



Elijah vs Baal & Ahab

1 Kings 18



Discuss

1. What do you think are some of the biggest challenges facing the next generation?
2. What are a couple of ways that they might overcome these challenges?



Discuss

Luther's definition of a GOD:

“Anything on which your heart relies and depends,
I say, that is really your God.”



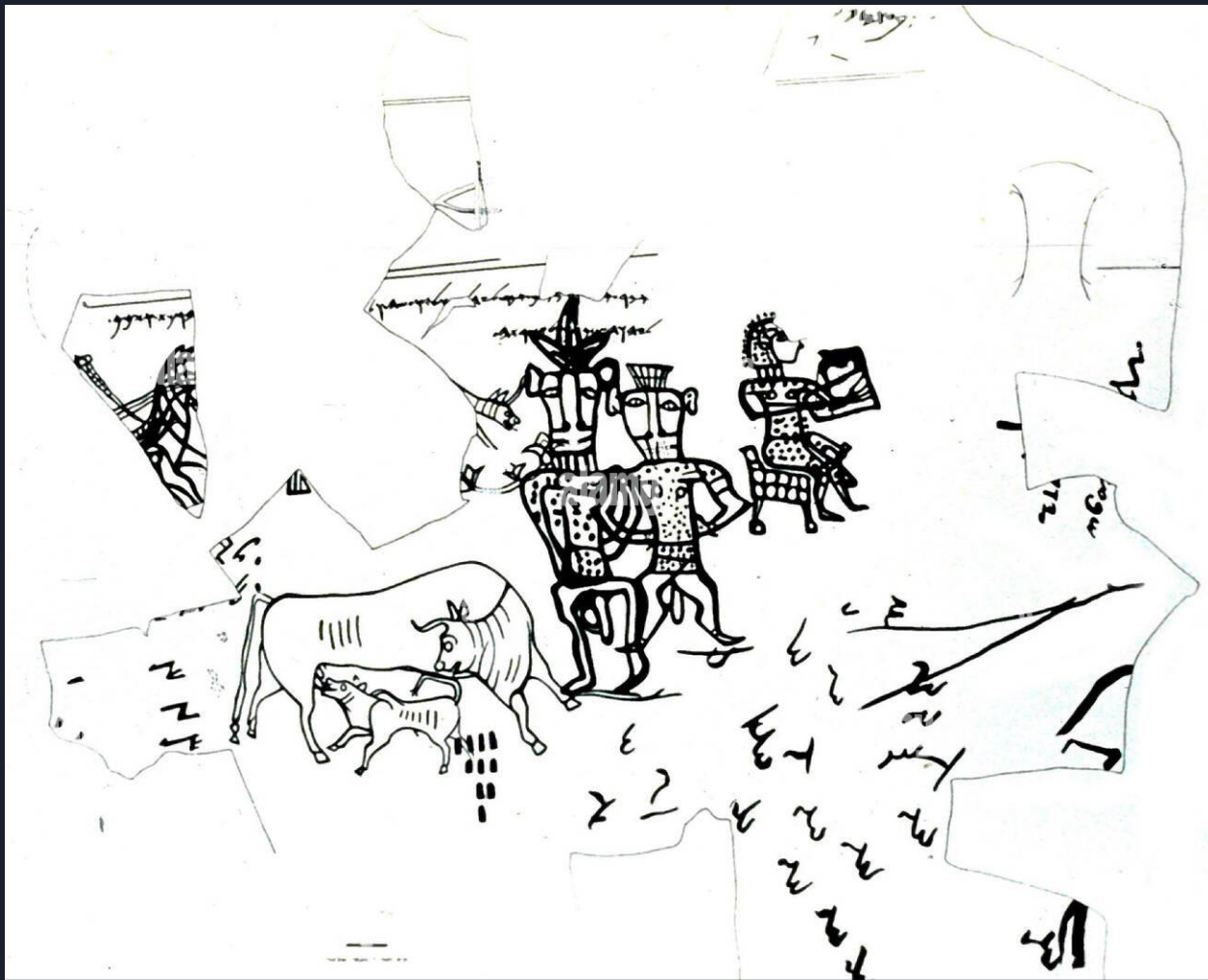
Background

1. Drought was a significant punishment for Israel for two reasons:
 1. Baal was the Canaanite god of rain.
 2. Deuteronomy listed drought as a punishment for abandoning the Lord.



Background

2. Israel's worship in this time BLENDED the LORD and Baal.



“May you be blessed by Yahweh of Samaria and by his Asherah. May Yahweh bless you and keep you and be with you.”



Background

3. In response to this idolatry, Elijah preached MONOTHEISM.



1 Kings 18:1–16

1. What would three years of drought do to a nation?
2. It appears that the drought has HUMBLED
AHAB.



1 Kings 18:1–16

3. Notice the details. How is Obadiah described?

4. Notice that Ahab is searching for water BY HIMSELF!

5. How does Obadiah come across in this account?



1 Kings 18:17–46

6. What does Ahab's question reveal about him?
7. The plural of "Baals" is likely Elijah's way of saying that Baal isn't SIGNIFICANT.



1 Kings 18:17–46

8. “Opinions” in the ESV is a smoothing over of a Hebrew idiom or analogy. Literally, it’s “sticks” or “crutches.” Elijah is calling their idolatry an AILMENT.

9. Elijah is the only prophet because the rest are in hiding for fear of Jezebel and Ahab.



1 Kings 18:17–46

10. Note Elijah's insistence that there are two options before them that cannot be mixed. Why might Polytheism have been attractive to the Israelites? Is monotheism a hard message for the world to hear today?



1 Kings 18:17–46

11. The prophets of Baal assumed their gods were like HUMANS.

12. How would you describe the prophets' attempts to contact their god?



1 Kings 18:17–46

13. Note the “Covenant” inclusions here. Jacob is named and 12 pours of water.

14. What does Elijah’s approach to this challenge reveal about God? And how is it different from what we see about Baal?



1 Kings 18:17–46

15. Why do you think it was necessary to slaughter the prophets?



1 Kings 18:17–46

16. Do you think Ahab trusted Elijah's promise of rain in verse 41?

17. Through this account, we see that Elijah is a prophet who PRAYS.



Closing Discussion

1. How might we be tempted in idolatry like the Israelites? How might it be different for us?



Closing Discussion

2. What surprised you about this story of the Lord defeating the prophets through his servant Elijah?



Closing Discussion

3. Do you have any lingering questions?