

Contest of the Gods

(1 Kings 18:19-40)

- I. CHOOSE YOUR GOD** (v. 21)
- A. A Jealous God** (Ex 20:1-6, Rev 3:16)—half-hearted is unacceptable
 - B. A Necessary Choice** (Josh 24:14-24; Mat 6:24)—His claim is comprehensive, exclusive
 - C. A Divided Heart** (Mk 12:30)
 - 1. A pure heart is an undivided heart** (Mt 5:8)—no conflicting loyalties
 - 2. We are humanly incapable of pure devotion; God must do it!** (v. 37; Ps 86:11; Jer 24:7; Ezek 11:19-21)—Christ fulfills
- II. THE PROPHETS OF BAAL** (vs. 25-29)—**emphasis on human effort**
- A. Verbose** (v. 21, 29; Mat 6:7-8; Rom 8:26)—long, wordy, repetitive; formulaic rather than relational
 - B. Ritual** (v. 21; Mat 15:2-9)—dancing around the altar; performing to please God
 - C. Volume** (vs. 27-28; Ps 121:3-4; Ps 139; Mat 10:27)—*shouted louder; God is not interested or paying attention*
 - D. Self-Torture** (v. 28; Lev 19:28 & 21:5-6; Lk 5:1-5)—cut themselves
Punishing ourselves devalues Christ's atonement, insults God's grace
 - E. Religious Frenzy** (v. 29;)—self-induced enthusiasm and fervor
- III. THE PROPHET OF THE LORD**—**emphasis on God's power and glory**
- A. Confronts the People** (v. 21)—God initiates, pursues
 - 1. Presents the Issue**—the question you need to be asking
 - 2. Appeals to Reason**—think logically; reason not an enemy of faith
 - B. Repairs the Altar** (vs. 30-32)—presents an object lesson

1. **Recalling Covenant History**—reminds them of their history, their relation to the LORD and to the patriarchs
2. **Reviving, Not *Reinventing* True Religion**—*back to basics*

C. **Ups the Ante**—all God; nothing of human effort, advantage, resource

1. **More Manpower for Baal's prophets** (v. 22)—strength in numbers
2. **First Choice for Baal's prophets** (v. 25)—better offering will produce better results
3. **More Time for Baal's prophets** (vs. 26, 29)—more likely something will happen if you give it enough time
4. **A Soggy Offering for the LORD** (vs. 32-35)—proves no tricks

D. **Prays** (vs. 36-37)

1. **Calm**—no special fervor or dramatic performance
2. **Simple and Direct**—no formula, ritual, special words or repetition
3. **Expectant**—not persuading or coercing a disinterested deity

IV. **THE ONLY REAL GOD** (vs. 38-39)

A. **The God Who Answers** (vs. 37-38)

1. **Baal's silence proves he is not God.** (v. 29)—not able to answer
2. **Satan's power is limited.**(1 Cor 10:19-20; Mat 24:24; 2 Thes 2:9; Rev 13:13)—only what God allows him to have
3. **God is attentive to His people** (1 Pet 3:12/Ps 34:15)—You don't have to do something spectacular to gain notice or obtain His favor.

B. **The God Who Performs Miracles** (Ps 77:13-14)

1. **Christianity insists upon a God who performs miracles.**
2. **God does not perform on command; God commands *and* performs!**

C. **The God Who Deserves Worship** (Isa 64:4)—He IS the ONLY God.

Awesome God

Rich Mullins/*Songs*

When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just putting on the ritz
Our God is an awesome God
There is thunder in His footsteps and lightening in His fists
Our God is an awesome God
The Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood
His return is very close and so you better be believing that
Our God is an awesome God

CHORUS:

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God

And when the sky was starless in the void of the night
Our God is an awesome God
He spoke into the darkness and created the light
Our God is an awesome God
Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten that
Our God is an awesome God

CHORUS

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fl-AWNCpSUU&feature=share>