

# CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR  
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

**SECRET #4:**  
**DECIDING TO BURN THE SHIPS**  
1 KINGS 18:21

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**Introduction:** Every successful and significant person has an “all-in” moment when they totally commit themselves to his or her life purpose. The prophet Elijah had that experience, and challenges every would-be follower of Jehovah to do the same.

## **I. The Challenge Of “Burning The Ships” In Elijah’s World And Our World**

Jeremiah 2:19 (NIV) “Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of me, declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.”

## **II. Elijah’s “Burn-the-Ships” Challenge (1 Kings 18:21)**

1 Kings 18:21 “And Elijah came near to all the people and said, ‘How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people did not answer him a word.”

## **III. Four Responses To God’s “Burn-the-Ships” Challenge**

### **A. Elijah: Faithful And Fearless (1 Kings 18:1-2)**

1 Kings 18:1-2 <sup>1</sup>“Now it came about after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, ‘Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth.’  
<sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.”

1. **Elijah followed God faithfully**

2. **Elijah obeyed God fearlessly**

B. **Obadiah: Faithful But Fearful** (1 Kings 18:1-9)

1 Kings 18:3 “And Ahab called Obadiah who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly;”

1 Kings 18:4 “for it came about, when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.)”

1 Kings 18:5 “Then Ahab said to Obadiah, ‘Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we will find grass and keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill some of the cattle.’”

1 Kings 18:7-8 <sup>7</sup> “Now as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him, and he recognized him and fell on his face and said, ‘Is this you, Elijah my master?’ <sup>8</sup> And he said to him, ‘It is I. Go, say to your master, Behold, Elijah is here.’”

1 Kings 18:9-12 (The Message) “What have I done to deserve this? Ahab will kill me. As surely as your GOD lives, there isn’t a country or kingdom where my master hasn’t sent out search parties looking for you. . . . The minute I leave you the Spirit of GOD will whisk you away to who knows where. Then when I report to Ahab, you’ll have disappeared, and Ahab will kill me.”

C. **Ahab: Faithless and Fearless** (1 Kings 18:3-5)

1 Kings 18:3-5 “<sup>3</sup> And Ahab called Obadiah who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly; <sup>4</sup> for it came about, when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.) <sup>5</sup> Then Ahab said to Obadiah, ‘Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we will find grass and keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill some of the cattle.’”

Conclusion