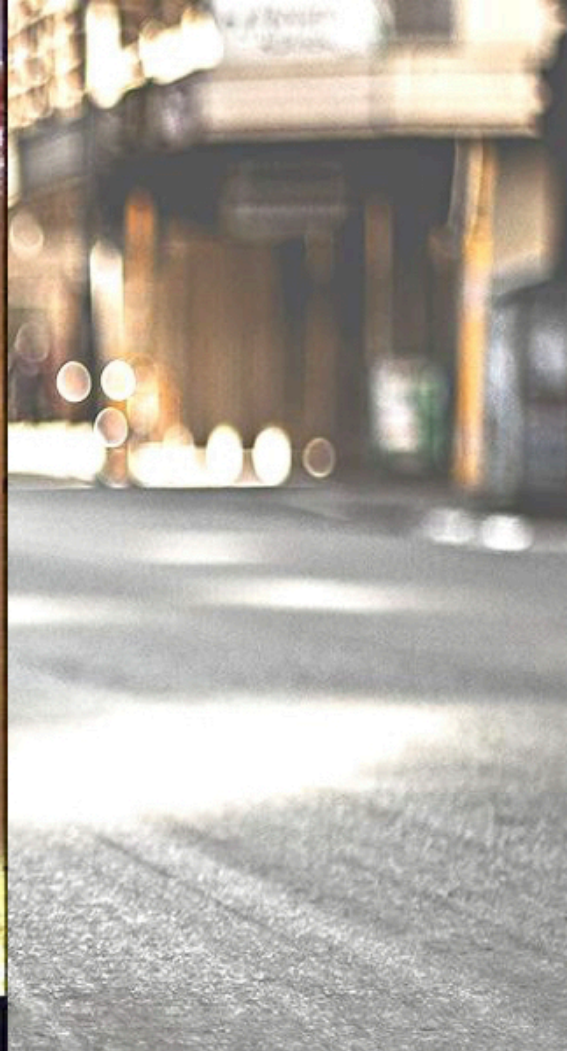


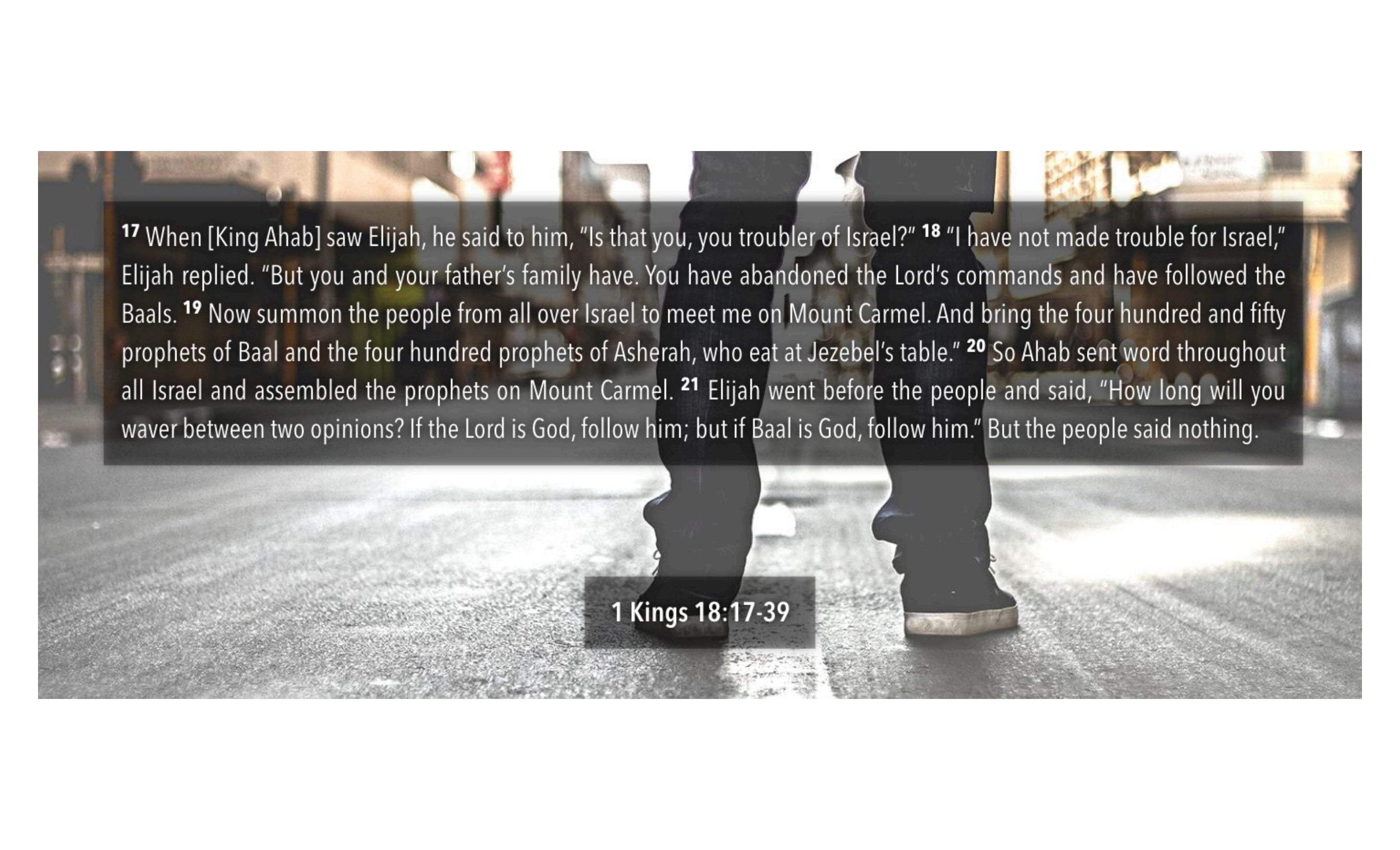


CHOICES

THE MOMENTS THAT CHANGE LIVES





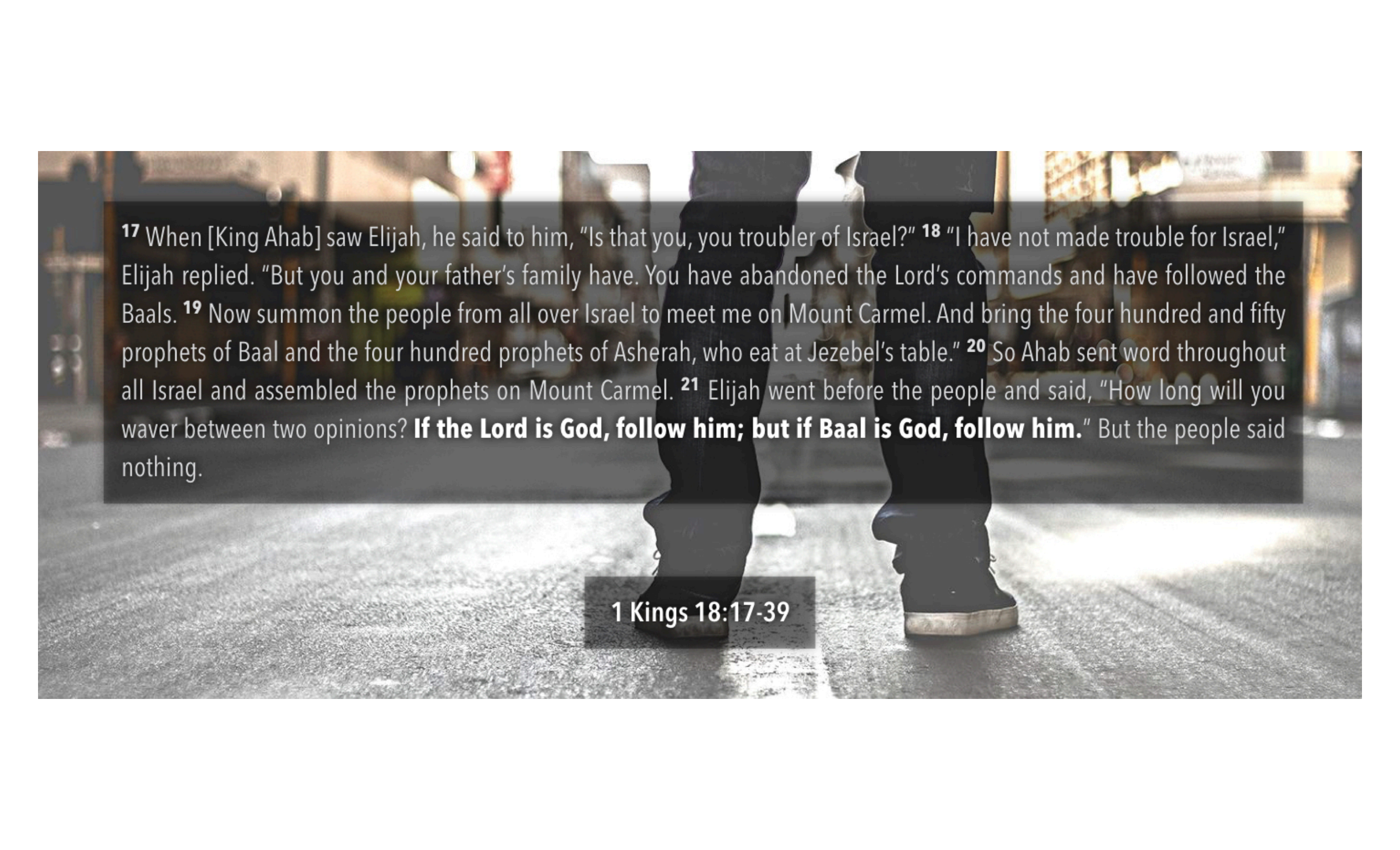


17 When [King Ahab] saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" **18** "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. **19** Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." **20** So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. **21** Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

1 Kings 18:17-39

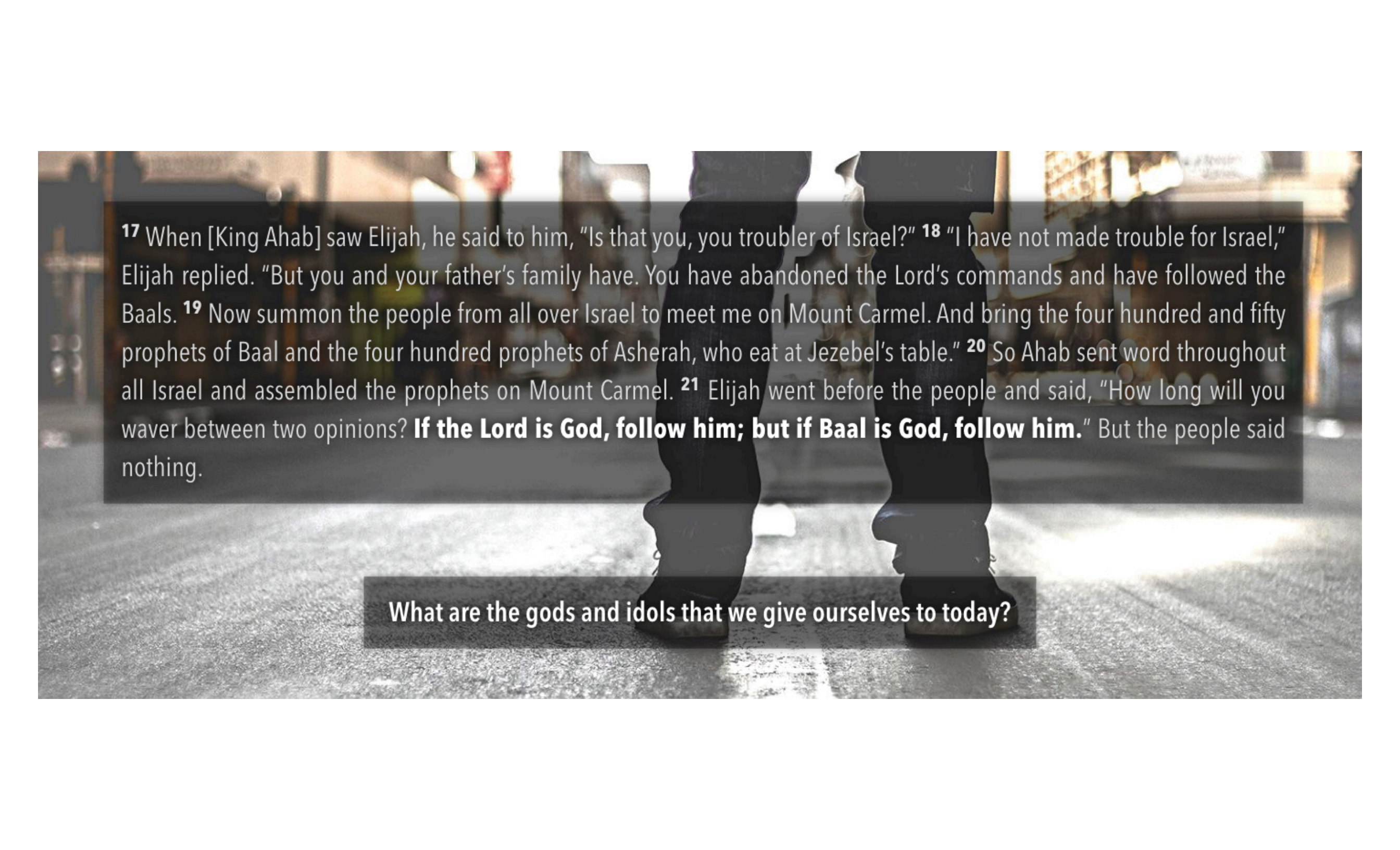


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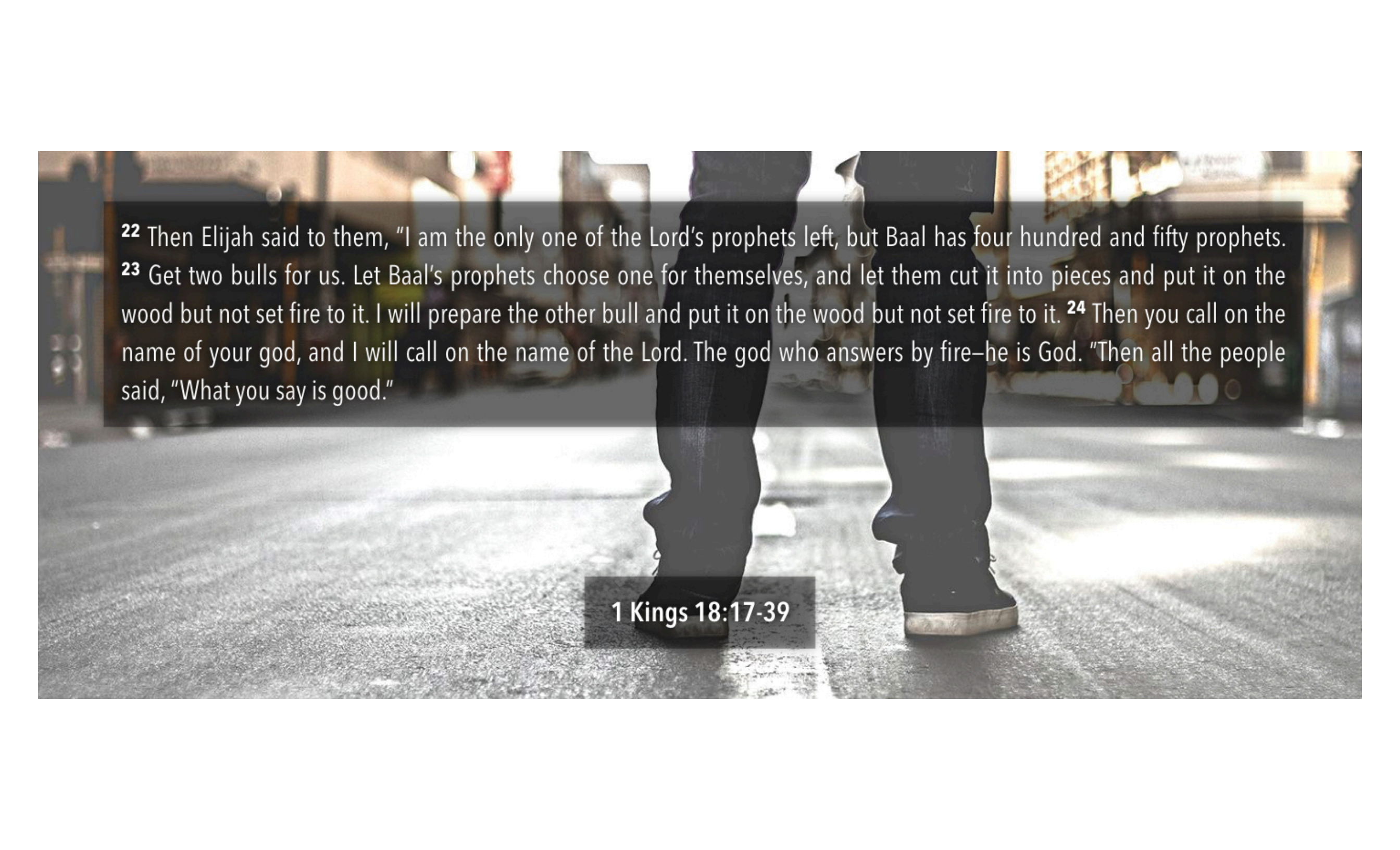
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1 Kings 18:17-39



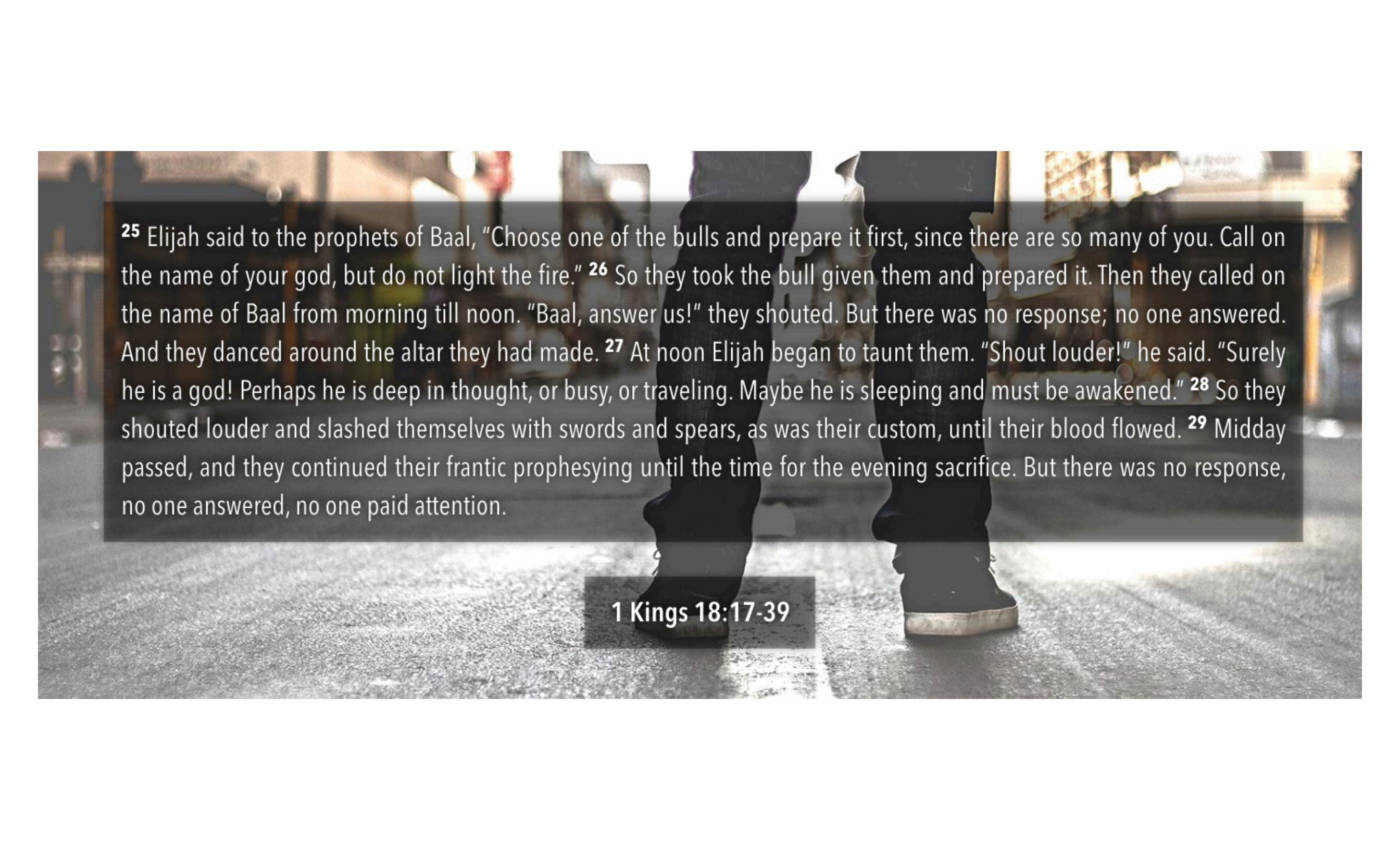
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What are the gods and idols that we give ourselves to today?

A low-angle, close-up photograph of a person's legs from the knees down. They are wearing dark, possibly black, pants and black sneakers with a light-colored sole. The person is standing on a paved city sidewalk. The background is a blurred city street with buildings and other people, suggesting an urban environment. The lighting is bright, likely from the sun, creating shadows on the pavement.

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.
23 Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. **24** Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

1 Kings 18:17-39



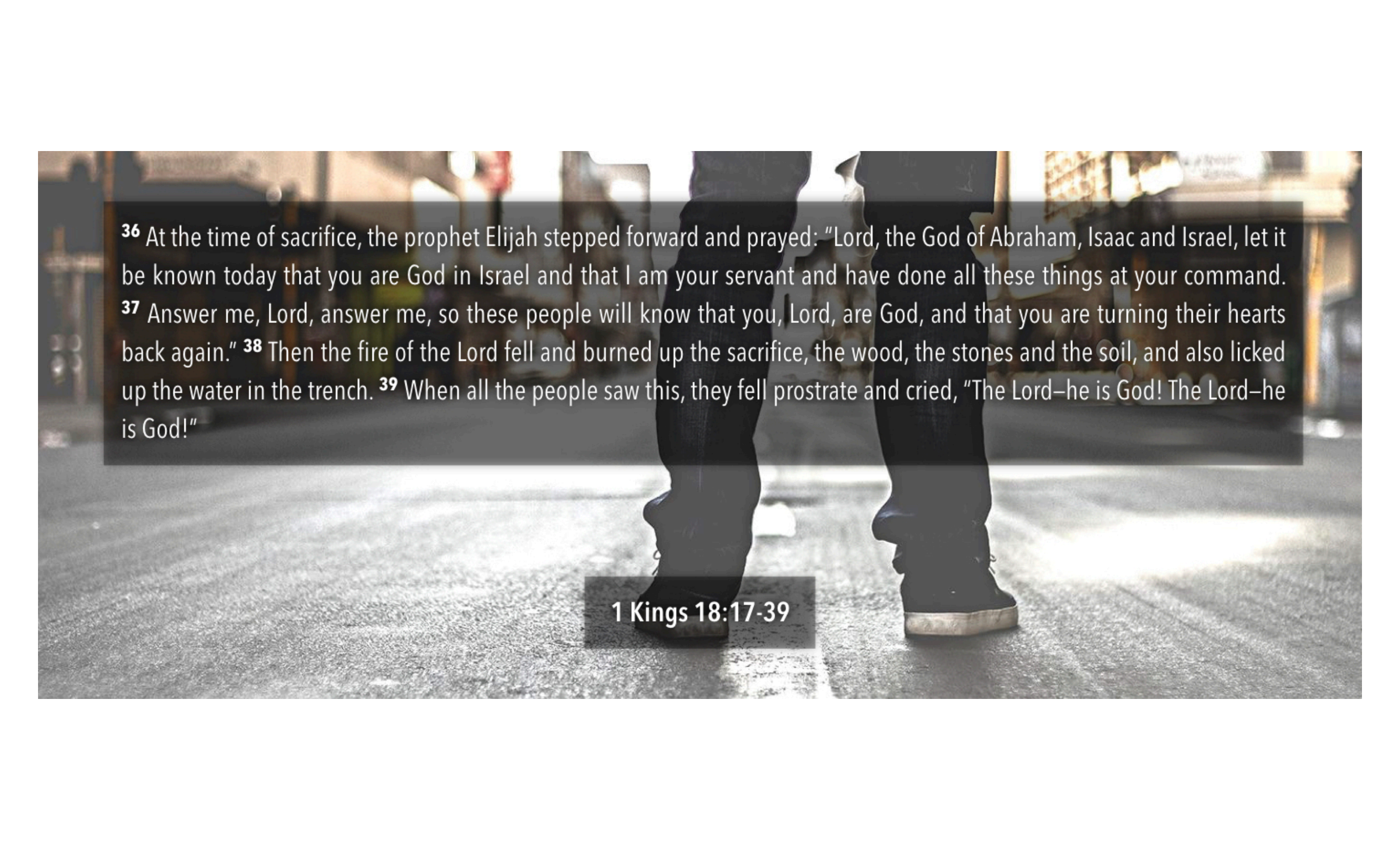
²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. ²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. 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.

1 Kings 18:17-39



RELATIONSHIPS

#YASUMMERNIGHTS

A low-angle, close-up photograph of a person's legs from the knees down, standing on a city street at night. The person is wearing dark-colored pants and black sneakers with white soles. The background is a blurred city street with lights and buildings, suggesting an urban environment. The lighting is dim, with some highlights on the pavement and the person's shoes.

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. **37** Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." **38** Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. **39** When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

1 Kings 18:17-39



RESPONSE

To declare that "The Lord—he is God!"

What are the idols or gods I am giving myself to—whether consciously or unconsciously? What would it look like to choose to follow God before anything else?

What are the idols and gods that those around me are giving themselves to? How can I help them see that only God is God?