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Daily Rice 2024 March 24

YouTube Prayer Link

Distinguish between true gods and idols

In 1 Kings 18, King Ahab of Israel and the nation of Israel were hit by a drought, and the people faced famine without rain. The prophet Elijah was inspired by God to command Ahab to gather all the Israelites and the prophets of Baal together to meet God's miracles.

On the day of the greeting, Elijah joined the prophets of Baal in offering sacrifices to their God for rain to come. Although the prophets of Baal prayed all day, there was no rain. Finally, Elijah prayed for rain in his prayers, and soon after, a heavy rain fell from the sky.

This miracle proved that the God represented by Elijah was the true God and that Baal was only a false god. Elijah then killed all the prophets of Baal and thus gained the respect of the people and Ahab.

In the Christian faith, the distinction between true gods and idols can be done in several ways:

Bible Teaching: The Christian Bible is a revelation of God that contains descriptions and teachings of the true God. Understanding the Bible's characterization and behavior of the true God and its warnings about idolatry is an important basis for discernment.

God's Nature: The true God is an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-being being who is holy, loving, righteous, and true. Idols, on the other hand, are man-made, finite, and incapable of bringing true life and salvation.

Object of Worship: The true God is the only object worthy of worship and worship, while idols are nothingness shaped by the human heart, unable to give true peace and satisfaction.

Effects and Fruits: The worship of the true God leads to inner peace, joy, and life-changing fruits, while idolatry leads to the emptiness of the heart, fear, and meaningless pursuits.

Through these contrasts, we can more clearly distinguish between the true God and idols, and choose to trust and worship the true God. At the same time, we can also use prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to seek truth and build a deeper relationship with the true God.

There are many verses in the Bible that warn people not to worship idolatry. Here are some verses:

Exodus 20:4-6: "Thou shalt not make an image for thyself, nor make any image like that which is in heaven or in the earth, or in the waters under the earth, and thou shalt not bow down to him, nor serve him: for I, the LORD thy God, a jealous God, will seek the debt of his father in those who hate me, and shall show mercy to those who love me from three or four generations to a thousand generations." "

Leviticus 26:1: "Thou shalt not make yourselves gods, nor shall thou shalt not set up a carved image in any likeness, or set up a stone image in your place, and bow down to it, for I am the Lord your God." "

Deuteronomy 4:15-19: "Remember, therefore, that you saw no form in the day when the Lord spoke to you out of the fire in Mount Horeb. lest you corrupt yourselves and carve idols like some male or female, or beast of the earth, or a bird of the air, or a creeping thing on the earth, or a fish in the ground. lest thou lift up thy eyes unto heaven and look, and behold the LORD thy God destroyed by fire, which he kindled out of heaven, lest thou see these things, thou shalt make an idol of thyself among all the nations of the earth, and shall be forbidden by the LORD thy God. "

These verses emphasize God's stern warning against idolatry, teaching that the true God alone should be worshipped and no idols of any kind.

The consequences of idolatry may include the following:

Contrary to God's will: Idolatry is contrary to God's command and will, which can lead to alienation from God's relationship and put people's reconciliation with God at risk.

Produces an idolatrous mentality: Idolatry leads people into the worship of nothing, inclined to rely on illusory and finite things rather than on the true God.

Leads to loss of heart: Idolatry can damage a person's heart, creating emptiness, fear, and anxiety in the heart, and the inability to attain true satisfaction and peace.

Social and personal consequences: Idolatry can lead to social and personal moral corruption, family breakdown, social chaos and other problems, bringing negative social effects and personal disasters.

Therefore, idolatry is not only contrary to God's will, but also has serious consequences for people, affecting the individual's faith life and the harmonious development of society.

We pray together

Heavenly Father, we have come before you and thank You for providing us with the opportunity to pray. Today, we gather in Your presence with gratitude and obedience, asking for Your help and blessings.

Lord, we confess that You are the only true God, the Triune God, the eternal Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We repent of the worship and loss of other things that we may have had in the past. We are determined to worship You with all our hearts and minds, and to give only our hearts, spirits, and all that is to You.

Ask You to give us the wisdom and strength to stand in Your truth day in and day out, unaffected by the world and temptations. Strengthen our faith, keep us in the mind of Your goodness and faithfulness, and make our lives a glory and praise to You.

Lord, we also pray for those who do not yet know you, that you will open their eyes to your glory and truth. May they be able to know and worship the one true Triune God, just as we do.

Lord, we pray that Your grace and peace will come upon each of us to keep us steadfast in our faith forever. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

1 Kings 18

18:1 And it came to pass after a long time, in the third year, that the words of Jehohua came unto Eliah, saying, Go, that Ahab may see thee. I will rain on the earth.

18:2 And Elijah went, that Ahab might see him. At that time there was a great famine in Samaria.

18:3 Ahab called his ruler, Obadia. Ohbadia was in great fear of Yahweh,

18:4 When Jezebel killed Jehovah and the prophets of China, Obbadia hid a hundred prophets, fifty of them in a cave, and offered them bread and water.

18:5 Ahab said to Obadia, "Let us go all over the land, and come to every spring, and every brook, or find grass, that we may save the mules and horses, and that we will not destroy the livestock."

18:6 So they marched in separate places, with Ahab alone and Russia alone.

18:7 When Obadiah met Israel on the way, Obadiah recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "You are not my lord Eliah."

18:8 The reply was yes . Go and tell your master, "Israel is here."

18:9 And Obadiah said, What sin is thy servant, that thou wilt deliver me into the hand of Ahab, that he may slay me?

18:10 As the God of Yahweh, who lives, I send to you, in every nation and in every country. But if thou art not there, then thou shalt cause the people of that country and kingdom to swear, that thou shalt not be found.

18:11 Now you say, Go and tell your master, "Elijah is here."

18:12 lest as soon as I depart from you, the Spirit of Yahweh will take you to a land where I do not know the word. So I went and told Ahab, that if he could not find you, he would kill me. but the servant feared the Howard from his youth.

18:13 When Jezebel slew the prophets of Yahweh and China, I hid a hundred prophets of Jehohua, fifty or ten of them in a cave, and brought bread and water to them, and no one told me about it?

18:14 Now thou shalt say, Go and tell thy master, 'Elijah is here, and he will kill me.'

18:15 And Elijah said, As Yahweh of hosts, whom he serveeth for ever, I will bring Ahab to see me this day.

18:16 So Obadia went to meet Ahab and told him. So Ahab went to meet Eliah.

18:17 When Ahab saw Eliah, he said, Are you the one who brought plague to Israel?

18:18 And Eliah said, It is not me that afflicts Eliel, but thou and thy father's house. For ye forsake the commandments of Jehovah, and go after Baal.

18:19 Now send and gather together all the Israelites, and the four hundred and fifty prophets who serve Baal, and the four hundred prophets whom Jezebel provides for the Asherah, that they may go up to Mount Carmel to me.

18:20 So Ahab sent and gathered all the Israelites and the prophets up to Mount Carmel.

18:21 And Israel came and said unto all the people, How long wilt ye be of two minds? If Yahweh is God, then obey Yahweh. If Baal is God, obey him. The people did not answer a word .

18:22 And Israel said unto all the people, I am the only one who is a prophet of Jehovah. But the prophets of Baal numbered four hundred and fifty.

18:23 When we were given two calves, the prophet of Baal could choose one, cut it into pieces, and place it on the firewood, without lighting a fire. I also prepared a calf to put on the firewood, and I did not light a fire.

18:24 You call upon the name of your God, and I call upon the name of Jehovah. The god who responds to the fire is God. And the people replied, It was a very good word.

18:25 And Israel said unto the prophets of Baal, Choosing a calf and preparing it, call upon you the name of your God, but do not light a fire, when ye are many.

18:26 And they prepared the calves which they had obtained, and from morning till noon, they called upon Baal, saying, O Baal, answer us. but there was no sound, no response. They danced around the altar they had built.

18:27 When it was noon, Eliah laughed at them and said, "Call aloud." For he is God, whether he meditates, or goes aside, or walks, or sleeps, wake him up.

18:28 They cried out loudly, and according to their rules, they cut themselves with knives and spears, stabbed themselves, until they bled until they bleed.

18:29 From the afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice they cried wildly, but there was no sound, no answer, and no heed.

18:30 And Israel said unto all the people, Come ye unto me. And all the people came to him. And he restored the altar which had been destroyed.

18:31 And Eliah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Jacob's sons, (the word of Jehohua came unto Jacob, saying, Your name shall be Eliel).

18:32 And with these stones he shall build an altar in the name of the Hohwa, and shall dig a ditch round about it, that there may be two seams for the seed of grain.

18:33 And he set the wood on the altar, and cut the calf into pieces, and laid it upon the wood, and said to the people, Fill four buckets with water, and pour them on the burnt offering and the wood.

18:34 and again, for the second time. They fell for the second time. and again, for the third time. They fell for the third time.

18:35 And the waters flowed round about the altar, and the ditches were full of water.

18:36 When the time came for the evening sacrifice, Eliah the prophet came near, and said, "Abraham, Isaac, the God of Israel, Yahwawa, let them know today that you are the God of Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I am doing all these things at your command."

18:37 Yahweh, answer me, answer me. that this people may know that thou art God and that thou hast converted the hearts of this people.

18:38 So Jehohua sent down fires, and burned up the burnt offerings, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and boiled up the water that was in the ditches.

18:39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, Yahweh is God. Yahweh is God.

18:40 And Eliah said unto them, Hold the prophet of Baal, and not one of them shall escape. And they took them. And Israel took them to the river Gishon, and slew them there.

18:41 And Eliah said unto Ahab, Now thou shalt go up and eat and drink, for there is much rain to hear.

18:42 And Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel, and bowed himself to the ground, and lay his face on his knees.

18:43 And he said unto his servant, Go up and look to the sea. And the servant went up and looked, and said, Nothing. He said , you go and watch again . This is the case seven times.

18:44 And the seventh servant said, Behold, I saw a little cloud coming up from the sea, no bigger than a man's hand. And Eliah said, Go up and tell Ahab, that thy chariot shall be dismounted, that thou shalt not be hindered by the rain.

18:45 All of a sudden, the sky was dark and dark due to the wind and clouds, and it rained heavily. So Ahab went by chariot to Jezreel.

18:46 And the spirit of Jehohua descended upon Eliah, and he girded himself and ran before Ahab to the gate of Jezreel.

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Some important verses from 1 Kings 18:

18.1-6: This verse tells of Elijah's return to Israel, where he met with King Ahab and commanded him to gather all the prophets of Israel and the priests of Baal to Mount Carmel.

18.7-16: Ahab gathers the prophets and priests at Elijah's instructions, and they assemble on Mount Carmel, where Elijah asks them whether they should serve Jehovah or Baal. The people were silent, but the priests of Baal could not make his god manifest.

18.17-29: Elijah then sacrifices two oxen to God and asks God to appear to prove that he is the only true God. God answered Elijah's prayer and let fire fall from heaven and set the oxen on fire.

18.30-40: Elijah then kills the priests of Baal and tells the people to get rid of all false gods and false prophets and worship only Yahweh.

The stories in this chapter show the power of Elijah and God, as well as Elijah's courage and loyalty. He proved through prayer and action that God is the only true God and destroyed the

faith of false gods and false prophets, preserving the purity and integrity of the people of Israel. This was also a hallmark of Elijah's ministry, who often struggled with political and religious power, and in these struggles revealed the glory and power of God.

First Kings chapter 18 recounts an important event between the prophet Elijah and Ahab, the king of Israel at the time, the comparison between God and Baal that took place on Mount Carmel. In this chapter, Elijah challenges Israel's worship of the false god Baal and demonstrates God's power to rekindle Israel's faith in Jehovah, the only true God. Here are the main ideas of this chapter and what you can learn from reading it:

Central:

The central idea of this chapter is to describe the confrontation between the prophet Elijah and King Ahab of Israel on Mount Carmel, emphasizing the power of God and the fact that the Israelites should believe in the one true God, Jehovah, and reject the worship of the false god Baal.

After reading:

Revelation of the True God: On Mount Carmel, Elijah challenged Israel's comparison with Baal to prove that Yahweh was the only true God. God responded to Elijah's prayer through the fire of miracles, showing His power and His difference from the false god Baal.

Faithful and obedient servants of God: Elijah, a faithful and obedient prophet, spoke for God in this showdown and insisted that people believe in the one true God, Jehovah. This reminds us that faithful and obedient servants can be instruments of God to communicate His truth and love.

The Void of False Gods: In this chapter, it is shown that the worship of Baal was empty and that the god Baal could not answer their prayers. This reminds us not to worship false gods and that we should believe in Jehovah, the only true God who can answer our prayers.

The Power of Repentance: After this comparison, the Israelites felt the manifestation and power of God, and they repented and rejected the worship of false gods and turned to Jehovah. This

tells us that repentance is powerful, and that when people truly repent, God will answer their prayers.

Overall, 1 Kings 18 shows the showdown between the prophet Elijah and King Ahab of Israel on Mount Carmel. This chapter emphasizes the power of God and the need for the Israelites to believe in the one true God, Jehovah, and to reject the worship of the false god Baal. This chapter reminds us that faithful and obedient servants can be God's instruments to communicate His truth and love. It also warns us not to worship false gods and to believe in the one true God, Jehovah. When we truly repent and trust God, He will answer our prayers.