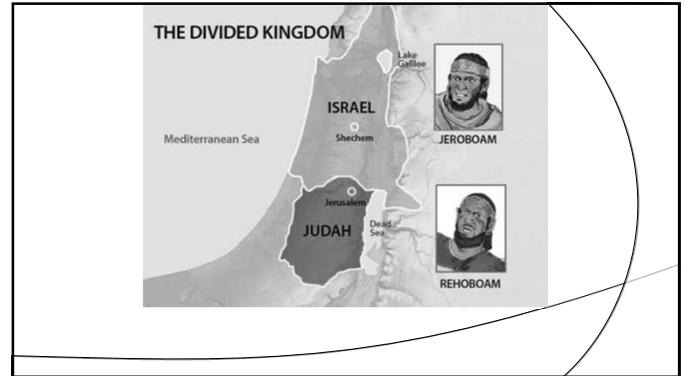





1



2

Baal Worship

- gives rise to Elijah's ministry and the Lord's work through prophets



3

Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."
(1 Kings 17:1)

Now it came about *after* many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth." ² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab.
(1 Kings 18:1-2)

4

1 Kings 18:1-20

1. Elijah, Obadiah & Ahab
 - the Lord has His man inside the court quietly subverting Jezebel's agenda
 - Ahab has "troubled" Israel – the drought is the Lord's judgment for covenant unfaithfulness

5

1 Kings 18:21-40

2. Elijah, Israel & the Prophets of Baal
 - the contest is to press the people to choose between Yahweh and Baal
 - Elijah orders the events in a way that will most display Baal's impotence and Yahweh's power
 - Israel's new commitment is tested by seizing and killing the prophets of Baal

6

1 Kings 18:41-46

3. Elijah, Ahab and the Promised Rain

- renewed covenant commitments lead to renewed covenant blessings (rain) – *but not apart from Elijah's prayer*
- this covenant renewal restores right order of king and prophet

7

Implications

"O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word.

³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and *that* You have turned their heart back again." (1 Kings 18:36-37)

8

Implications

1. The Lord acts to vindicate His Name as the only and true God

the cross and resurrection of Jesus is the vindication of God in the justification of sinners

(Rom. 3:21-26)

9

Implications

1. The Lord acts to vindicate His Name as the only and true God
2. If Yahweh is God, then follow Him alone with all your heart, mind and strength through Christ alone

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