

52. Find Mount Carmel on the map in Appendix A. Carmel is the Hebrew word for garden. Now read paragraphs 5 and 14-16 of Appendix C. Based on this information (as well as everything else you know about Baalism) discuss why Elijah may have chosen Mount Carmel as the location for the showdown between Baal and the LORD.
53. Jezebel was a fervent devotee of Baal who actively persecuted those who worshipped the LORD. By contrast, King Ahab and many of the people wanted a “middle ground” that would allow them to worship Baal *and* the LORD (and the golden calf?) or to worship the two in a syncretistic manner. Was Elijah’s position on religious tolerance closer to Jezebel’s or Ahab’s? Think about the situation that exists in American society in which accepting the truth claims of all religions is considered a virtue while the commitment to Christ as the *only* way to salvation is called bigotry. What implications does this have for Christians living in the polytheistic culture of modern America?
54. According to verse 21, how did the people react to Elijah’s accusation of wavering (literally “limping”) between Baal and the LORD? Why do you think they reacted like this? When do we Christians sometimes behave in the same way?
55. By what sign did Elijah say the true God would be known? When had the LORD revealed Himself in this way before?

56. 1 Kings 18:27 says that “Elijah began to taunt” the prophets of Baal. Compare Elijah’s methodology to the way Paul addressed a gathering of Athenians in Acts 17:16-34. Discuss these different approaches. Is it ever proper for Christians to mock the beliefs of non-Christians?

57. Describe the worship of the prophets of Baal. How was their *style* of worship dictated by the *substance* of their beliefs? How do Christians sometimes worship like the prophets of Baal?

58. Why did Elijah drench his sacrifice with water? What was the source of his confidence? How did everything Elijah had experienced in the Kerith Ravine and Zarephath prepare him for this moment?

59. What did Elijah pray for in 1 Kings 18:36-37? What does the last part of verse 37 teach about repentance?

60. What was the LORD teaching Israel when He sent fire to consume Elijah’s sacrifice? What was He teaching them when He sent rain and ended the drought?

61. Why is it significant that Elijah ran ahead of the king's chariot to Jezreel? How was this act an example of God's grace to Ahab?

Where is Jesus?

62. Ahab called Elijah the "troubler of Israel." In what ways was Jesus also a troubler of Israel?
63. In 1 Kings 18:27, Elijah sarcastically suggested that Baal may have been asleep. Read Mark 4:37-41. Does Christ sleep?
64. Read Matthew 10:32-33. How do these words of Jesus help us to understand the annihilation of the prophets of Baal recorded in 1 Kings 18:40?