
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 4, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Fight with Fire 1 Kings 18

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. The LORD and the people of Israel made big promises to each other. The LORD promised to always love them and take care of them. He would give them Himself to know and enjoy forever. The people of Israel returned His love with a promise to love and obey Him.
2. But the people of Israel turned from the LORD and worshipped the fake god, Baal, instead. Baal was supposed to give rain, good crops, and big families --the three things people cared about back then. Who WOULDN'T want to worship Baal if he could give them these good things?
3. The people of Israel had broken their promises to the LORD. He could have turned away from them and stopped caring for them, as they deserved. But, He chose to go on loving them. He would bring them back to Him.
4. The LORD sent Elijah to King Ahab and the people with this message: 'You have broken your promises to Me. You've chosen to worship Baal as giver of rain, big families, and good food. But he's just a fake god.' the LORD told them.
5. "I am going to take away the rain. Then, you will see that I, not Baal, am the One, True God," the LORD warned the people through Elijah. Could the LORD really stop Baal's power? Everyone watched and waited.
6. Sure enough, day after day, there was no rain. The water dried up. The good food died. Everyone grew hungry and thirsty. The people prayed to Baal, but for one, two, THREE years, there was no rain or good food.
7. "Gather the people and the messengers of Baal on top of Mount Carmel," the LORD told Elijah. "Tell them: It's time for the big showdown. If Baal is the One, True God, follow him. If it is the LORD, follow Him."
8. "We will each give a worship gift to our god, but we won't light the wood under them," Elijah told them. "Whoever is the One, True God will send down fire from heaven and burn up their worship gift."
9. The messengers of Baal went first. They prepared their worship gift, then prayed, "O great Baal, send fire down and show that you are the One, True God!" When nothing happened, they shouted louder and danced a worship dance. But still, no fire.
10. Then, Elijah got up. He rebuilt the LORD's altar and laid the worship gift on top. He had men pour water over everything, making it even harder to burn up. "LORD, show the people that You are the One, True God," Elijah prayed. "Turn their hearts back to You."
11. WHOOSH! A huge, hot blaze of fire came down from heaven. It burned up the worship gift, the wood, the water, the stones, and even the soil. When all the people saw this, they bowed down and said, "The LORD! He is the One, True God!"
12. Elijah prayed to the LORD, and soon, a great rain began to fall. The people rejoiced! And which God did they thank for the rain? The LORD! He was the One, True God. There was no other God, and there never will be.