

Two Opinions

Elijah and Elisha: Part 2

Nathaniel Sorensen * May 9, 2021 * New Life Vineyard Church

After a long time the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year: "Go and present yourself to Ahab. I will send rain on the surface of the land." 1 Kings 18:1

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

He replied, "I have not destroyed Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have abandoned the Lord's commandments and followed the Baals." 1 Kings 18:17,18

Monotheism—belief there is _____ God.

Polytheism—belief there is _____ gods.

Idolatry: 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 tend 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 _____.

19 "Now summon all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel. Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word.

26 So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "Baal, answer us!" But there was no sound; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, "Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!" They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed out on them. All afternoon they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound, no one answered, no one paid attention.

36 At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that at Your word I have done all these things. Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that You, Yahweh, are God and that You have turned their hearts back."

38 Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, "Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!" 1 Kings 18:19-39

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

*All scriptures from HCSB unless otherwise noted