

The Empty Promise of Evil

I Kings 18:20-40

1. **Intro** – How long will you limp between two opinions?

2. **Baal/God**

a) **Baal & Asherah**

i) Baal Fertility god, storms, rain, agriculture

ii) Love of self and the world, but more strict focus – “lusts of natural man.:

i. AE 730:40 Lover of Baal is said to signify “things of the natural man that are loved selfishly—specifically, lusts (toxic cravings) and the falsehoods that come from them.”

i) Asherah – Accompanying falsity (Ashera poles.)

b) Lay not u for yourselves....

c) Prophets of Baal: Hell’s Propagandists (doctrine so to speak)

5. **Bull on Altar** = Natural Life (no description of how)

Did all the heavy lifting, plowed fields, pulled the carts

6. **Calling down fire**

a) “Love in essence is spiritual fire.” TCR 35, CL 380

b) DLW 1 Love is our life.

c) gives us a sense of being alive, happiness, joy.

7. **Futility of Baal Worship** - evil

a) Dancing/hopping – root connotation “limp” or “hobble.”

b) But *there was* no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

i) truth, good, use (nothing learned, gained, nothing happened)

8. **Elijah’s Mockery**

i. meditating, busy, journey, sleeping – Absent, Nothing there!

9. **Cutting themselves** - I’ll do anything for that.../hurt ourselves/exhausted

ELIJAH

10. **Come to me.**

Go to Word, approach the Lord with our full attention, hearts

“Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened.... Matt. 11:28

11. **Rebuilding the Altar**

a) Broken/repared (healed)

b) 12 Stones

i) Knowledge from the Word

ii) “Build on the rock....”

c) Ordered

12. Pouring on Water – soaked in truth

- ii. Possible thoughts of prophets/our thoughts
 - a) Wet Blanket/put a damper on things/all washed up
 - i) A person in recovery
 - ii) A young man who refuses to bow to peer pressure
 - iii) young man or woman who wants to wait for marriage

13. Elijah Prays

- a) “Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the Lord God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back *to You* again.” (“answer me” is closer to meaning)
- a) Sincerity, urging, please Lord, please.
- b) Let it be known today that you are God, I do these things at your command.

14. Fire comes down - vivification

15. Prophets executed

- a) Evil wiped out, at least the type we have focused on.

16. Conclusion

We know the limp.

Ask yourself, “what good is this Baal or calling him into your life. Has it ever really worked? It has not and cannot. All we get is the empty promise of evil, and what we end up with is unhappiness and hurt.

Come near to the Lord, rebuild your altar, pray, really pray for him to come into your life. And if you do, that Divine love, that life itself will descend upon you.

Like fire from heaven.

We close with the words of John the Baptist:

¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

I Kings 18:20-40; Matthew 6:19-21; AE 730:40