NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



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The War of the Worldviews

Lesson 3 • 1Kings 16:30-17:1

Elijah Remained Loyal in the Worst of Times

- King Solomon's ***idolatry*** had led to a ***DIVIDED KINGDOM***. *(1Kings 11:1-12:24)*
- King Jeroboam's ***heresy*** had led to a ***DEPRAVED N. KINGDOM***. *(1Kings 12:25-14:20)*
- King Ahab's ***apostasy*** led to a spiritually ***DEVASTATED KINGDOM***. *(1Kings 16:29-22:53)*

"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."

The idolatry, heresy, and apostasy led to instability, monotony, and increasing depravity as Israel's Kings competed to win the Bigger Sinner Contest!



The Result Was a War of Worldviews: TEAM <u>BAAL</u> vs. TEAM <u>YAHWEH</u>

Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long are you going to be paralyzed by indecision? If the LORD is the true God, then follow him, but if Baal is, follow him!" But the people did not say a word. 1Kings 18:21

The War of the Worldviews

1. TEAM Baal

➤ KING AHAB: The Apostate Covenant **<u>BREAKER</u>**

"Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him." 1Kings 16:30

Ahab Was a Covenant Breaker When…

1) He ***enjoyed winning*** the *"Biggest Sinner Contest"* over all of Israel's kings. *1Kings 16:29-31a* ***breaks*** *Deuteronomy 17:14-20*

2) He ***married Jezebel***, who was a pagan princess and priestess of the false god, Baal. *1Kings 16:31b* ***breaks*** *Deuteronomy 17:18*

3) He not only married a Baal worshipper, he ***totally became one***. *1Kings 16:32-33* ***breaks*** *Deuteronomy 28:1-14*

4) He led his entire kingdom into ***spiritually defying*** the LORD. *1Kings 16:34* ***breaks*** *Joshua 6:26-27*

Under the Influence of Ahab, the People of Israel…

☑ **Denied** the *character of the living God!*

☑ **Defied** the *commandments of Israel's Law Giver!*

☑ **Despised** the *covenant of the LORD, the promise keeping God!*

The Blessings for Obeying the Covenant of Moses (Deut 28:1-14) and the Curses for Defying the Covenant (Deut 28:15-68), Especially the Withholding of **<u>RAIN</u>** *on the Land (Deut 11:8-17)*

➤ QUEEN JEZEBEL: The Aggressive Baal **<u>WORSHIPPER</u>**

1Kings 16:31-33

1) The **<u>ENTRANCE</u>** of Baal Worship – *A Canaanite Cult with Many Local Varieties*
Numbers 22; Judges 6

2) The **<u>ESSENCE</u>** of Baal Worship – *Pagan Fertility God of Rain, Storms, Clouds with Sexual Immorality as Worship*

Polytheism of MULTIPLICITY + Power of FERTILITY + Promise of PROSPERITY + Problem of MORTALITY + Perversion of IMMORALITY

3) The **ELIMINATION** of Baal Worship – *King David Takes Care of Business as a Man After God's Own Heart.*

4) The **EXPLOSION** of Baal Worship – *King Ahab Marries Queen Jezebel Who Encourages Baal Worship to the Extreme.*

Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife incited him. He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the sons of Israel. 1Kings 21:25-26

5) The **EXTENT** of Baal Worship – *It Was Deep and Wide…and Enduring!*

6) The **EXTERMINATION** by Baal Worship – *Jezebel Nearly Eliminated Everyone Who Remained Loyal to Yahweh.*

7) The **EXILE** Due to Baal Worship – *The LORD Finally Sends Israel into Exile Due to Their Rebellious Apostasy.*

"Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, 'Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.' However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. They rejected His statutes and His covenant…They forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him. So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah. 2Kings 17:13-18

8) The **EXISTENCE** of Baal Worship Today – *The Spirit of Jezebel Is Still a Very Real Threat to the Churches of Jesus Christ.*

"But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess,
and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness,
and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. Revelation 2:19-24; esp. 20-22

➤ FALSE PROPHETS: The Agreeable Lying **DECEIVERS**

The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." But Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." 1Kings 22:1-40, esp. 8

➤ MAJORITY of ISRAELITES: The Apathetic Fence-**SITTERS**

"How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." 1Kings 18:21

2. TEAM Yahweh

➤ **ELIJAH** and HIS DISCIPLE, ELISHA – *1Kings 19:9-18*

"I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." – Elijah, *1Kings 19:10, 14*

➤ **TRUE** PROPHETS of YAHWEH who only speak when God speaks and only say what God says and their prophecies always came true – *Deuteronomy 13:1-18; 18:20-22; 1Kings 22:1-40; 2Kings 17:13-18*

➤ **SMALL** but LOYAL REMNANT from both Jew and Gentile – *Romans 11:1-6*

In the end, TEAM Yahweh is a TEAM of **ONE** – ***"Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!"*** *(1Kings 18:39)*

Lessons to Learn and Live | Winning the War of the Worldviews

- ☐ **Persevere with a Living Faith:** *God always preserves, protects and provides for His loyal remnant!*
- ☐ **Persevere in Loving Obedience:** *All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Get off the fence!*
- ☐ **Persevere in Trusting Scripture:** *The living Word from the living God rules with sovereign authority over all things! Feed on it!*
- ☐ **Persevere in Discerning Error:** *In the days ahead, the number of false teachers. false prophets, and false Christs will increase! The spirit of Jezebel is alive – seeking to defile the churches of King Jesus! Stay alert! Learn to discern! Do not tolerate her! Repent!*