



RCC Phoenix – 7.18.21 – Minding His Own Business

Baal:

- In pagan mythology, Baal was the son of the high god El & eventually killed his _____.
- Typically represented as a _____ shaped idol made of bronze or bronze color.
- Sacrificing _____ was very common & widespread practice in Baal worship.
- The pagan god of _____ / _____.
- His worshippers credited him as the god who provided _____, dew, the sun, _____, etc.
- Baal was used as the basis for the Greek pagan god _____ & later transformed again into the pagan god, Jupiter.

Asherah Poles:

- In pagan mythology, Asherah was believed to be a _____ of El (Baal's father).
- She was believed to be the goddess of _____ & Asherah Poles were made as idol statues in her honor.
- The Poles were placed on physically _____ locations (high places, mountains, etc.)
- They were either made of _____ or her image was carved into trees as a form of worship to her.

Threshing Floor:

- A large flat surface used to separate grains of _____ from their shell.
- Either a person would beat the stalks of wheat on the floor or guide animals (like _____) around the threshing floor while pulling a stone across the grains to separate them.

Judges 6:7-26 NLT

7 When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian,

8 the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt.

9 I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land.

10 I told you, 'I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."

11 Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was *threshing wheat* at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites.

12 The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

13 "Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

15 "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

16 The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

17 Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me."

18 "Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you." He answered, "I will stay here until you return."

19 Gideon hurried home. He cooked a young goat, and with a basket[a] of flour he baked some bread without yeast. Then, carrying the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, he brought them out and presented them to the angel, who was under the great tree.

20 The angel of God said to him, "Place the meat and the unleavened bread on this rock, and pour the broth over it." And Gideon did as he was told.

21 Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and bread with the tip of the staff in his hand, and fire flamed up from the rock and consumed all he had brought. And the angel of the Lord disappeared.

22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he cried out, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"

23 "It is all right," the Lord replied. "Do not be afraid. You will not die."

24 And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the Lord is peace"). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.

25 That night the Lord said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it.

26 Then build an altar to the Lord your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down."