Elijah and Ahab
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Complete the crossword by finding the answers in the text below:

ELIJAH CONFRONTS KING AHAB

When Solomon died and the kingdom divided, Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom, Israel. Following on from him, there was a long line of evil kings. Ahab was one of them. King Ahab “did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him” (1 Kings 16:30). He was married to an evil woman named Jezebel, who worshipped false gods and idols. Because of her influence, Ahab also worshipped the pagan gods Baal and Asherah. Baal was the god of rain and harvest.

Elijah was a prophet from God, who was sent to tell King Ahab that God was angry with him for worshipping pagan gods. The punishment would be a drought for the next few years. God said ‘There will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word’ (1 Kings 17:1).

Ahab was shocked and angry and Elijah needed to get away. God led him to Kerith Brook and told him to drink the water from the brook and eat food that would be provided miraculously by ravens. God needed to make sure that Elijah survived the drought and consequent famine in the land. The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening.

After a while the brook dried up and God moved Elijah on. He told him to go to the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. God told him to approach a widow when he got there and ask her for food. He saw her as soon as he arrived and asked her for bread and water. She said she had no bread left, only a handful of flour and a little cooking oil. She was gathering sticks to light a fire for her last meal, knowing that she and her son would die once they had eaten. Elijah said to her that if she gave him some bread from the flour and oil that was left, God would miraculously ensure that she would have a constant supply of flour and oil until the famine was over. The widow did this and God was true to his word.

THE CONTEST

After Israel had gone more than three years without rain as a judgment for their idolatry, Elijah returned to King Ahab and challenged him to a spiritual showdown. He told the king to gather the people of Israel and all the prophets together at Mount Carmel. There were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. Elijah was the only prophet of the Lord.

When they were all gathered, Elijah said to the people of Israel, “How long will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). The people remained silent at that point.
Elijah then challenged the prophets of Baal to prepare a bull as an offering for their god and said he would do the same. However, they weren’t allowed to light a fire on their altar. The God who answered with fire from the sky would be considered the true God (verses 22–25).

The people agreed that this was a good plan, and the prophets of Baal went first. The pagan prophets cried out and danced around their altar from morning till noon with no answer from Baal. Elijah began to mock them, saying, “You'll have to shout louder! . . . surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened.” (1 Kings 18:27).

So the prophets of Baal shouted louder and cut themselves with knives, swords and spears until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the evening. Despite hours of effort, nothing happened.

Elijah then called to the people to gather round him as he repaired the altar of the Lord. He used twelve stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. He then dug a trench around the altar, placed wood on the altar and laid the cut pieces of the bull on it. Elijah then asked the people to pour water over the offering. The water soaked the sacrifice and the wood and filled the trench.

Once the sacrifice was ready, Elijah prayed, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel.....answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God” (1 Kings 18:36-37). Then God did what Baal could never do. Fire flashed down from Heaven and burned the offering, wood, stones and dust and all the water evaporated.

The people of Israel fell down and cried out 'The Lord, he is God!'. Elijah then commanded the people to put the prophets of Baal to death and then God finally ended the drought and sent rain.
Across

3 King Ahab's wife: JEZEBEL
4 Pagan god of rain: BAAL
6 No food: FAMINE
7 Another name for competition: CONTEST
9 Woman whose husband has died: WIDOW
11 Mount where contest took place: CARMEL
14 Town Elijah fled to after contest: BEERSHEBA
17 Prophet who confronted Ahab: ELIJAH
19 No rain: DROUGHT
20 Worship of idols: IDOLATRY

Down

1 Number of stones for Elijah's altar: TWELVE
2 The first king of the northern Kingdom: JEROBOAM
5 Elijah suggested Baal could be doing this: DAYDREAMING
8 Bird who provided food for Elijah: RAVEN
10 Godly act that goes against Nature: MIRACLE
12 Village Elijah was sent to: ZAREPHATH
13 Morning outdoor moisture: DEW
15 To be indecisive: WAVER
16 Name of southern kingdom: JUDAH
18 Animal used in sacrifice: BULL