

1 KINGS 17:1-24 "INTRODUCING ELIJAHU"

BAAL:



Ancient Temple of BAAL in Palmyra, Syria:





This past Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015 satellite image provided by UNITAR-UNOSAT shows the main building of the ancient Temple of Bel in the Palmyra, Syria. The main building has been destroyed, a United Nations agency said on Monday, Aug. 31, 2015. The image was taken four days before a massive explosion was set off near the 2,000-year-old temple in the city occupied by Islamic State militants. ¹



2

- Baal was the name of the supreme god worshiped in ancient Canaan and Phoenicia. The practice of Baal worship infiltrated Jewish religious life during the time of the Judges (Judges 3:7), became widespread in Israel during the reign of Ahab (1 Kings 16:31-33) and also affected Judah (2 Chronicles 28:1-2).
- In general, Baal was a fertility god who was believed to enable the earth to produce crops and people to produce children. Different regions worshiped Baal in different ways, and Baal proved to be a highly adaptable god. Various locales emphasized one or another of his attributes and developed special

¹ UrtheCast, UNITAR-UNOSAT via AP; (The Associated Press)

² http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/31/middleeast/palmyra-temple-damaged/index.html?eref=rss_middleeast

“denominations” of Baalism. Baal of Peor (Numbers 25:3) and Baal-Berith (Judges 8:33) are two examples of such localized deities.³

- According to Canaanite mythology, Baal was the son of El, the chief god, and Asherah, the goddess of the sea. Baal was considered the most powerful of all gods, eclipsing El, who was seen as rather weak and ineffective. In various battles Baal defeated Yamm (*1 Kings 15:1 – Abiyam, “Yamm is my Daddy”*), the god of the sea, and Mot, the god of death and the underworld. Baal’s sisters/consorts were Ashtoreth, a fertility goddess associated with the stars, and Anath, a goddess of love and war. The Canaanites worshiped Baal as the sun god and as the storm god—he is usually depicted holding a lightning bolt—who defeated enemies and produced crops. They also worshiped him as a fertility god who provided children. Baal worship was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice, usually the firstborn of the one making the sacrifice (*Jeremiah 19:5*). The priests of Baal appealed to their god in rites of wild abandon which included loud, ecstatic cries and self-inflicted injury (*1 Kings 18:28*).⁴
- In Matthew 12:27, Jesus calls Satan “Beelzebub,” linking the devil to Baal-Zebub, a Philistine deity.
- The Baalim of the Old Testament were nothing more than demons masquerading as gods, and all idolatry is ultimately devil-worship.

1 Corinthians 10:20–21

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.

1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab: “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

- **Elijah (Heb. Elijah) seems to come out of nowhere**
 - Exploding onto the scene
 - The greatest of all the prophets of Israel.
 - **BOOM** – as sure as Lucifer prepares his Ahabs – God prepares His Elijahus
- **No rain, not even dew for 3 ½ years!**
 - Israel – completely dependent upon rain water to drink

³ <http://www.gotquestions.org/who-Baal.html>

⁴ <http://www.gotquestions.org/who-Baal.html>

- Irrigation and hydration
- Famine – sickness – pain – agony – THIS IS WHAT SIN PRODUCES!

A strike at the very heart of who Baal was:

- In general, Baal was a fertility god who was believed to enable the earth to produce crops and people to produce children. ⁵
- Rain god
- Fertility god
- Land god

2 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
3 “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.
4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”
5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.
6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.
7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

What’s happening here?

- Prepping Elijah

- **Cherith:**

3747 כְּרִית [Kâriyth /ker·eeth/] n pr. From 3772; GK 4134; Two occurrences; AV translates as “Cherith” twice.

1 the brook where Elijah was hidden during a drought; east of Jordan. *Additional Information:* **Cherith = “cutting”**. ⁶

- **Ravens:**

Leviticus 11:13–15

13 ‘And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard,

14 the kite, and the falcon after its kind;

15 every raven after its kind,

- So, God has lead Elijahuu to the cutting brook to feed him with abominable birds while he waits for the brook and food to dry up completely.

- **Death to a vision**

⁵ <http://www.gotquestions.org/who-Baal.html>

⁶ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

- Abram, an old man married to an old barren woman
 - Joseph, the dreamer, sold into slavery
 - Jesus driven into the Judean wilderness after being baptized in water and the Holy Spirit – only to be tempted at His weakest fleshly point by Lucifer.
 - **WHAT IS GOD DOING?**
 - Preparing YOU, for that which is prepared for YOU.
 - Cross before the crown
- Philippians 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;

8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
9 “Arise, go to **Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon**, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”

- 1 year with the Ravens, 2 years with the Widow. (1 Kings 18:1)
- God’s instructions may have shocked the prophet, for the Lord commanded him to travel northeast about a hundred miles to the Phoenician city of Zarephath. God was sending Elijah into Gentile territory, and since Zarephath was not too far from Jezebel’s home city of Sidon, he would be living in enemy territory! ⁷

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath.

And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.”

11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

12 So she said, “As the **LORD your God** lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

13 And Elijah said to her, **“Do not fear; go and do as you have said,**

but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son.

14 For thus says the **LORD God of Israel:**

‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’ ”

15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

⁷ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Responsible*, “Be” Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002), 130.

16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.



17 Now it happened **after these things** that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him.

18 So she said to Elijah, **“What have I to do with you, O man of God?”** Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?”

- Lucifer (Baal) would do that
 - He always reminds us of our sins
 - He wants to kill every one of us

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth,** because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Elijah was not readily accepted as a great Prophet – much as Jesus was not accepted in Nazareth.

Luke 4:22–30

22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

23 He said to them, “You will surely say this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.’ ”

24 Then He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land;

26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

19 And he said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed.

20 Then he cried out to the LORD and said,

“O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?”

21 And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.”

22 Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

23 And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives!”

24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “**Now by this I know** that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth.”

- We can’t be led to believe that she really ever believes on the Lord God of Israel –
 - Does the miraculous save people?
 - Traditionally NO
 - Scripture would say NO as well.
 - But she now believes in what He can do.
 - Is that enough?

Romans 10:8–13

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

9 that **if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”