

# The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #21 | Ahab Sees the Defeat of 450 Prophets of Baal

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

## **1 Kings 18:17-20**

**17** And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

**18** And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

**19** Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

**20** So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

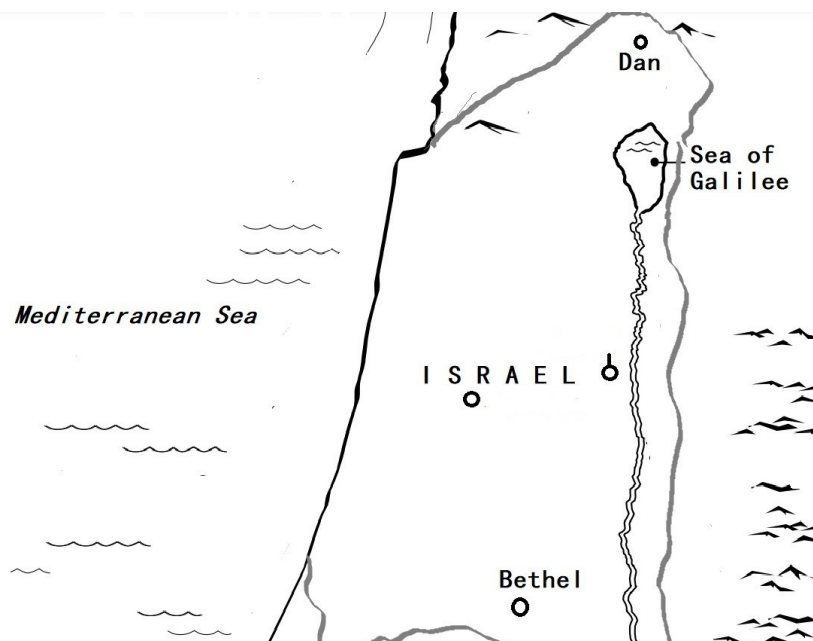
1. From verse 1 Kings 18:18, what is one reason why troubles afflict us?

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2. Where is Mt Carmel? Mark in on the map below:



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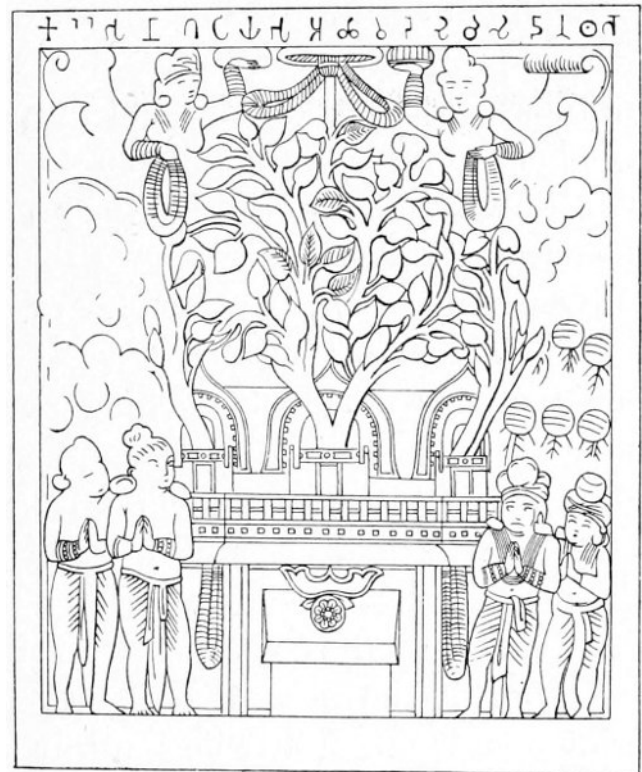
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3. What does the great number of prophets of Baal (450) and prophets of the grove (400) tell us about the religious state of Israel? Fill in the blanks below to answer this question

The land of Israel, at this time, was filled with idolatry. Israel would not have needed 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the grove if it was only Ahab and Jezebel who worshiped idols. This tells us that the w \_ \_ \_ \_ nation was filled with sacrifice to Baal and other gods. Almost e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in Israel was an idol worshipper. Hence, at least 850 prophets were needed to assist in the sacrifices to these false gods.

The Hebrew word for grove is asherah, and it is similar to the name of the goddess, Ashteroth. A grove was a group of trees, and on each tree, an idol was c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ out. The 400 prophets of the grove seem to belong to the queen because 1 Kings 18:19 says they eat at \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ 's table. They were direct servants of Jezebel, and Jezebel supported them with food.



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## **1 Kings 18:21-22**

**21** And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

**22** Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

4. Using a highlighter, highlight Elijah's famous challenge to all the people which had gathered around Mt Carmel.
5. What does the word "halt" mean in this phrase?
- It means "to stop" and Elijah asked why they have stopped between two opinions
  - It means "to limp" or "to skip", and Elijah asked why they have skipped between two religions - the worship of the LORD God of Israel and the worship of Baal.
6. In verse 22, Elijah said, "I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD". By comparing 1 Kings 18:4 and 1 Kings 19:18, we know that there were many other prophets of the LORD and true worshippers of the LORD in Israel. Why then did Elijah say that he was alone?
- Elijah did not know that there was a remnant of true followers of God
  - These true followers of God were a-hiding because of the persecution of Jezebel
  - These true followers of God were not present at Mt Carmel to witness this great battle between Elijah and the prophets of Baal
7. What does this tell us about how persecution may cause us to feel about our walk with God?

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## 1 Kings 18:23-24

**23** Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

**24** And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

8. When Elijah presented the challenge to the prophets of Baal, what did the prophets of Baal do? Arrange the order of events by putting the numbers 1 to 3 in the boxes below.

(1 -> 3)	Events
	At noon, Elijah mocked them, and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked."
	The prophets of Baal took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice nor fire.
	And the prophets cried aloud, and cut themselves with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And they prophesied until the evening, but there was neither voice nor answer.

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9. After the Baal prophets had their turn, it was Elijah's turn to prove to them who the true God is. Arrange the order of events by putting the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes below.

(1 -> 4)	Events
	He filled the trench with four barrels with water, pouring it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. He repeated this another two more times such that water overflowed from the altar and filled the trench.
	Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, "The LORD, he is the God"
	At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah prayed aloud to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God"
	And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, and he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar. And he put the wood in, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid them on the wood

8. Scripture Memorisation

## Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, \_\_\_\_\_ you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell:

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