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"Miracles"

A supernatural temporary suspension of the laws of nature where God arouses our sense of awe and **bears witness to Himself.**







2 KINGS 5:1 NIV - NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

"Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram."



3 QUESTIONS:

- 1. Do we really have to make a choice?
- 2. How do we recognize a false god?
- 3. What makes the true God different?







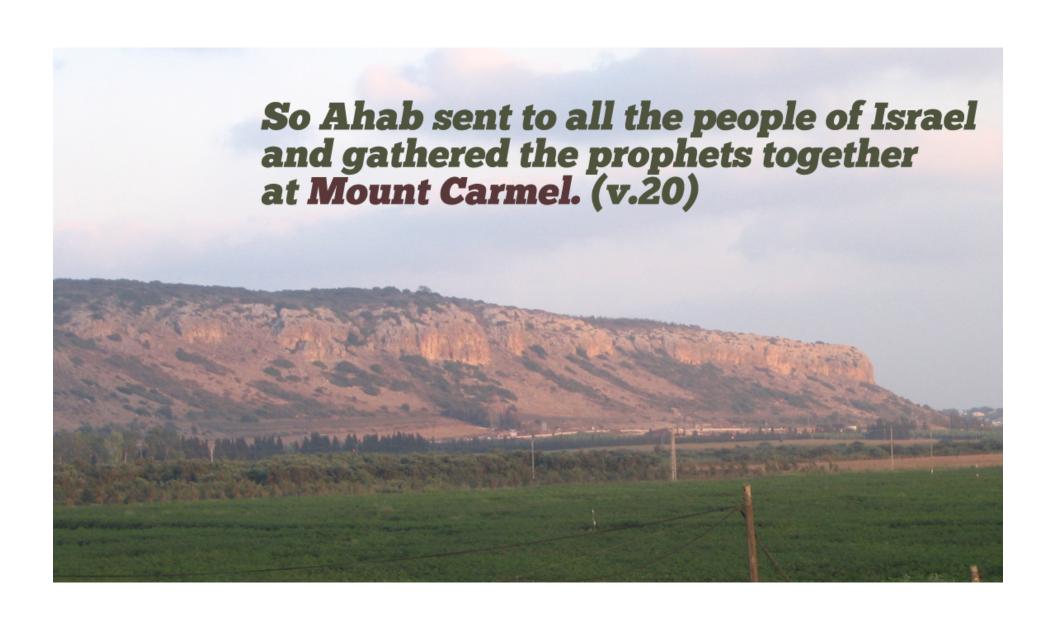
1 KINGS 18:17-19 ESV – ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore



1 KINGS 18:17-19 ESV – ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."





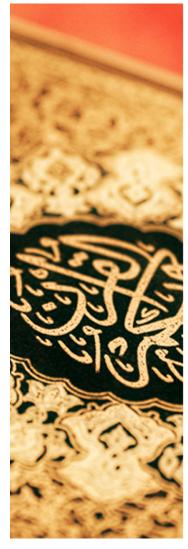
1 KINGS 18:20-21 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

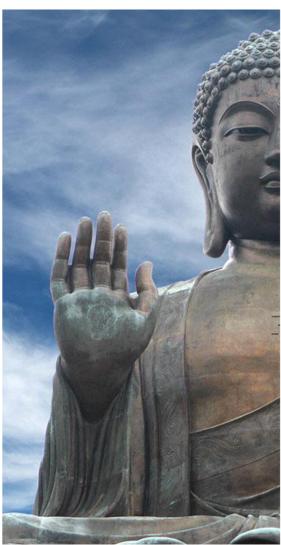
"So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word."

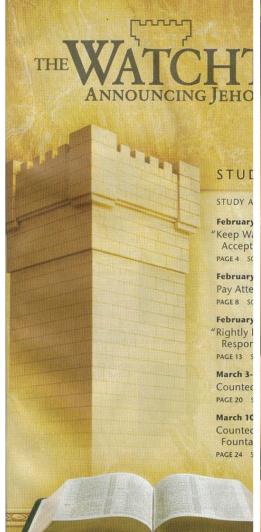


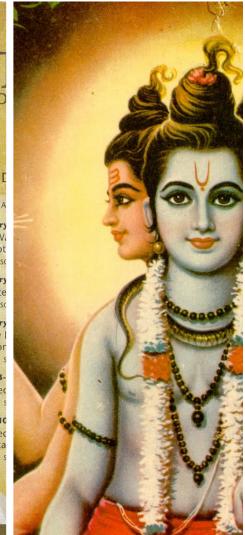
QUESTION 1:

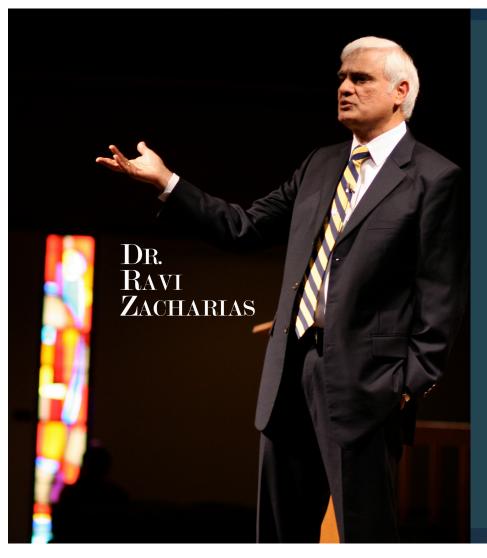
"Do we really have to make a choice?"











"In some cultures people love their neighbors; in some cultures they eat them. Both groups think that they're right. Let me ask you- Do you have a preference?"



QUESTION 1:

"Do we really have to make a choice?"





1 KINGS 18:23-24 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. And you call



1 KINGS 18:23-24 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."



1 KINGS 18:25-26 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it." And they took the bull that was given them, and they



1 KINGS 18:25-26 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made."



1 KINGS 18:27-29 ESV – ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." And they cried aloud and cut themselves after



1 KINGS 18:27-29 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

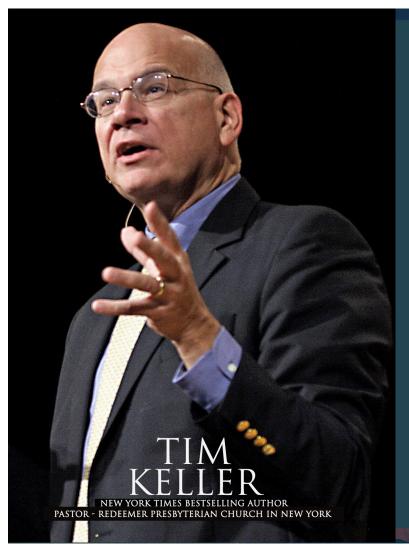
"their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention."



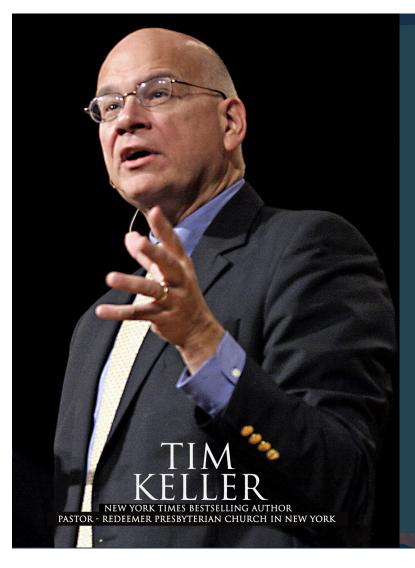
QUESTION 2:

"How do we recognize a false god?"

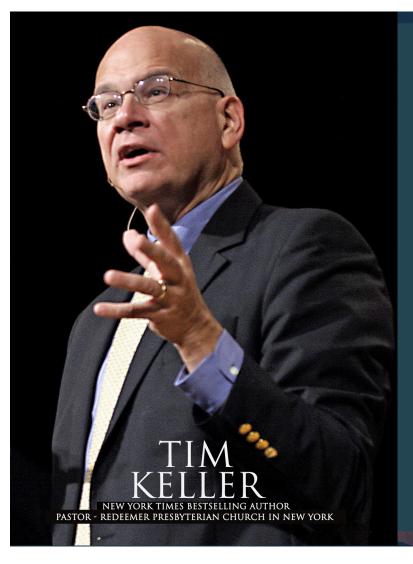




"What thing if you lost it could almost mean that you would lose the will to live? What thing if you lost it could mean that almost all significance and value would be drained out of you life – Whatever that thing is, the bible calls it an idol- a counterfeit god- an alternate pseudo salvation.



"An idol is anything more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, or identity. An idol is anything more important than God for your sense of self-worth, for your sense of significance and value,



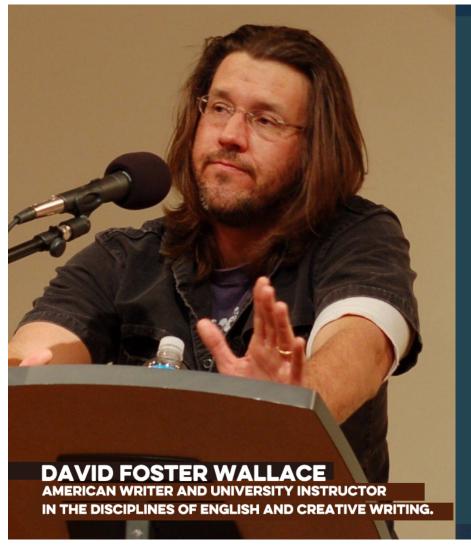
"and for your sense of security. An idol is anything you love more than God, or rest your heart in more than God."



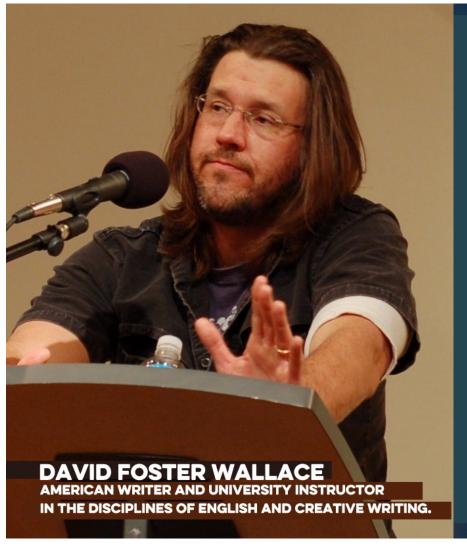


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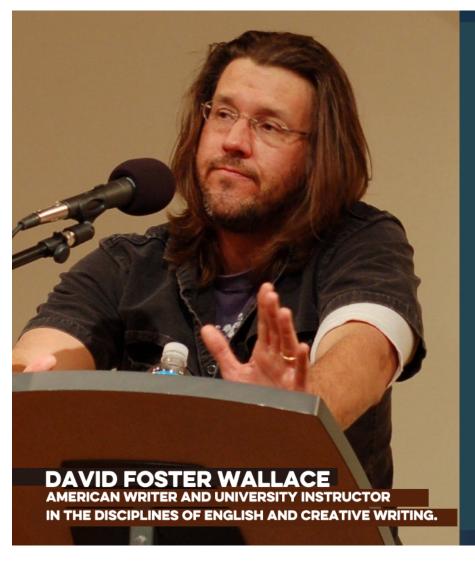
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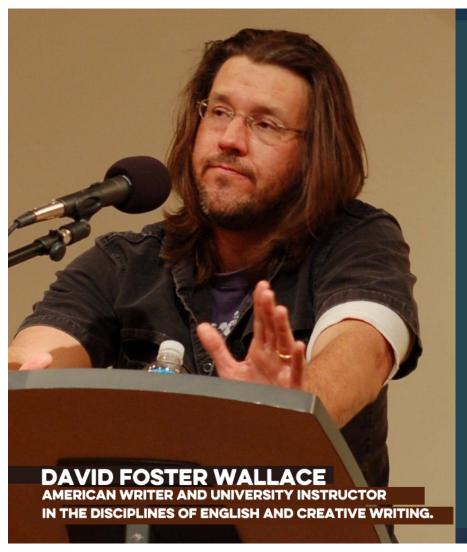
"In the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship -- be it JC or Allah, be



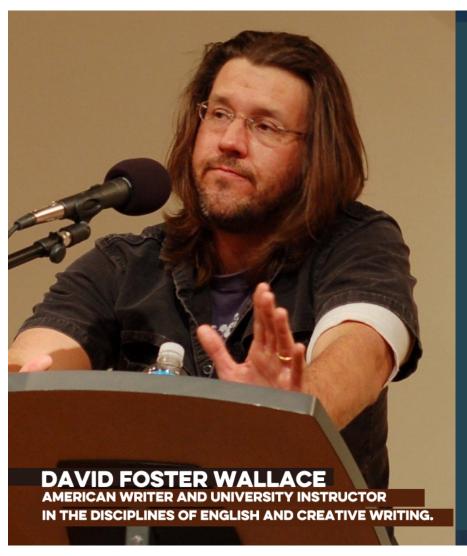
"it YHWH or the Wiccan Mother Goddess, or the Four Noble Truths, or some inviolable set of ethical principles -- is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough,



"never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you."



"Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.



"But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious."



QUESTION 3: "What makes the True GOD different?"



1 KINGS 18:33-39 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water."



1 KINGS 18:33-39 ESV - ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know



1 KINGS 18:33-39 ESV – ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

"that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God."









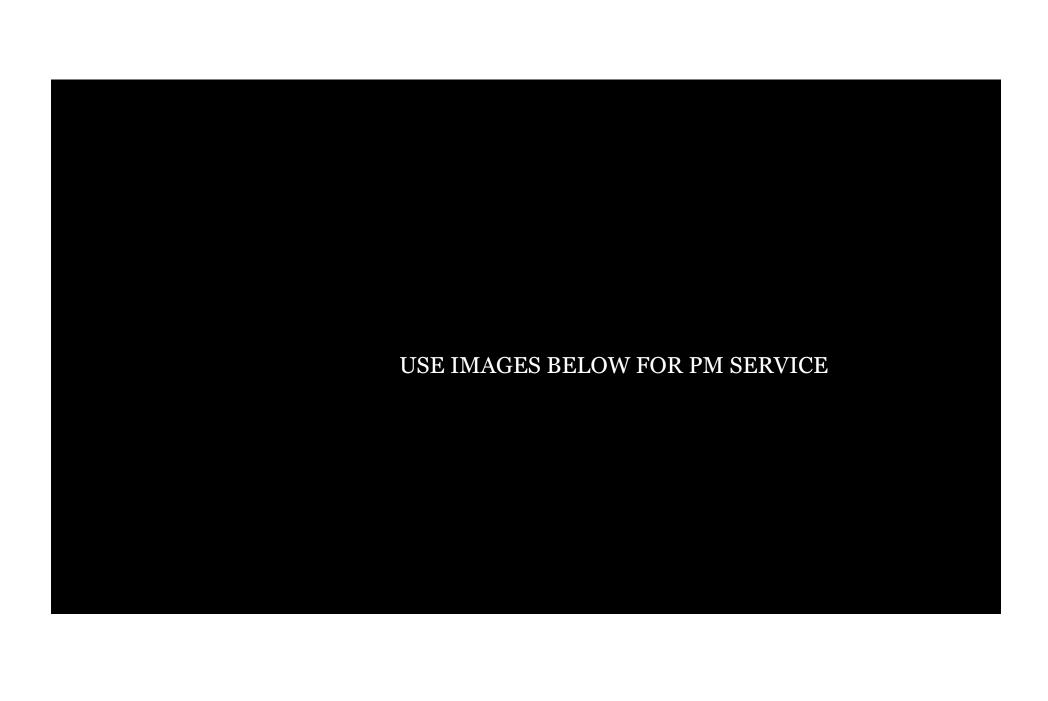






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