

THE STORY
God's Messengers
I Kings 17-19
Chapter 15 January 7, 2024
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Do you like labels that warn you?

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. 16 But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 NIV

Along came a king who was even worse.

³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria I Kings 16:29-33 NIV

God sends Elijah to King Ahab with a message.

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." I Kings 17:1 NIV

The Story is all about the glory of God.

In idolatry God's glory is robbed and given to another.

- 1 What are you most disappointed with?
- 2 What do you sacrifice your time and money for?
- 3 What do you worry about?
- 4 Where do you go when you get hurt?
- 5 What makes you angry?
- 6 What brings you joy?
- 7 Whose applause do you long for?

Why would God give you happiness when you have said no to Him and looked for happiness in another?

When God is not on the throne of your life, your life will not work.

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. I Kings 18:21 NIV

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. I Kings 18:28-29 NIV

Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." I Kings 18:37 NIV

He prayed that God would do this for His glory.

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 38-39 NIV

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God still loves us.

We offend God and He offers to pay for our sins and restore our relationship.

The message of the Story is if you find yourself having displaced God and you are worshipping other gods, you can stop today and repent, return to your relationship with God.