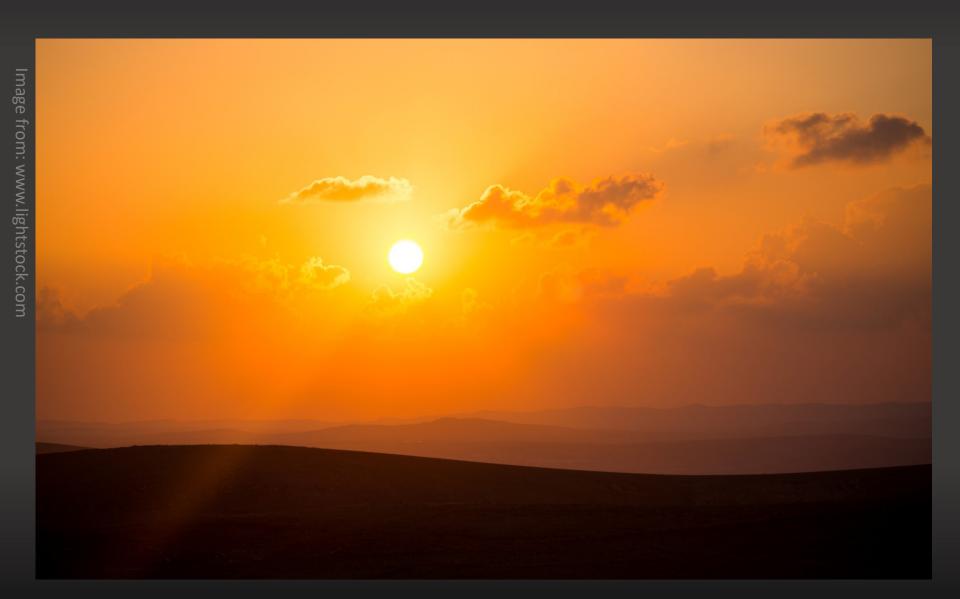
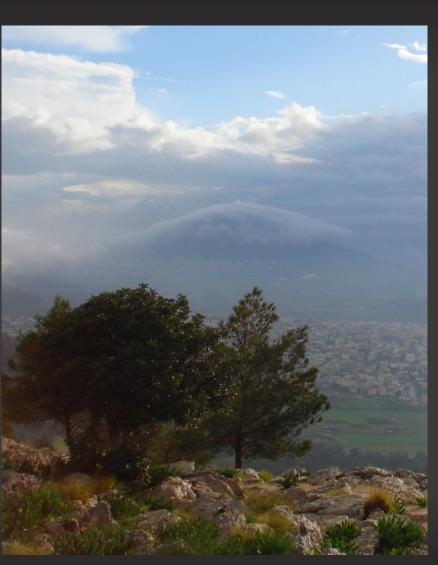
#### Time for God's Fireworks





> A wicked king: Ahab

## 1 Kings 16:29-30

- Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria for twenty-two years.
- <sup>30</sup> Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him.

## The Background



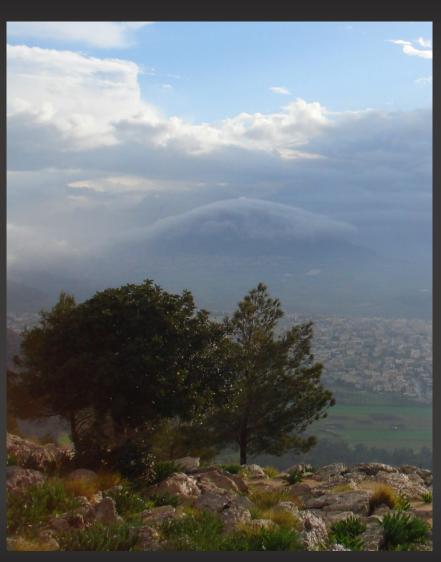
A wicked queen:

Jezebel

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## 1 Kings 16:31

<sup>31</sup> And as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him.

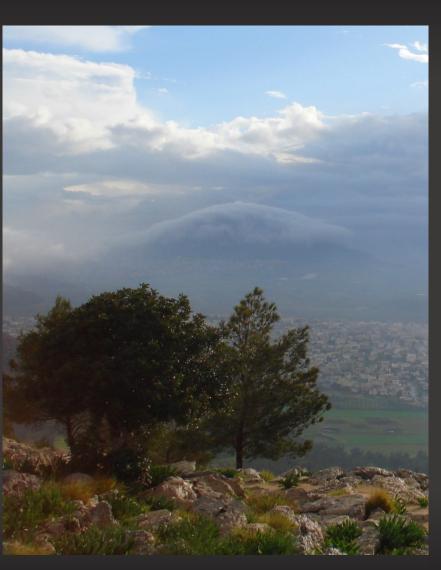


A false god:

Baal

## 1 Kings 16:32-33

- <sup>32</sup> So he erected an altar for Baal at the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria.
- 33 Ahab also made the Asherah. So Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.



> A prophet: Elijah

# 1 Kings 17:1

<sup>1</sup> 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, there shall certainly be neither dew nor rain during these years, except by my word."

# The Background

> God brings a drought.

# 1 Kings 18



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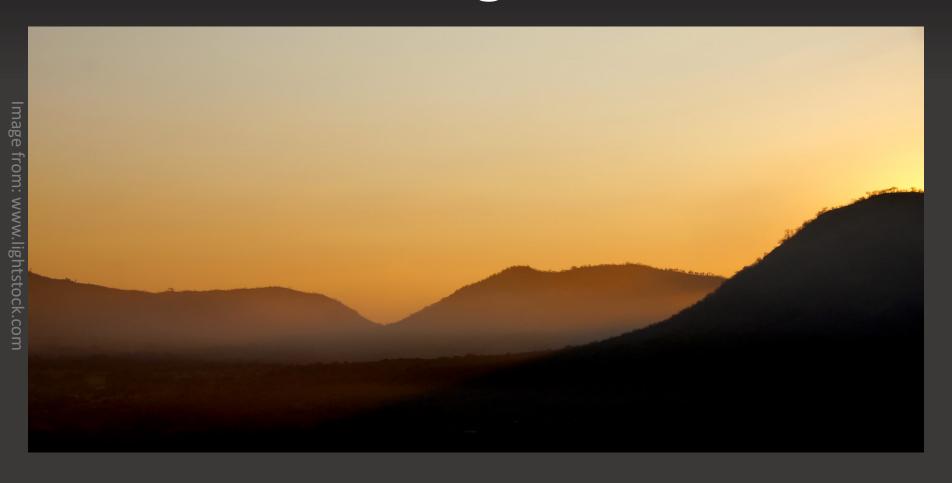
## 1 Kings 18:17-18

- <sup>17</sup> When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is this you, the cause of disaster to Israel?"
- <sup>18</sup> He said, "I have not brought disaster to Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals.

## 1 Kings 18:17-18

<sup>19</sup> Now then, send *orders and* gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, *together* with 450 prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

#### 1 Kings 18



➤ Elijah's challenge — v. 20-24

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent *orders* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

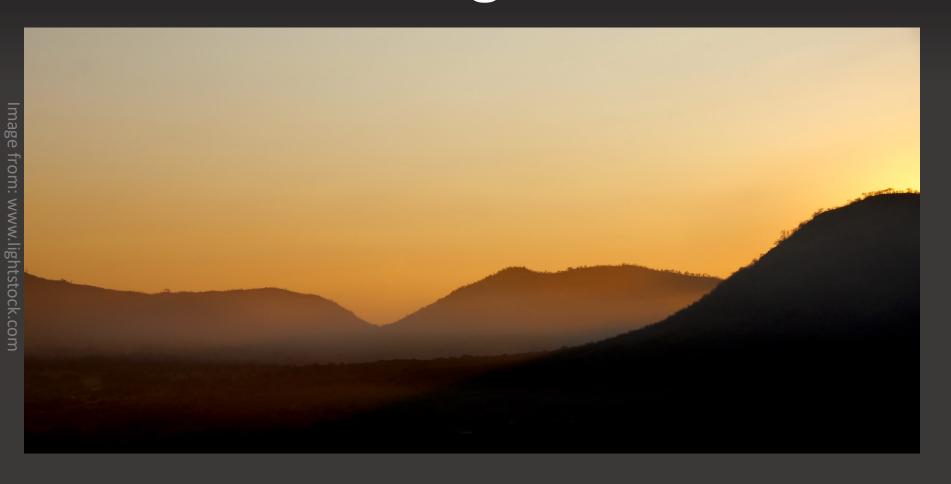
<sup>21</sup> Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him so much as a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left as a prophet of the LORD, while Baal's prophets are 450 men.

<sup>23</sup> Now have them give us two oxen; and have them choose the one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it.

<sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people replied, "That is a good idea."

#### 1 Kings 18



➤ Baal's failure — v. 25-29.

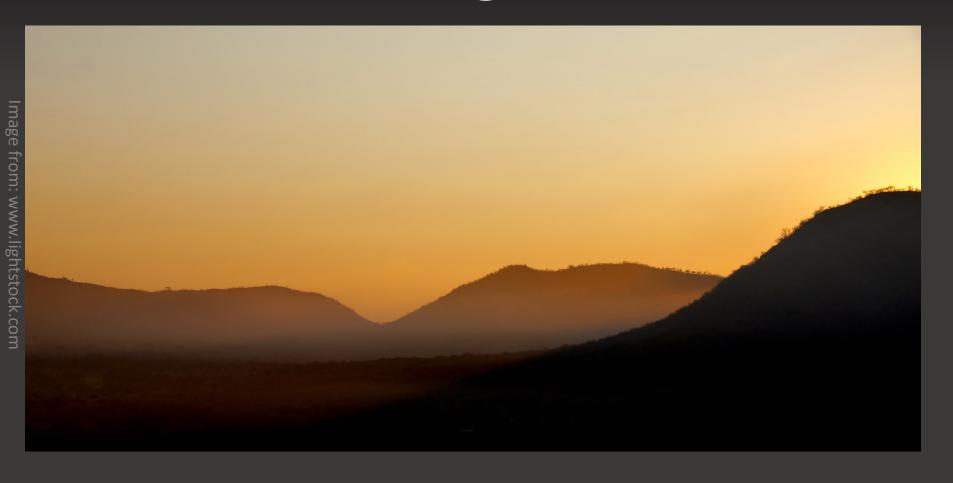
<sup>25</sup> So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose the one ox for yourselves and prepare it first, since there are many of you, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under the

<sup>26</sup> Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it, and they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made.

<sup>27</sup> And at noon Elijah ridiculed them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, since he is a god; undoubtedly he is attending to business, or is on the way, or is on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep, and will awaken."

- <sup>28</sup> So they cried out with a loud voice, and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until blood gushed out on them.
- <sup>29</sup> When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

#### 1 Kings 18



➢ Elijah's <u>altar</u> − v. 30-35.

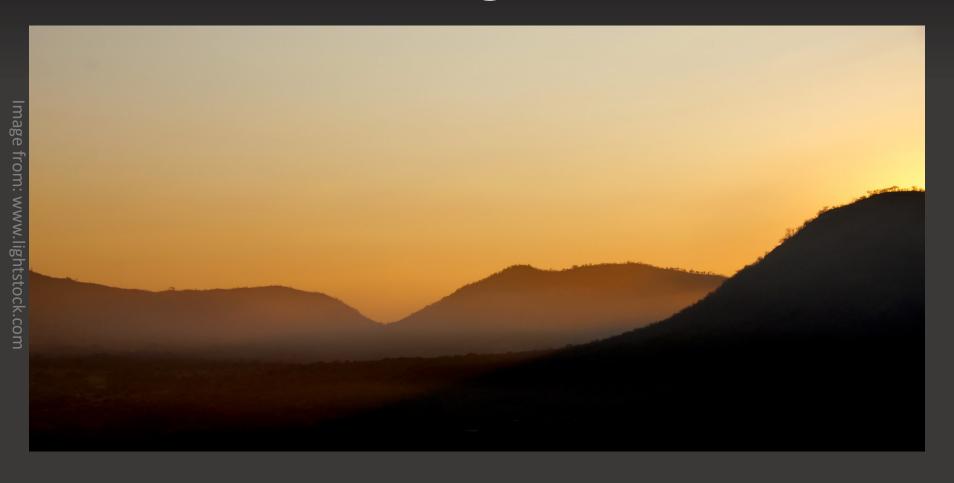
"Come forward to me." So all the people, eople came forward to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down.

Then Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

- <sup>32</sup> And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.
- <sup>33</sup> Then he laid out the wood, and he cut the ox in pieces and placed *it* on the wood.

- <sup>34</sup> And he said, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," so they did it a second time. Then he said, "Do it a third time," so they did it a third time.
- <sup>35</sup> The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

#### 1 Kings 18



God's <u>answer</u> – v. 36-40.

<sup>36</sup> Then at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, "LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

- <sup>37</sup> Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that You, LORD, are God, and *that* You have turned their heart back."
- Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

<sup>39</sup> When all the people saw *this*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God!"

<sup>40</sup> Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.

#### Some Lessons for Us

Now King David was old and advanced in speaking with the king, I also will come in years. And although they covered him after you and confirm? your words." with clothes, he could not get warm. 2 Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman chamber (now the king was very old, and be sought for my lord the king, and let her Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the wait on the king and be in his service. Let her king). 16 Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to he in your arms, that my lord the king may the king, and the king said, "What do you be warm." "So they sought for a beautiful desire?" "The said to him, "My lord, you swore young woman throughout all the territory of to your servant by the LORD your God, saying. Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he and brought her to the king. The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of ervice to the king and attended to him, but

#### Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King

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\*Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fatned cattle by the Serpents Stone, which is side En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers. e kings sons, and all the royal officials of but he did not invite Nathan the other or Benaiah or the mighty men or

#### than and Bathsheba Before David

WiThen Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother Solomon, "Have you not heard that donijah the son of Haggith has become king id David our lord does not know it? 12 Now erefore come, let me give you advice, that in may save your own life and the life of of my lord the king after him? ir son Solomon. 13 Go in at once to King avid, and say to him. Did you not, my lord king, swear to your servant, saying, olomon your son shall reign after me, and

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15 So Bathsheba went to the king in his shall sit on my throne. 18 And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it. 19 He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king. Abiathar Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted the priest, and Joab the commander of the himself, saying, "I will be king." And he pre- army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited. 20 And now, my lord the king, the eyes fiv men to run before him. His father had of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall never at any time displeased him by asking, sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. 21 Otherwise it will come to pass, when my also a very handsome man, and he was born lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and

> 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. 23 And they told the king, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground. 24 And Nathan said, "My lord the king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne? 25 For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders' of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, Long live King Adonijah! 26 But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited. 27 Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne

28 Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the shall sit on my throne"? Why then is kings presence and stood before the king, 1) We sometimes struggle to fully stand with God.

# 1 Kings 18:21

<sup>21</sup> Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him so much as a word.

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2) Sometimes good people just need to see a faithful person act in courage.

# Philippians 1:13-14

- <sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in *the* cause of Christ has become well known throughout the praetorian guard and to everyone else,
- <sup>14</sup> and that most of the brothers *and* sisters, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

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3) Verses <u>36-37</u> are a good prayer for us.

<sup>36</sup> Then at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, "LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

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