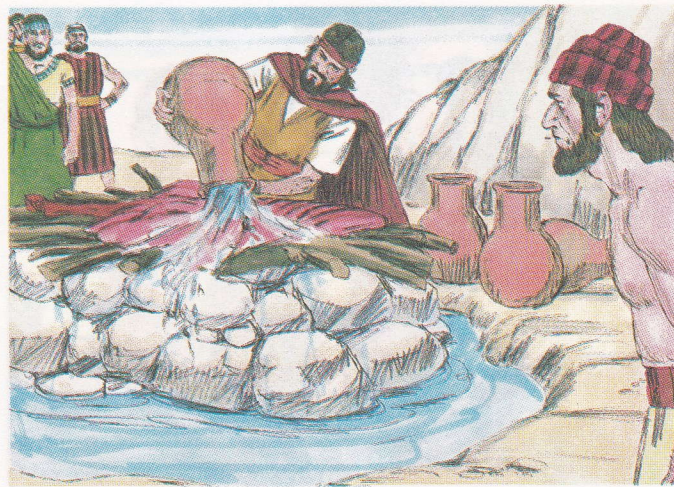
7 Elijah began to make fun of them. "Pray louder!" he said. "Maybe your god is asleep or away on a trip!" They danced and shouted till the middle of the afternoon. Still there was no answer.



9 Elijah prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove now that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant!"



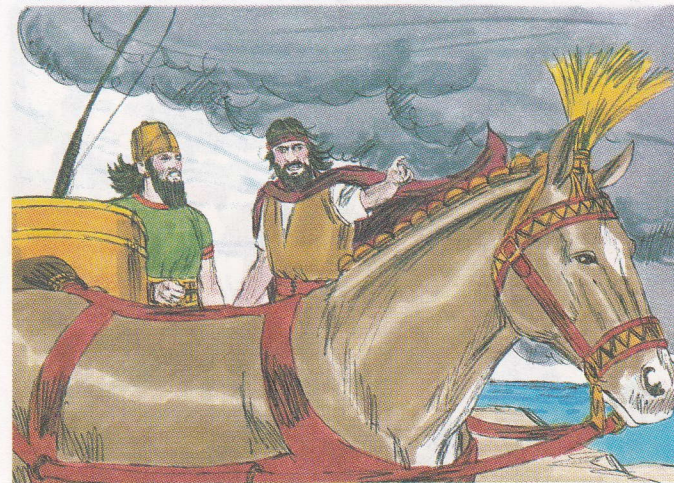
11 When the people saw this, they fell to the ground, shouting, "The Lord is God; he alone is God!" Then Elijah took all the prophets of Baal to the brook called Kishon and there he killed them.



8 Then Elijah prepared an altar for the Lord and put his sacrifice on it. He dug a trench around the base and had water poured over the sacrifice and wood until it ran down and filled up the trench.



10 And the Lord answered with fire! The fire burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil around the altar! It even dried up the water in the trench around the altar!



12 Afterward, Elijah said to Ahab, "Go home, for soon it will rain." As Elijah waited on the mountain, the sky grew dark, the wind blew, and heavy rain began to fall. The long drought was over.