



# Elijah on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18:16-39

Professor von Himmel pushed away from his computer and rubbed his eyes. He looked at the clock on the wall and was surprised to see he had been working on the time travel formula for five straight hours. Suddenly, the door burst open. "Dr. Sominex!" Professor von Himmel exclaimed to the grey haired woman in the white lab coat. "So good to see you back in the lab! How was your summer?"

"Hello, Professor," said Dr. Helga Sominex. "The summer was wonderful. I caught up on lots of sleep! I feel great and ready to—" her voice trailed off and she began to snore.

Professor von Himmel shook her shoulders. "Dr. Sominex? DOCTOR SOMINEX!!"

Dr. Sominex jerked awake with a snort and shouted, "'E' equals 'MC' squared!"

Professor von Himmel said, "Dr. Sominex, do you know what it means now that summer vacation is over?"

"No more afternoon naps?" Dr. Sominex asked with a worried voice, as she adjusted her oversized glasses.

"Yes! No!" Professor von Himmel nodded and shook his head at the same time. "I mean yes, but no. It means we have to get to work on an important fall project!"

"I don't need a project to fall," said Dr. Sominex. "I just lose my balance and down I go! Wah!" She fell down on the floor and began to snore again.

"Dr. Sominex!" Professor von Himmel yelled. "When I say fall, I mean autumn, not falling down! Now, we need to get to work on our top secret project!"

"What is this top secret project?" Dr. Sominex asked.

Professor von Himmel looked around and whispered, "It's top secret! I can't just blurt it out."

"Then, whisper it in my ear," Dr. Sominex suggested. Von Himmel leaned over and whispered a few words to Dr. Sominex, whose eyes grew quite wide. She yelled, "Time travel?!"

Professor von Himmel stepped back and glared at her. "I told you it was a secret!"

**"But, how are we supposed to make things travel through time?" Dr. Sominex asked.**

**"Not things, people. Prophets, to be exact!" Professor von Himmel exclaimed.**

**"Prophets? Why prophets?" Dr. Sominex wondered aloud.**

**"In the Bible, prophets are people who point others to God," said the professor. "Some of them even speak God's words about the future. We want to learn from them so we shall try to bring them to our time!"**

**"Holy flux capacitor!" Dr. Sominex gasped. "Is that even possible?"**

**Professor von Himmel smiled and checked his charts and graphs. "We're going to find out!"**

**Dr. Sominex did not follow. "But, I don't know any prophets! How will I recognize them?"**

**"Good question!" Professor von Himmel said. "To find that out we need to do a little research and I know just where to go! Get the Bible out of the Toolbox. Let's start with the famous prophet Elijah!"**

**"You've got it, sir!" Dr. Sominex agreed. She ran over to the Toolbox, picked up the Bible, and gave it to the professor.**

**Professor von Himmel opened the Bible to 1 Kings 18. "This a great story about how the prophet Elijah showed our God was more powerful than Baal!"**

**Dr. Sominex put her hands on her hips. "Well, of course God is more powerful than a whale!"**

**"Not a whale! Baal!" Professor von Himmel corrected. "Baal was a false god. Many of God's people had forgotten about the one true God and were following false gods like Baal." He looked at the Bible and read Elijah's words, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him."**

**"That's silly!" Dr. Sominex stated and sat down on a stool on the other side of the desk. "Who would choose to follow some fake god like Baal?"**

**"Well, a lot of people. Baal had over 450 prophets!" Professor von Himmel said.**

**"That's a lot of prophets!" Dr. Sominex exclaimed. "How many prophets did God have?"**

**"One," Professor von Himmel replied, holding a single finger in the air.**

**"One?!" Dr. Sominex put her head in her hands. "Elijah was really outnumbered!"**

**"But, Elijah had God on his side!" Professor von Himmel reminded his friend.**

**"So, what happened?" Dr. Sominex asked.**

**Professor von Himmel searched through the desk drawers and pulled out a large sheet of graph paper and some colored pencils. On the left side of the paper, he drew a pile of stones**

with a stack of wood on top and a crowd of prophets standing around it. On the right side of the paper, he drew Elijah standing by himself. "Now, Elijah told the prophets of Baal to place a bull on top of a pile of wood, but to not light the wood on fire." The professor drew a bull on top of the altar. "Then Elijah said, 'You call out to Baal and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire, then He is God!'"

"Wow! What happened next?" Dr. Sominex asked.

"Well, of course we know Baal was never going to answer because there is no other god but the God of the Bible!" Prof. von Himmel continued. "Elijah teased the false prophets. He said: 'Shout louder. Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.' This went on from morning until night but there was no answer from Baal and no fire."

Dr. Sominex shrugged. "It was impossible for those prophets to get Baal to send fire!"

"That is true, but nothing is impossible for God!" Professor von Himmel reminded. "So, Elijah invited everyone over to his side of the mountain."

"Good idea," Dr. Sominex said. "They needed to cross over to the winning team."

"Now, the first thing Elijah did was take twelve stones, one to represent each tribe of Israel to repair the altar," Professor von Himmel explained. He drew the twelve stones, the firewood, and a bull on top of the altar. Dr. Sominex leaned in for a better look.

"Then, he dug a trench around the altar and had them fill four big jars with water and pour it on the offering and wood." The professor took a blue pencil and drew water covering the stones and flowing down the sides of the altar into a trench. "Then, he told them to do it again and then again. They poured four jars of water three times over the altar!"

"That's twelve jars of water! There's no way all that wet wood could catch fire!" Dr. Sominex exclaimed. "What did he do?"

"He prayed God would answer him so the people would know God was Lord and turn their hearts back to Him." Professor von Himmel continued. "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."

"Wow!" Dr. Sominex exclaimed. "The Lord really proved He was the one true God!" She looked down at the picture, which the professor had now completed with flames shooting everywhere and stated, "These prophets are fascinating!"

Professor von Himmel nodded his agreement. "That's why we have to get to work on our time travel project." He pushed a chart across the desk to the doctor. "Can you take a look at this graph and see if my calculations are correct?" Dr. Sominex smiled and took the chart. She could not wait to finish the time travel project and meet some real prophets.