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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1531 ~ A Man with a Message.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When the nation of Israel was split into two and Jeroboam became the northern king, he broke God's second commandment given to Moses. He did this by building two golden calves for his worship centres in Israel. In the Bible book of Exodus, Chapter 20, it says: "Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or in earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals."

Each king following Jeroboam on Israel's throne did worse than his predecessor. After six kings in quick succession on the throne, it was Ahab's turn. He not only broke the second of The Ten Commandments, but he built and worshipped at a shrine dedicated to Baal, the Canaanite storm god. His foreign princess wife Jezebel was a high priestess in Baal worship. This also broke the first commandment which says: "God spoke and these were His words: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, when you were slaves. Worship no god but me."

Of course, whatever king Ahab did and wanted, many people followed his example. This caused God to be grieved at their rejection of Him. Why would these people prefer to worship Baal after all God had done for them? Baal was believed to bring rain to the earth and Queen Jezebel also had the goddess of fertility worshipped alongside a Baal statue.

When Israel's kingdom was split in two, all the God-fearing priests and Levites living in Israel moved south to live in Judah. God then spoke to Israel through prophets raised up to speak His words. One day, God called Elijah out from the city of Tishbe, about 8 miles east of the Jordan River and in a high plateau region of Gilead. Elijah was sent to the city of Samaria on the west side of the Jordan River to see King Ahab.

Today's *Bible Adventure* comes from the Old Testament book of 1st Kings Chapter 17.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

When God sent Moses and Aaron to the king of Egypt, the plagues that God sent afterwards were attacks on the gods of the Egyptians, which showed how powerless they were. In the same way, God withheld rain from Israel to show that Baal, the now worshipped storm god, was completely unable to provide Israel with rain. Neither had the rain that had fallen in the past come from Baal either.

Throughout the history of people, there has been a constant struggle between good and evil. If good is strong then evil is suppressed, often by man-made laws that are derived from Bible teaching. When evil is strong, however, evil rulers try to destroy good people. Queen Jezebel had rejected the message of God's prophets and instead ordered their deaths so they couldn't speak out against her Baal worship. Obadiah, a godly manager of King Ahab's household affairs, bravely hid 100 of these prophets in caves and kept them alive with food and water.

Little is known about Elijah's early life. He may have belonged to a school of prophets living in Samuel's time and had continued on throughout the generations. Since Elijah lived on the other side of the Jordan River, distant from the control of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, his faith remained strong in the living God of Israel despite increasing pressure for him to start worshipping Baal.

As the worship of Baal became more entrenched in Israelite society, any person who refused to worship Baal were killed. The people of Israel had to make a decision. Would they obey God or the king's commands? Which one was right? Of course, we know we must obey God first and then the rulers of the day, provided their orders do not contradict God's ways. In the New Testament book of Acts, Chapter 5, the Apostle Peter said: "We must obey God, not men." We are to do what is right in God's sight in all circumstances, regardless of the outcomes. Committing our way to God in thankfulness for what He has done, will bring great good out of bad situations.

During the years when communism ruled the small European country of Romania, a pastor was arrested for publishing a sermon. In the sermon, he had called for churches to refuse to submit to the communist government's demand for control over their ministries.

An official ordered the pastor to renounce his sermon but the pastor firmly refused. The official reminded him that the secret police could use force on him through painful means. The pastor understood what the official was suggesting and explained that the secret police's supreme weapon was killing people. As a pastor, however, his supreme weapon was dying – dying to self. He reminded the official that he had sermon tapes all over the country. If the official killed him, then those people owning tapes would take them out and listen to them again and again. They would say that the pastor meant every word of his sermons because he had paid for his beliefs with his own blood.

The official released the pastor, knowing that his martyrdom would be far more of a problem for the secret police than his sermon.

While this pastor was released, many other prisoners today are held for no other reason other than they love the Lord Jesus Christ. These people receive no mercy and are killed. It is said that more believers in Christ were killed during the 20th Century than all the previous centuries combined. In some areas of the world today, Christians resolutely follow the Lord Jesus no matter what the physical pain and suffering they must also bear because of this. They determine in their minds to obey God in all things because they remember just how much the Lord Jesus suffered for them. Despite the bad circumstances here on earth, which are temporary and can only kill the body, these Christians look forward to sharing glorious heaven with Christ eternally.

When some people become a Christian, they think life is going to be a bed of roses. They expect love and kindness, sympathy and respect to flow around them. Then they discover that the Christian life is one of struggle, particularly with one's own self. They also see that troubles come to Christians just as they do to non Christians.

The difference for believers is that God in His mercy is with us in all these tough times to help and to guide us to living victoriously over sin. This change inside despite the circumstances makes Christians fit for heaven. Spiritual growth comes from the believer trusting completely in Jesus to do His perfect and pleasing work through our lives and also the world around us.

Do you have a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? He paid for your wrongdoing on the Cross of Calvary to free you from sin and give you His Spirit of power and light. You need to be humble before Him. Confess your sins to Him and ask Him to be your Lord and Saviour for evermore. This is the only way to God the Father in heaven if you want to be there one day. So ask Him to do this today!

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

Song... “Lead us not into temptation.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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