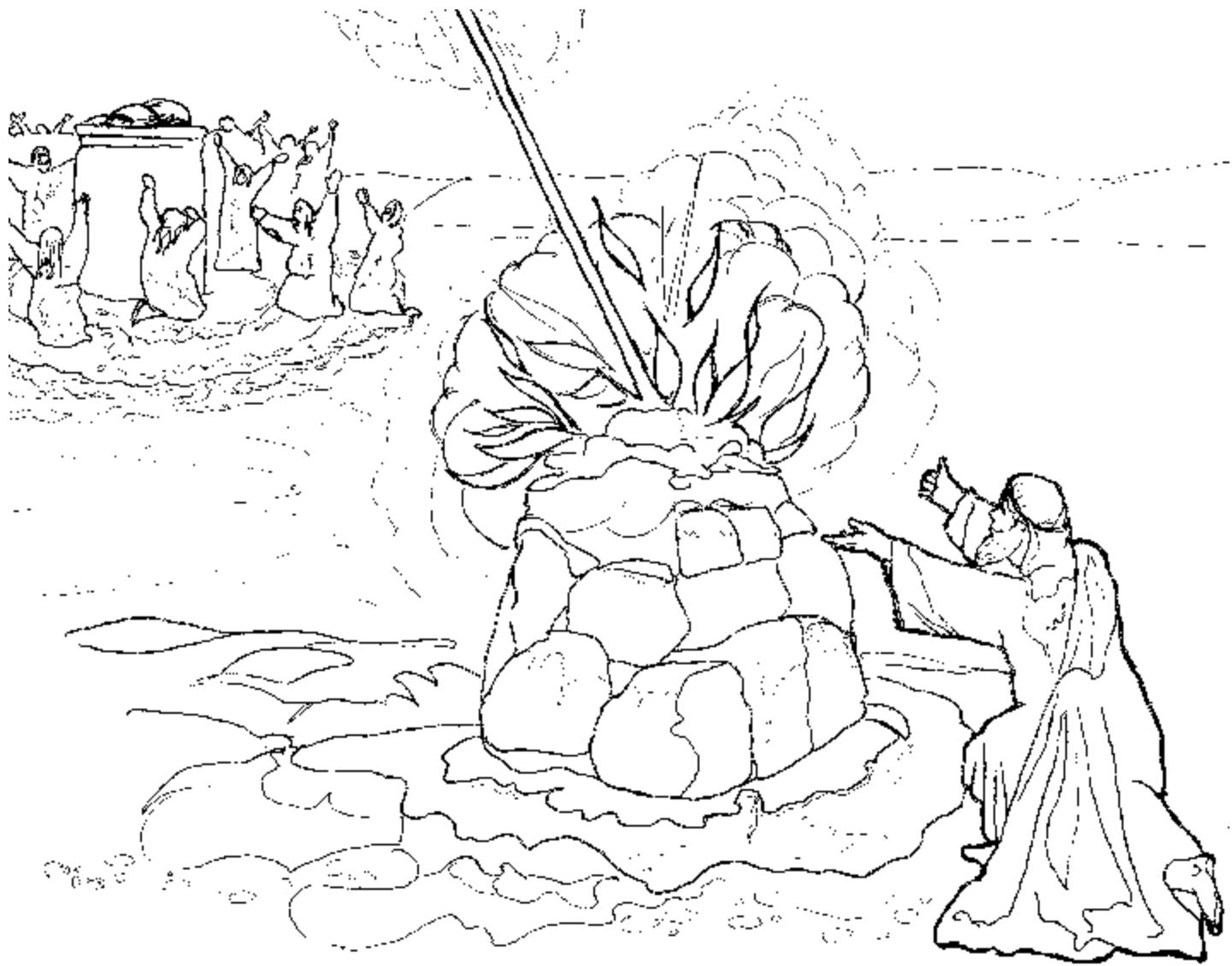


Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18



God, through Elijah, led Israel to choose the LORD not Baal.



The Story

The land of Israel had no rain for three and a half years. This was a trouble given to them from God because King Ahab and his family did not love the true God, but worshiped false gods.

After the three years had passed God told Elijah to go to King Ahab and tell him the rain would come on the earth and plants for food would again grow.

King Ahab blamed the trouble of no rain on Elijah.

Elijah told King Ahab to gather all of Israel to meet on Mount Carmel. The false prophets were to come also. There were 850 false prophets of the gods Baal and Asherah. These false prophets were helped by Queen Jezebel, King Ahab's wife.

All the children of Israel and the many false prophets gathered together on Mount Carmel. Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you worship two gods? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is god, follow him."

But the people did not answer.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only prophet of the LORD left. There are 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah. We will both make an altar, lay wood on it and offer a bull. But neither of us will put fire on the offering. Then the prophets of Baal will call on their god and I will pray to the LORD. The God who answers by sending fire is the true God."

So all the people said, "It is a good thing to do."

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no answer. Then they leaped about the altar.

At noon Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Cry louder he is thinking, or busy, or gone away, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

So they cried louder and cut themselves with knives until the blood gushed out on them. They did this until evening but no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me."

So all the people came near to him and he repaired the altar of the LORD. Elijah took 12 stones, according to the number of the 12 tribes of Jacob, and built an altar to the LORD. He made a very large trench around the altar, put on the wood, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. Then Elijah had 4 water pots filled with water. Those 4 water pots were poured over the offering, wood and altar. Then he had the 4 filled again a second time. Also a third time the 4 pots were filled with water and poured on the sacrifice. So the water ran all around the altar and filled the trench with water.

At the time of the evening sacrifice Elijah prayed to God saying, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You

have turned their hearts back to You again."

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up completely the sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

Elijah told the people to kill the false prophets of Baal and Asherah and they did.

Activity One - Choose the correct letter from the box to finish the riddles. Your teacher will help you read the sentences.

A B E L F

1. I am God's prophet. _____ijah

2. I am the King of Israel. _____hab

3. I am the false god. _____aal

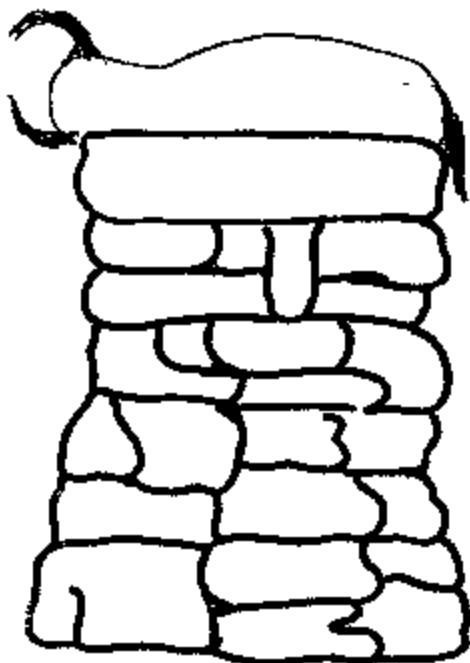
4. I came down from heaven and burned up the altar. _____ire

5. I am the true God. _____ORD

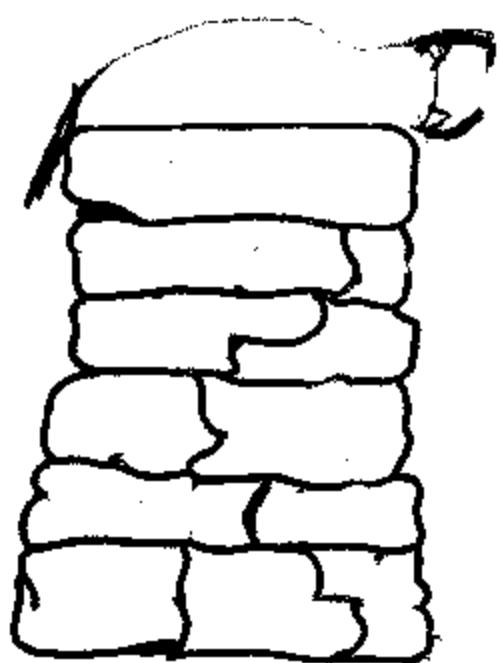
Activity Two

- Follow the directions below.

1. First, color red around the altar of Baal to show how the false prophets cut themselves and bled in hopes their god would hear them.
2. Second, color blue over the altar of the LORD to show the water that was poured on it. Be sure to put blue around the bottom of the altar also to show the big puddle that was made.
3. Third, use red and yellow colors to show fire coming from the sky on to the altar of the LORD. Be sure to color over the whole altar to show how it was completely burned up, even the water puddle. Look at the picture on page 1 if you need help.



Baal's Altar



The LORD's Altar

God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

Passages

Matthew 4:10 - 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

The First Commandment - Sydow Catechism ©2000

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

Hymn - TLH #396 v. 1, 6

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe.

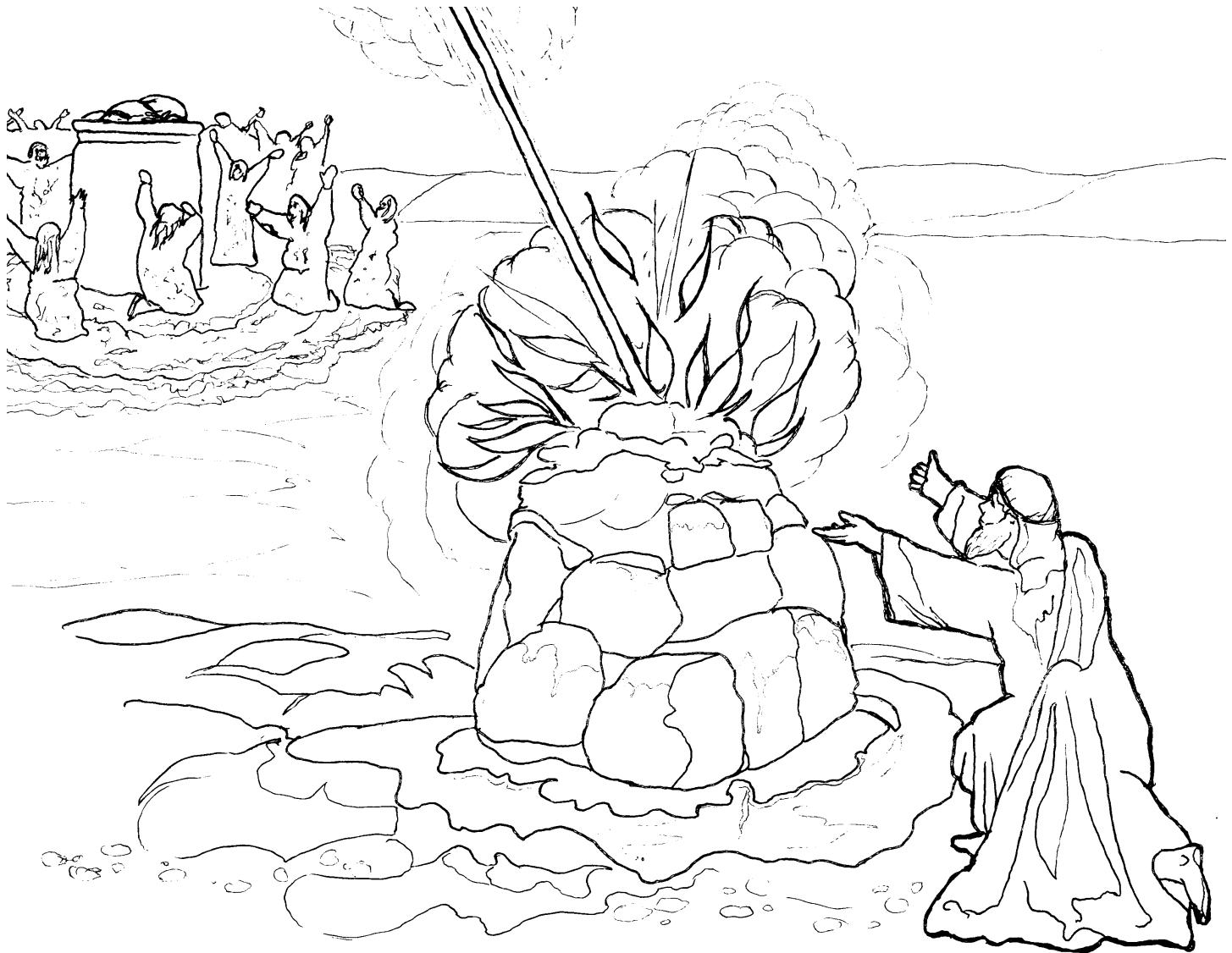
Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank You for the love You have shown me in so many ways. You have given me saving faith in Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that I will want to share with others that wonderful message of salvation through Jesus. Amen.

Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18



The Story

Ahab was the king of Israel, but he did not love the true God. He and his family worshiped false gods. To punish the king and his people, the land of Israel had no rain for three and a half years.

After the three years had passed, God told His prophet Elijah to go to King Ahab and tell him the rain would come on the earth so plants for food would again grow. King Ahab blamed all the trouble of no rain on Elijah.

Elijah told King Ahab to gather all of Israel to meet on a mountain named Mount Carmel. The prophets of the false gods that Ahab worshiped were to come also. There were 850 false prophets of the gods Baal and Asherah. These false prophets were helped by Queen Jezebel, King Ahab's wife.

All the children of Israel and the many false prophets gathered together on Mount Carmel. Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you worship two gods? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is god, follow him." But the people did not answer.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only prophet of the LORD left. There are 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah. We will both make an altar, lay wood on it and offer a bull. But neither of us will put fire on the offering. Then the prophets of Baal will call on their god and I will pray to the LORD. The God who answers by sending fire is the true God."

So all the people said, "It is a good thing to do."

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and

called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no answer. Then they leaped about the altar.

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At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah prayed to God saying, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up completely the sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

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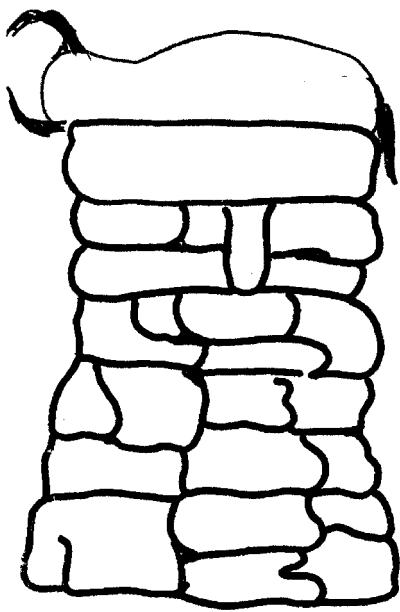
Activity One - Match the correct answer with the riddle.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. _____ I am God's prophet. | 1. Altar |
| 2. _____ I am the King of Israel. | 2. Fire |
| 3. _____ I am the false god. | 3. LORD |
| 4. _____ I came down from heaven and burned up the altar of the LORD. | 4. Mt. Carmel |
| 5. _____ I am the place the people gathered together. | 5. Baal |
| 6. _____ I am the Queen of Israel. | 6. Elijah |
| 7. _____ I was built for the offering. | 7. Jezebel |
| 8. _____ I am the true God. | 8. Ahab |

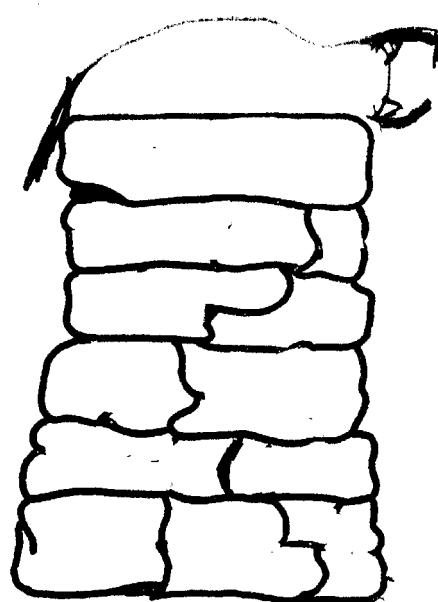
God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

Activity Two - Follow the directions below.

1. First, color the ground around the altar of Baal red showing the blood of the false prophets who cut themselves praying to the false god.
2. Second, color blue over the altar of the LORD to show the water that was poured on it. Be sure to put blue around the bottom of the altar also to show the big puddle that was made.
3. Third, use red and yellow colors to show fire coming from the sky on to the altar of the LORD. Be sure to color over the whole altar to show how it was completely burned up, even the water puddle. Look at the picture on page one if you need help.



Baal's Altar



The LORD's Altar

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Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank You for the love You have shown me in so many ways. You have given me saving faith in Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that I will want to share with others that wonderful message of salvation through Jesus. Amen.

Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

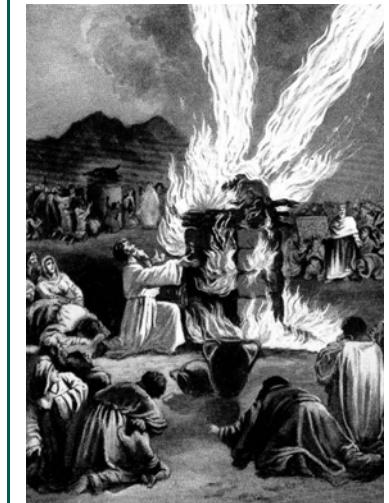
1 Kings 18

YES. NO. NOT YET. Those are some of the ways God will answer our prayers. Today's story shows the LORD answering the prayer of Elijah. He will show once again that "The LORD,

He is God!"

Prayer

Preserve Thy Word, O Savior, to us this latter day
And let Thy kingdom flourish, enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
O, keep our faith from failing, keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us while wand'ring here below.
Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-40

And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." {2} So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria...

{17} Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" {18} And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. {19} "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

{20} So Ahab sent for all the children

of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. {21} And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

But the people answered him not a word.

{22} Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. {23} "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. {24} "Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."



So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

{25} Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

{26} So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

{27} And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

{28} So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. {29} And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

{30} Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. {31} And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." {32} Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and

he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs (a measure) of seed. {33} And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

{34} Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. {35} So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

{36} And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. {37} "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

{38} Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

{39} Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

{40} And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

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6. When Baal did not answer the prophets they hit themselves. (28) _____
7. Elijah repaired the altar of the LORD by building an altar with 10 stones for the tribes of Israel. (31) _____
8. To show that the LORD has power Elijah had dust poured on the altar 3 times. (33-34)

9. The LORD answered Elijah's prayer by sending rain that consumed everything. (38)

10. The people cried, "Baal, He is God!" (39) _____
11. Elijah had the false prophets whipped. (40) _____

Inner Aim - God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

Your Turn - Fill in the chart below using the answers from the box.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ► false god | ► answers prayers |
| ► true God | ► sent fire |
| ► hears prayers | ► sent no fire |
| ► can't hear prayers | ► has no power |
| ► can't answer prayers | ► has power to save |

the LORD	Baal
►	►
►	►
►	►
►	►
►	►

What God's Word Tells Us - Cross out the letters B, M and Z to find the missing Bible verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

B P R B Z M A M Y W Z B B I T B H Z
O M B U Z T C E M M A Z S I Z N M G

Passages

Matthew 4:10 - 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe;

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt;

That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile;

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up the dying bed.

Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
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Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank You for the love You have shown me in so many ways. You have made me Your child and given me saving faith in Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that I will want to share with others that wonderful message of salvation through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In His name I pray. Amen.

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the LORD	Baal
►	►
►	►
►	►
►	►
►	►

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following passages in the Bible. Find the missing words and discuss their meanings together.

Romans 16:17-18 - Now I urge you, brethren, _____ those who cause divisions and offenses, _____ to the doctrine which you learned, and _____ them. {18} For those who are such do not _____ our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own _____, and by smooth words and flattering speech _____ the hearts of the simple.

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' _____, for theirs is the _____ of heaven.

Passages

Matthew 4:10 - 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God'

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt;

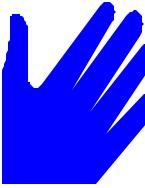
That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile;

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up the dying bed.

Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank You for the love You have shown me in so many ways. You have made me Your child and given me saving faith in Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that I will want to share with others that wonderful message of salvation through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In His name I pray. Amen.



STORY

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal - I Kings 18

TEACHER PRAYER

I praise You, oh Lord, for calling me into Your kingdom and giving me the privilege of laboring together with You. Especially, I thank You for the privilege of teaching little children the wonders of Your grace and mercy in Christ Jesus. Give me Your Spirit, Lord, that I may help the children committed to my charge to recognize the spiritual dangers in this world of sin. May they be moved to fight the fight of faith and thus live to praise Your holy name before all. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

OUTER AIM

Israel was called upon to chose between the LORD God and Baal

INNER AIM

God's people are called upon every day to chose God and deny Satan and the unbelieving world.

BACKGROUND (*Rupprecht Bible History References - Vol. 1, pp. 346-352*)

God created man to live with Him and for Him. In this state he reaches his highest potential and can expect every blessing from God. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God their spiritual relationship with God was broken. They were estranged from God, and their offspring would be born, not in the image of God but in the image of sinful man.

Mankind was spiritually dead by nature, separated from God for time and for all eternity. (cf. Eph. 2:1) This terrible spiritual void in man's life is filled in Christ Jesus, the promised Messiah. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Ps. 147:3) By His substitutionary atonement "The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners." (Ps. 146:7). "By grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9) If this perfect relationship with God in Christ is not found man wanders about in this world of sin a lost soul searching-ever searching for purpose in life, reason for living and peace in heart and mind. He tries to fill the spiritual void in life with all kinds of works; works dictated by his sinful flesh and/or some type of religion which he invents.

Thus he hopes to gain eternal life. As a result, there are many, many religions in the world. Yet, basically there are but two: either of God or it is of man. God's religion is salvation by God's grace in Christ Jesus received through faith. Man's religion is a hoped-for salvation earned by his own works whereby he hopes to appease the wrath of whatever deity he has invented and thus find peace in heart and soul. Yet, man's religion can never give peace. It shall ever be true; "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Is. 26:3) The worship of the Baalim (plural for Baal which means Lord, Master) was very prominent among the people occupying the eastern borders of the Mediterranean. There were many Baalim. Much like the Romans and Greeks they had a god or goddess for every aspect of life. Ahab maintained 450 priests of Baal. The domineering Jezebel introduced the worship of the main goddess of her native country of Tyre. Ashtoreth (Astarte) was her name. She was called "the queen of heaven." Jezebel employed 400 priests to foster this religion which included fleshly lewdness.

STUDENT PRAYER

I thank You Lord for your love to me which You have shown in so many ways. You have made me Your child when I was baptized in Your name. There I was cleansed of my sins, brought to believe in You as my Lord and Savior. You came to me in Spirit and to live in me. Lord God, help me always to be alert to any words and actions which oppose Your words of Truth. Strengthen me always to confess Your name in all I do and say so that Your name may be honored and that others see You as the gracious and loving Lord that You are. In the name of Jesus my Savior I pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION

The years of draught in Israel were about to come to an end according to the will of God. The LORD through it all had sustained Elijah. Now he was called to present the LORD'S message announcing the end of the severe draught to Ahab. But this message would be delivered only in conjunction with some very definite spiritual lessons.

All Israel would see the absolute rule, power and majesty of the LORD God of heaven and earth and the total impotence of the false gods invented by man. As is generally the case, when man places his trust in false gods, he is blind to the works and ways of the one true God. So it was that Ahab blamed Elijah for his problems rather than recognizing how he had brought his problems upon Himself by forsaking the LORD God and supporting, as well as worshipping the man-made Baalim and encouraging the people of Israel to do the same.

All Israel would be required to make a choice: "If the LORD is God, follow Him. If Baal, then follow him." It is sad to hear the deafening silence, which prevailed as Elijah challenged the people with that simple choice. "But the people answered him not a word." False teaching threatens faith! The LORD wishes for us to either remove the false teaching or remove ourselves from it. He never gives His approval to consort with false teaching and /or false teachers! Rather, our Lord who loves us instructs us to take careful note of those who teach contrary to his Word to and avoid them. (Cf. Rom. 16:17-18)

APPLICATION

False gods are as prominent today as ever. This is Satan's playground. He gains a tremendous following by using the religion invented by man to occupy the hearts and minds of people who are spiritually ignorant of the Truth of the one true God. Remember, Satan works through people. He uses people - friends, neighbors, peers, acquaintances, people of influence, the wealthy, etc. to attract and draw people away from the Truth of God.

Satan does not always challenge the Truth directly. He might try to inject a reasonable element into his temptation. (cf. Mat. 4) He is satisfied with small victories. He is very patient and will settle for small compromises. The people of Israel who began to follow Ahab and Jezebel in their idolatry were just trying to get along with their neighbors and friends, to begin with. Besides, it was reasonable, wasn't it? It was surely much closer going to Dan and Bethel than all the way to Jerusalem for worship. Probably it was also reasonable to think that they could worship both the Baalim and the LORD.

Whatever the thinking, idolatry had done its work and when faced with the choice between the LORD and Baal the Israelites were speechless. Doubtless many had become faithless. FALSE TEACHING THREATENS FAITH. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." (Gal. 5:9)

Syncretism-compromising the Truth of God and mixing it with man-made teachings is the order of our day. Churches merge with little or no concern about whether God's Truth is being violated. Children are

particularly vulnerable because they are easily subjected to peer pressure. They won't always understand why they are forbidden to keep company with certain individuals or become involved with certain groups or join certain organizations which espouse teachings contrary to the Word of our Lord. Nevertheless, Christian parents who recognize spiritual danger for their children will do what is necessary, in love, to shield them from it. As parents will do whatever is necessary to protect their children from physical harm, how much more should they not do the same concerning their spiritual welfare?

As pastors and teachers, we are called to help the parents by reinforcing them with the truths of God's Word. For "if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (I John 1:7)

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

I Timothy 6:12 - "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called."

Matthew 4:10 - "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

"Matthew 5:10 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"I John 2:15 - "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

HYMN CHOICES

Oh, For Faith That Will Not Shrink - TLH #396

Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might - TLH #447

Rise, My Soul, To Watch And Pray - TLH #446

Preserve Thy Word, O Savior - TLH #264