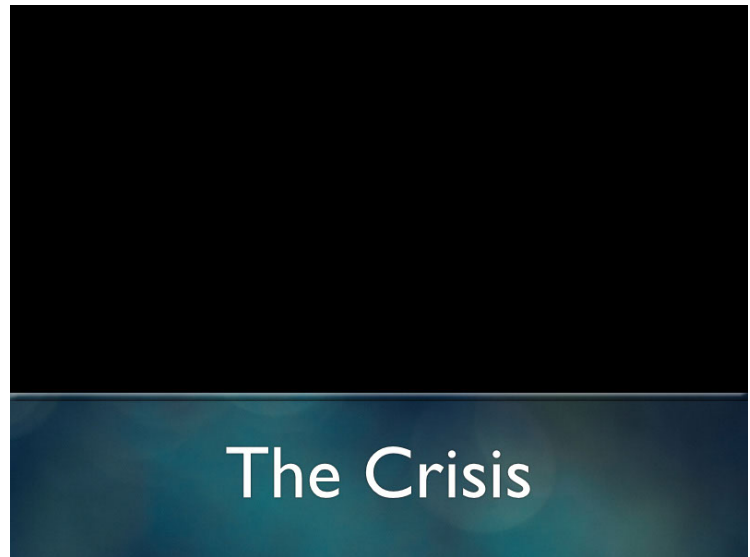
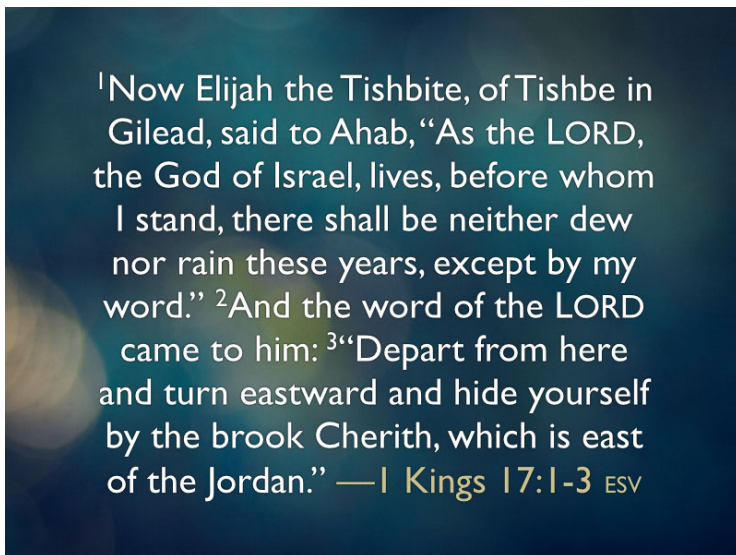




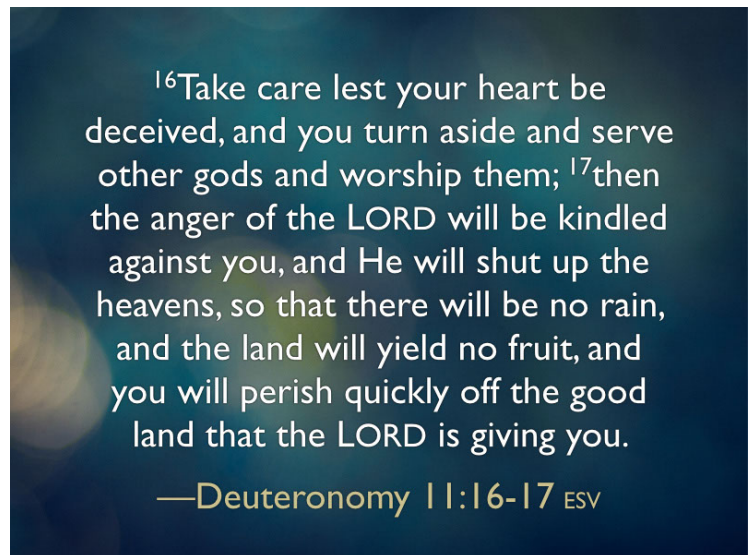
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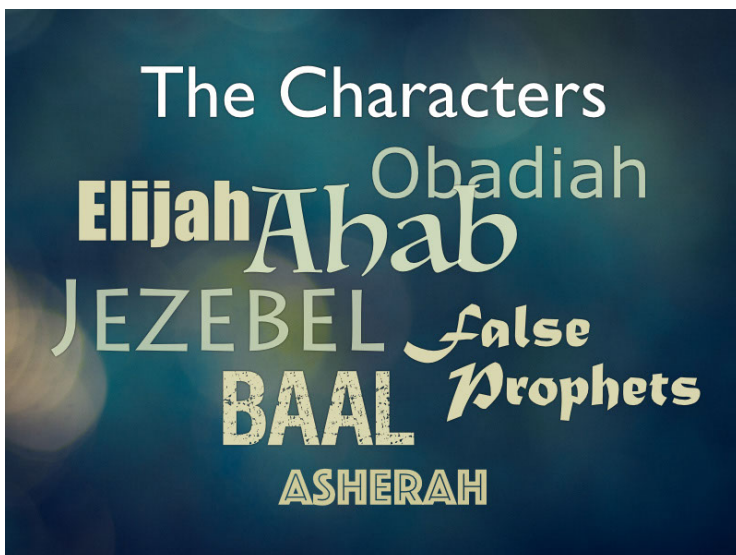
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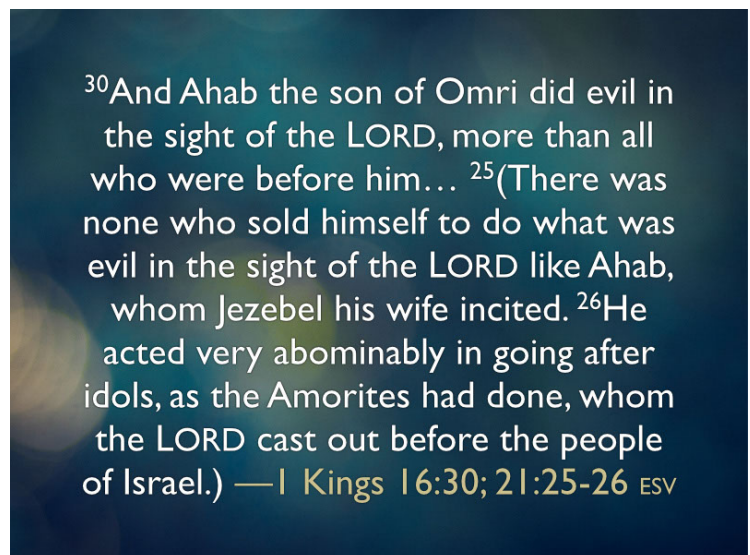
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“Baal worship revolved around two themes that represented the conception of Baal his worshipers held. Baal was both the sun-god and storm-god. He was worshiped as sun-god when the people wished to express thanks and gratitude for light and warmth and fertility. Worship of Baal as storm-god took place to appease the destructive nature of Baal,

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demonstrated by drought and storms that devastated the vegetation of the worshipers. The efforts to appease Baal whenever adverse conditions prevailed culminated in the sacrifice of human beings, usually the firstborn of the one offering the sacrifice.”

—Holman Bible Dictionary

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The Challenge

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²⁰So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

²¹And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.”

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And the people did not answer him a word... ²⁴And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.” —I Kings 18:20-21, 24 ^{ESV}

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²⁶And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon 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 around the altar that they had made. ²⁷And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.”

-.012.tiff

²⁸And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention. —I Kings 18:26-29 ESV

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The Conclusion

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³⁵And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water...
³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God." —I Kings 18:35, 38-39 ESV

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I When *facing the heat*, who or what you trust will determine whether you stand or fall.

-.016.tiff

2

When *facing the heat*, you will always have to choose between conviction and comfort.

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"Strong convictions precede great actions." —James Freeman Clarke

-.018.tiff

“The pursuit of comfort is not compatible with the pursuit of Christ.”

-.019.tiff

3

When *facing the heat*, you can prove God's power and promise through prayer.

-.020.tiff

⁸“Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,
⁹remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,
¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying,

-.021.tiff

‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose,’
¹¹calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.” —Isaiah 46:8-11 ESV

-.022.tiff

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. —1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

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¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. —James 5:16-18 ESV

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4

When *facing the heat*, remember
while God's plan includes you,
it is bigger than just you.

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