

Which God Do You Serve?

Elijah, Part 2

Pastor Ken Ritz * September 29, 2013 * New Life Vineyard Church

After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land."

1 Kings 18:1

When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals." 1 Kings 18:17,18

Monotheism—belief there is _____ God.

Polytheism—belief there is _____ gods.

Idolatry: Definition

I put something at the center of my priorities where only God belongs, to try to get something only God has the power to give.

**Prosperity tends to mask our idols;
crises tends to reveal our idols.**

"The human heart is an idol factory." John Calvin

Which idol is God's biggest rival in my life?

1. Money _____
2. Success _____
3. Education _____
4. Physical Appearance _____
5. Relationships _____
6. Pleasure _____
7. Work _____
8. _____

1. Which of these do I find myself thinking about the most?
2. Which of these do I most fear losing?
3. Which of these makes me feel that, because I have/am this, I'm somebody?
4. Which of these do I most depend on to make me feel secure?
5. Which of these do I most want to be known for?
6. Which of these most easily cause my emotions to go up or down?
7. Which of these would other people say is my most likely idol?
8. Which of these gets the largest share of my time, effort, and sacrifice?

Elijah's Prophetic Message

It is time to quit _____.

Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

1 Kings 18:19-21

Verse 26

So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

Matthew 22:37-39, Luke 9:23, Revelation 3:15-17

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*