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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible: Page 266

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in bold faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the lighter faced text.

Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent.

- 1 Kings 18:21, NLT



1. The false gods and their followers:

A. They are _____.

1 Kings 18:22, NASB95 -²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men."

B. They are _____.

1 Kings 18:28, NASB95 -²⁸ So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.

C. They are _____.

1 Kings 18:29, NIV -²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

2. The True God and His followers:

A. They are comparatively _____.

1 Kings 18:22, NIV -²² Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets."

B. They are deliberately _____.

1 Kings 18:30, NLT -³⁰ Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down...³⁶ At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command."

C. They _____ divinely favored.

1 Kings 18:37-38, TLB -³⁷ O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.³⁸ Then, suddenly, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even evaporated all the water in the ditch!

1 Kings 18:42-45, NLT -⁴² So Ahab went to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees.⁴³ Then he said to his servant, "Go and look out toward the sea." The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, "I didn't see anything." Seven times Elijah told him to go and look.⁴⁴ Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, "I saw a little cloud about the size of a man's hand rising from the sea." Then Elijah shouted, "Hurry to Ahab and tell him, 'Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don't hurry, the rain will stop you!'"⁴⁵ And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm, and Ahab left quickly for Jezreel.

- Rain was always a symbol of "blessings" to Israel.
- The Hebrew word for "water" is MAY-um.
- The Hebrew word for "rain" is ah-MAY-um.
- The Hebrew word of "heaven" is she-MAY-um.

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION: Why the emphasis on "rain" and not "fire?"

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1. Doing the right thing is often the hardest thing to do.
2. Doing the right thing is often the most unpopular thing to do.
3. Doing the right thing is always the right thing to do.
4. Your true God will bring rain (i.e. blessings) in His time—follow Him!