



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 4

Law/Gospel

God demands that I fear, love, and trust in Him alone; yet I sinfully place my trust elsewhere. **Jesus proved that He is the true Lord by offering Himself as the sacrifice for sin, once and for all. He calls me back from my sin to His forgiving embrace.**

Bible Words

Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
Proverbs 30:5

Fun Fact

After the showdown, Elijah warned King Ahab God would send rain to end the drought. When a little cloud rose over the Mediterranean Sea, Elijah warned Ahab to start down the mountain because rain was coming. A great rain fell; obviously not sent by Baal.

Prayer

Dear Lord, by Your Word and Sacraments, keep us faithful to You and Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:20–46

Sparks flew at Mount Carmel when God's prophet Elijah challenged Baal's prophets to prove their god's alleged power over rain.

God refuted Baal's supposed power by stopping the rain for three years. Unconvinced, Israel's King Ahab and his wife Jezebel continued to lead the people to worship Baal and Asherah, the male and female gods of the Canaanites. Eight hundred and fifty false prophets even ate at the table of the king and queen.

In the third year of the drought, the Lord sent His prophet Elijah to challenge King Ahab to a showdown. Ahab, 450 Baal prophets, and many Israelites met Elijah on Mount Carmel to find out if Baal or the Lord was the true God. (Jezebel and her 400 false prophets stayed home.)

Elijah insisted the Israelites follow the Lord or Baal, not both. He proposed that the Baal prophets sacrifice a bull and call on their god. He would do the same. The true God would answer with fire from heaven.

Baal's 450 prophets built an altar, set wood on it, sacrificed a bull, and chanted and danced most of the day. At noon, Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry louder, for surely Baal is a true god. He might be thinking, relieving himself, traveling, or sleeping." Baal never responded.

Toward evening, God's one prophet called the people to him. Elijah rebuilt an altar of the Lord with twelve stones, dug a trench around the altar, stacked wood, and sacrificed his bull. Then he drenched the bull and wood with water, filling the trench. Then he did it again, and again.

Elijah prayed once, "Answer me, O Lord, that this people may know that You are God, and that You turned their hearts back to You." Fire from the one true God fell from heaven and burned up the bull, wood, stones, dust, and water in the trench.

The Lord showed He is the one and only true God, and His people confessed, "The LORD, He is God" (v. 39). Our true Lord created and controls the universe and its systems. This same Lord gave His only Son to pay for sin on the cross and give believers life and forgiveness in Him.

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