

# The Lord, He Is God



## Focus thought

God is God alone and has power

## Focus verse

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said,  
The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. (1 Kings 18:39)

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## Focus verse

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the definitive article

## Culture connection

- A situation appears hopeless but step out in faith and pray.
- The quality of leadership determines the path people will take. Nothing can override faith in God.

# The Lord, He is God



## Samaria had Turned to Follow Baal

- Solomon's increasing marriage to "strange women" meant that a united Israel began to experience a spiritual decline. He had an obligation to worship their gods.
- Ahab ascended the throne of Israel as the seventh king (874-853). His father Omri, built Samaria, made it the capital, gave his name to the Northern Kingdom and became infamous as the most wicked king up to that time. Ahab his son, outperformed him. (1 Kings 16:22-27).

*And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him (1 Kings 16:30-31).*

## Fifth Dispensation – Legal (LAW)

**Moses – Red Sea – Marah – Elim- Rephidim, Sinai, KB, 40 years wandering in the wilderness**



**Joshua – the invasion and conquest of Canaan**

The Judges – **Israel demands a king**

Saul – **1<sup>st</sup> king of Israel (ruled for 40 years)**

David – (reigned for 40 years)

Solomon (reigned for 40 years)

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**Jeroboam – northern kingdom: Israel (10 tribes/19 kings)**

**Rehoboam – the southern kingdom Judah (2 tribes – Judah & Benjamin/20 kings)**

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## Ahab and Jezebel led the People to Follow Baal

- Ahab maintained the tradition of disobedience and rebellion. He is remembered for his wickedness and marriage to Jezebel which increased Israel's obsession with idolatry.
- He was unrestrained and the people readily followed him. *And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him. (1 Kings 16:32-33.)*

## Leaders Can Influence the Hearts of Their Followers

- Jezebel and Ahab had successfully enchanted the people who preferred their approach to worshipping deities outside of their faith. The people readily embraced their influence; they did not question their departure from the Lord.

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## Showdown on Mount Carmel

- When we walk contrary to God's will, a confrontation is inevitable. God never acts immediately, He waits patiently before He deals with every conflict in a unique way e.g. their liberation, Mount Sinai...
- Elijah as God's representative did not back down and neither did he run from the challenge. He was a lone voice against 850 prophets of Baal and the prophets of the grove.

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## 850:1

- Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4)
- What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).
- Like Elijah, we must not allow the false gods in our midst to import their ways of worship into the Church.

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## The God who Answers by Fire

- Fire is a destructive force. Proverbs 30:16 identifies four things that will never say , it is enough. Fire is one thing that is never satisfied.
- God's power has no boundary; He is a consuming fire, even a jealous God (see Deut. 4:24, Hebrews 12:29).
- Elijah knew that God would show up and consume the offering – God consumes the offering that is given to Him. From the days of Abel to through to the Old Testament (see Lev. 1:3, 10, Heb. 10:5-7, Rom.12:1-2), the burnt offering mingled with faith was acceptable. It shows devotion.
- In our time, the Holy Ghost represents the consuming fire – it gives us authority an power over everything that stands against God.

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## We Can be Confident That Our God Will answer

- God is forever present; He never forsakes His people. He is faithful.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea...The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Psalm 46)*

*In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me. (Psalm 86:7)*

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## Prophets of Baal Built an Altar

**850** prophets of Baal built an altar to their god.

Like these prophets, are we easily led to build ungodly altars and as we become apart of the crowd, what activities are we drawn into to sacrifice our lives, our time, our faith and our values?

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## Offered Their Sacrifice

- The prophets of Baal put on a frenzied display from ‘morning until noon’, but there was no response from their god.
- By noon, “Elijah mocked them,, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god: either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and mist be awaked” (1 Kings 18:27)

## Those Who Serve False Gods Have No Hope

God’s goodness follow those who serve Him. Despite God’s instructions, Israel cell into Baal worship.

**Lesson:** our lives come to nothing when we obscure God and depend on what we have used to replace Him

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- Elijah's preparation of the altar was methodical.
- We must approach God in a systematic way. He is a God of order.
- The LORD had instructed the Israelites to keep the fire of the altar burning throughout the night to the morning (Leviticus 6:9).
- They had forsaken the altar of God and it was in disrepair.
- Elijah had to labour to rebuild the altar, and without support.
- Every Christian must have an altar. God does not recognise a broken altar. If yours is in disrepair, fix it today.

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## Elijah Prepared His Sacrifice and Prayed

- Elijah rebuilds the once neglected and broken altar of sacrifice and selects 12 stones.
- Twelve: number of Divine government, Apostolic fullness.
- Three: number of Godhead, Divine completeness, perfect testimony.

### The 12 Stones Represent the 12 Tribes



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BEULAH APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Acknowledges who God is

1<sup>st</sup> Request

36 And...Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham Isaac and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

2<sup>nd</sup> Request

Notice the appeal to God

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou has turned their heart back again.

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- The prayer was direct; it demonstrated faith, a desire for Israel to know the true and living God, Elijah was God's prophet and for Israel to turn their hearts back to God.
- God showed up and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and all of the water.
- The people as observers knew that the god who answered by fire would be the true God.
- They repented and worshipped the LORD as they declared, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God" (1 Kings 18:39).

**Lesson:** Fire symbolises God's holiness. "For the LORD they God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God" (Deut. 4:24). Here the term infers that God maintains His rights. We must never trifle with God

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## Those Who Serve the True God Have Hope

*“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience: and patience, experience; and experience, hope.” (Romans 5:3)*

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As God’s people, we believe and know that He made us (Psalm 100:3). Throughout the world, the concept of serving only god is evident in many belief systems. We have work to do to make the world know that one true God.

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## We Serve the One True God

He consistently validates Himself to those who serve Him. The infilling of the Holy Ghost is a timely reminder that we serve a true and living God. Our possession is unique and no other faith has a claim to this gift.

## Hope Because god Has All Power

*“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 15:13).*

*His love for humanity and His readiness to forgive defies logic. Embrace His presence and know His love.*