

THE DANGERS OF :

MODERN BAAL WORSHIP

...”How long halt (falter) 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.”



1 Kings 18:21



OUTLINE :

INTRODUCTION

WHAT WAS BAAL WORSHIP?

THE CONTEST ON MT. CARMEL

SERVING TWO GODS

MODERN FORMS OF BAAL

GOD CALLS FOR FAITHFULNESS

CONCLUSION / INVITATION²

KING AHAB

INTRODUCTION

- KING AHAB WAS A RUTHLESS AND EVIL.

1 KINGS 16:30

- ISRAEL KNEW GOD BUT CONTINUALLY TURNED TO WORSHIP IDOLS.

- ELIJAH (ALONE) STOOD AGAINST THE PROPHETS OF BAAL (450).

- WHILE WE THINK WE DO NOT BOW BEFORE IDOLS, BAAL WORSHIP STILL EXISTS.

WHAT WAS BAAL WORSHIP?

- BAAL MEANS “LORD” “MASTER” OR “OWNER”
- BAAL WAS A CANAANITE FERTILITY AND STORM GOD.
- BAAL WORSHIP INCLUDED:
 - *FRENZY DANCING- 1 KINGS 18:26
 - *CULT PROSTITUTION
 - *CHILD SACRIFICE- JEREMIAH 19:4
 - *SELF-MUTILATION- 1 KINGS 18:28

WHAT WAS BAAL WORSHIP?

- DESPITE GOD'S CLEAR COMMAND (**EXODUS 20:3**), ISRAEL REFUSED TO TURN FROM IDOLS.
- ABOUT 70 YEARS LATER, **JUDGES 2:12**, ISRAEL SHOWS NO PROGRESS IN GIVING UP THEIR IDOLS.

THE CONTEST ON MOUNT CARMEL:

1 KINGS 18

- GOD (ELIJAH)
- 1 SERVANT

BAAL (PRIESTS)
450 SERVANTS

1 TEST

- 1 SACRIFICE
- PRAYED ONCE

1 SACRIFICE
CALLED MANY

1 RESULT

◦ **GOD SENT ALL-CONSUMING FIRE**

TRYING TO SERVE TWO GODS :

- ELIJAH MAKES THE CHALLENGE MORE DIFFICULT!



TRYING TO SERVE TWO GODS :

- QUESTION: **1 KINGS 18:21** “HOW LONG WILL YOU (HALT/FALTER/HOBBLE) BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS?”
- GOD HAS NEVER ACCEPTED DIVIDED LOYALTY.
- GOD DEMANDS A CLEAR DECISION. **JOSHUA 24:15;**
MATTHEW 10:34-35
- THERE IS ONLY 1 WHO IS WORTHY. **2 TIMOTHY 3:16;**
◦ **COLOSSIANS 2:8**

MODERN FORMS OF BAAL

- POSSESSIONS- MATTHEW 6:24
- PLEASURES- 2 TIMOTHY 3:4
- SUCCESS- JEREMIAH 17:5
- PEOPLE- LUKE 14:26
 - **WE COMMIT SPIRITUAL ADULTERY WHEN WE FOLLOW IDOLS**

GOD STILL CALLS FOR FAITHFULNESS

****WE MUST REMOVE OUR IDOLS TO PLEASE GOD****

STEP 1: EQUIP YOURSELF FOR THE JOB. **EPH. 6:14**

STEP 2: TEAR DOWN ALL IDOLS. **JUDGES 6:25**

STEP 3: MAKE THE BREAK. **GALATIANS 5:16**

STEP 4: BUILD THE RIGHT ALTAR. **JUDGES 6:26**

STEP 5: STAY DEVOTED. **COLOSSIANS 3:16; GAL 4:9**

CONCLUSION

“BE NOT CARRIED ABOUT WITH DIVERS AND STRANGE DOCTRINES. FOR IT IS A GOOD THING THAT THE HEART BE ESTABLISHED WITH GRACE; NOT WITH MEATS; WHICH HAVE NOT PROFITED THEM THAT HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED THEREIN.”

HEBREWS 13:9

WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?

Have you joined God's side?

Hear the gospel

Believe the gospel

Repent from sin

Confess the name of Christ

Submit to baptism

Live Righteousness

Is there a need to be restored?

Repent from sin

Confess sin to God

Pray to be forgiven

Live Faithfully