

Bible/College Class Notes – Studies in 1 and 2 Kings – Lesson 120

Sin and its Cure

This week – The LORD miraculously demonstrates that He is the one, true, and only God.

**When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces:
and they said, “The LORD, He is the God,
The LORD, He is the God.” 1 Kings 18v39.**

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	1 Kings 18v1-16 (After 3 years the LORD sends rain)	
Monday	1 Kings 18v17-29 (The idol Baal could not answer)	
Tuesday	1 Kings 18v30-46 (The LORD, He is God, the only God)	
Wednesday	1 Kings 19v1-16 (The still, small voice of the LORD)	
Thursday	Ephesians 5 v1-16 (Walk in the ways of God)	
Friday	Ephesians 5 v17-33 (Love in Christian marriage)	
Saturday	Romans 8v1-17 (Joint heirs with Christ)	

Important Thought for us Today: We often associate the worship of idols today with pagan religions. Surprisingly, there are many man-made gods in our lives today; even in churches that claim to be ‘Christian’. God asks us to trust Him in faith (Hebrews 11), to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4v23), yet we often ‘trust’ by sight alone. The worship of items representing the one true God is idolatry. A false idol is also made when we worship our own, made-up, understanding of God, changing the truth that He has set forth in His Word about Himself. Examples are: Denying the Trinity so limiting Christ to a created man/prophet; Relying on a Priest, Mary, or a man appointed Saint to present us to God rather than relying on Christ’s righteousness alone to do this; Preaching that salvation is achieved by loving Jesus, doing good, but totally omitting the need for personal repentance and faithful obedience.

Such false idols and man-made ‘gospels’, can never make us right with the One True God.

Our hymn challenges the sincerity of our prayers. Do we really pray?

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| 1. I often say my prayers
But do I ever pray?
And do the wishes of my heart
Go with the words I say? | 2. I may as well kneel down
And worship gods of stone,
As offer to the living God
A prayer of words alone. |
| 3. For words without the heart
The Lord will never hear,
Nor will He to those lips attend
Whose prayers are not sincere. | 4. Lord teach me what I need,
And teach me how to pray;
Nor let me ask Thy grace,
Not feeling what I say. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

The Sin of Playing With Other Gods.

- **God’s withholding of rain for over 3 years bites home.**
 - **Ahab meets Elijah, and Ahab shows his guilty conscience.** He blames Elijah for the drought. *“Art thou he that troubleth Israel?” 1 Kings 18v17.*
 - **Elijah replies, “I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baal” v18**
Are we guilty of blaming God for the problems we face which are the result of our sin?
- **Elijah Challenges Ahab and Commands the People to Gather.**
 - The Israelites had forsaken God and had been enjoying the immoral worship of Baal. But now they were in trouble – their cattle were dying; their crops had failed. Their only hope was to turn back to the one true God seeking forgiveness
 - **“Gather Israel, and the 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah, to Mount Carmel.”**
 - **Elijah’s Challenge to the people. “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.” 1 Kings 18v21.**
- **Elijah’s Action Was To Answer This Vital Question.**
 - **Testing Baal.** He gave the prophets of Baal and Asherah a day in which to arouse their idol to ignite the sacrifice of the bullock on their altar. **No answer came.**
 - **Testing today’s ‘gods’.** Do the ‘gods’ of evolution, selfishness, sinful pleasures, freedom of living any way we want, help us to live better, more satisfying, lives? **Or do they give no answers, bring unhappiness; even seeking to destroy us?**
 - **Testing The LORD.** Compare the frenzied action of the false prophets of Baal with Elijah’s calm, confident, trust in God – the building of the altar, the laying of the ox for sacrifice, the drenching of everything with water. **1 Kings 18v31-35**
Elijah prays, “Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the LORD God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again” 1 Kings 18v37
 - **The LORD Acts.** God grants a powerful and immediate answer. Silently, fire fell consuming everything. **“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, He is the God; the LORD, He is the God.” 1 Kings 18v39**
 - **Rain returns.** Reminding us of the love and mercy of God. Christ on Calvary.
- **Baal is no ‘god’. Let us reject any love of false gods and idol worship.**
 - **Turning from our sin.** We cannot mix our old sinful lifestyle with trusting the Lord. If we sincerely repent and believe in Jesus Christ, then we must leave behind our love of the world, like listening to unwholesome music, watching inappropriate TV programmes/websites. Instead, we will love the Lord, live for Him, and seek to please Him by living according to the teaching of the Bible.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be ye not unequally yoked together (joined) with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
2 Corinthians 6v14.