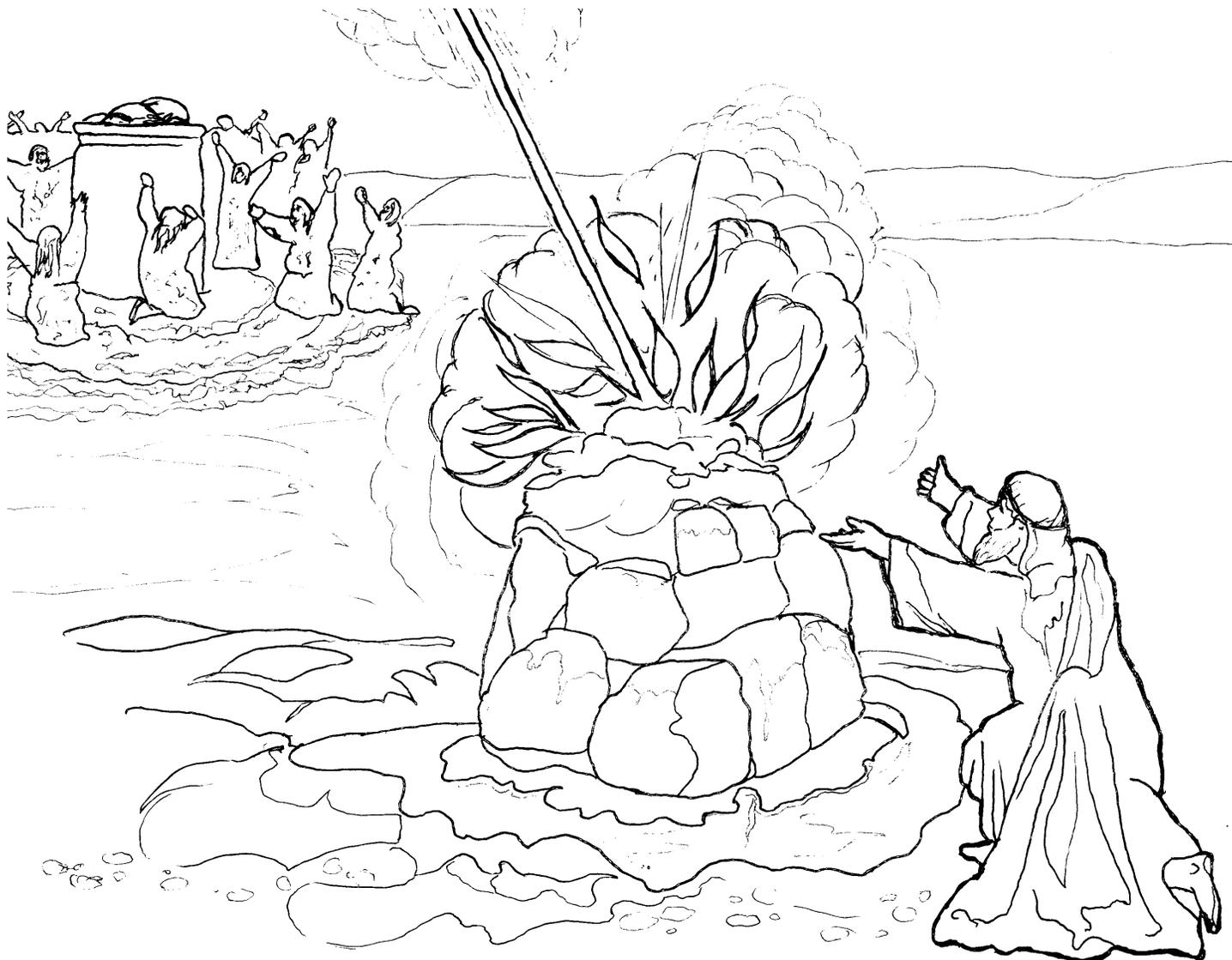


Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

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.

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, one for each of the 12 tribes of Jacob, and built an altar to the LORD. He made a very large trench around the altar. Elijah put wood on the altar, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. Then Elijah had four water pots filled with water. Those four water pots were poured over the offering, wood and altar. Then he had the four pots filled a second time. A third time the four 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.

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

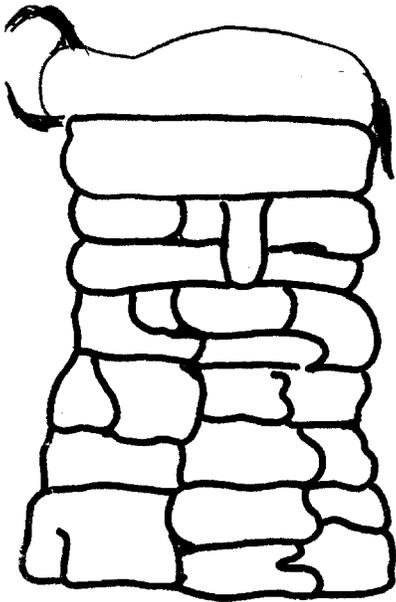
Activity One - Match the correct answer with the riddle.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

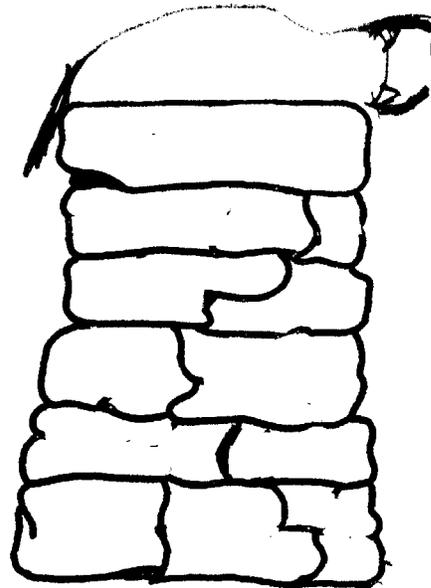
God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

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

Passages

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

1 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.

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.