

Tell a story

Haftara for Parsha Ki Tisa by Julie Zhuk on 2024-11-09

This week's Haftara is in the book of King's in chapter 18 verse 20 through -39. In this week's Parsha the Prophet Elijah explains the worthlessness of Baal. At the same time in this week's Parsha, Moses reprimanded the Jews for serving the Golden Calf. From the Haftara we learn, that the King's Ahab and his Queen Jezebel were ruling the Northern Kingdom of Israel. They were encouraging the Jews there to worship the idol worship called Baal. The Prophet Elijah was trying to prove to G-d alone that He was the only one worth it for them to believe in, he decreed for there to be a drought on earth. This drought was to be brought on for the next three years for the Jews. King Ahab then accused Elijah of hardship for the Jews and Elijah challenged him to a showdown.

This meant that Elijah would represent monotheism. From the other perspective, King Ahab that there would be 450 idolatrous "prophets" that would represent their cause. The Haftara starts with Elijah, the Baal prophets, and many spectators coming together on top of Mountain Carmel. It was at this time that Elijah reprimanded the Jews for saying these words, "How long will you go between two ideas?"

What was meant by this is whether G-d was really who He said He was or if Baal was the real G-d? The Jews were not sure who to believe. Elijah asked King Ahab for two bulls. Elijah let the Baal prophets have one bull for themselves cut up the bull and place it on the wood. The plan was to not have a fire and Elijah was going to prepare one bull and put it on the wood but not use the fire either. Elijah told the King Ahab to call in the name of his deity.

Elijah said he would call in the name of G-d. Elijah said that it would be the G-d that would answer with actual fire. Then they would see who is really G-d. The people heard this challenge and agreed to all of this, the prophets of the Baal were the first to go. The prophets of their entreaties to their gods did not respond and then Elijah started to taunt them. "Can you call out with a loud voice since you say you are-. Maybe he is talking or he is pursuing some enemies, or maybe he is on a journey, or maybe he is asleep now and will wake up soon." Soon it was evening approached and Elijah took center-stage and he built an altar. He laid his offering, which was the bull itself. He surrounded it with water. Then he said the words, "Lord, the G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,".

"Today let it be known, that You are G-d in Israel and I am Your servant and at Your word have I done all these things. Answer me, and these people shall know that You are G-d. Right away after Elijah said these words, there was a fire that erupted and consumed that bull that was the offering, which Elijah was giving to G-d. All the Jews stood watching, they witnessed what they called a miracle and fell on their faces. They kept repeating the words, "The Lord is G-d, The L-rd is G-d."