



BIBLE-ILAN

Course Syllabus: Kings I 18

This course provides an advanced philological and exegetical examination of Kings I 18, focusing on the showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, northern Hebrew dialectal features, and narrative structures.

Lesson	Focus	Core Objectives
Lesson 1	1 Kings 18:1–4	Narrative framing, severe famine, and Obadiah vs. Elijah comparison.
Lesson 2	1 Kings 18:5–7	Ahab and Obadiah's search for water, northern dialect features, and nominal clauses.
Lesson 3	1 Kings 18:17–19	The accusation of עוֹכֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל, Mount Carmel geography, and syntactic structures.
Lesson 4	1 Kings 18:20–21, 26	The confrontation, פסח על שתי הסעיפים, and Baal ritual practices.
Lesson 5	1 Kings 18:27–30	Elijah's mockery (שיג ושיח), self-gashing (ד.ג.ד), and ritual altar repairs.
Lesson 6	1 Kings 18:36–38	The solemn invocation, fire from heaven, and root הסב.
Lesson 7	1 Kings 18:39–41	Execution of Baal prophets, the sound of rain (המון), and conclusion.

- **Lesson 1 (1 Kings 18:1–4):**

- Narrative Framing: Connection formula וַיְהִי יָמִים רַבִּים; the severe famine (תִּזְק).
- Character Comparison: Obadiah as אָשֵׁר עַל הַבַּיִת, hiding prophets in caves, compared with Elijah at Wadi Cherith.



BIBLE-ILAN

- **Lesson 2 (1 Kings 18:5–7):**

- Search for Water: Ahab and Obadiah seeking grass (חֲצִיר) to save animals and prevent total loss (נִכְרִית).
- Philology & Syntax: Nominal clauses showing suddenness (וַיִּפֹּל עַל-פָּנָיו); possible Northern Israelian dialect features.

- **Lesson 3 (1 Kings 18:17–19):**

- The Troubler: Ahab's greeting יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲכָר; Elijah's retort blaming Ahab's house.
- Grammar & Geography: Usage of כָּ+inf and בָּ+inf; the geography and etymology of Mount Carmel (כַּרְמֶל+אל).

- **Lesson 4 (1 Kings 18:20–21, 26):**

- The Great Choice: Elijah's challenge עַד-מָתִי אַתֶּם פֹּסְחִים עַל-שְׁתִּי הַסֵּעִפִּים.
- Baal Worship: Shouting from morning to noon, dancing around the altar with no response.

- **Lesson 5 (1 Kings 18:27–30):**

- Elijah's Mockery: The satirical phrase שִׁיחַ וְשִׁיג לוֹ (conversation, journey, or resting).
- Ritual Self-Gashing: Priests of Baal cutting themselves with swords and spears (ד.ד.ג.) until the evening offering.

- **Lesson 6 (1 Kings 18:36–38):**

- Solemn Invocation: Elijah invokes the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; the Hif'il verb הִסְבִּיחַ (turning hearts backward).
- Divine Fire: Fire descends from heaven, consuming the offering, wood, stones, water, and licking the trench dry (לִחְקָה).

- **Lesson 7 (1 Kings 18:39–41):**

- Massacre & Rain: The people proclaim ה' הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים; slaughter of Baal prophets at Wadi Kishon.
- Conclusion: The rumbling sound of rain (הַמֶּזֶן) and Ahab told to eat and drink.