

Jehovah or Baal—Which?

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THE International Sunday-school lesson for July 17, 1898, was "Elijah on Carmel." The M. E. Church South publishes a weekly *Illustrated Lesson Paper*, devoted largely to the lesson for each successive Sunday.

The Catechism Lesson

In this *Lesson Paper*, concerning "Elijah on Carmel" we find the following, which we copy exactly as it was there printed:

CATECHISM LESSON

Question 81: What is the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment is: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Question 82: What does the fourth commandment forbid?

Answer: The fourth commandment forbids us to work on the Sabbath day.

Question 83: What day is the Sabbath?

Answer: Sunday is the Sabbath.

That is precisely the way that the Baalites talked and taught in Elijah's time. See here:

CATECHISM LESSON

Question: What is the first commandment?

Answer: The first commandment is: "I am the Lord your God, which have brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me."

Question: What does the first commandment forbid?

Answer: The first commandment forbids us to have any god but the true God.

Question: What God is the true God.

Answer: Baal is the true God.

That is a catechism lesson such as was taught by the priests of Baal in Elijah's time. And no man can fairly deny that it is parallel in every respect with the catechism lesson here quoted bodily from the *Lesson Paper* of the M. E. Church South.

Setting Up a False God

The word of God in the fourth commandment, as printed in this catechism lesson of July 17, A.D. 1898, says, plainly,

“The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.”

Yet directly in the face of this word, a man, or a set of men, sets up the word, “Sunday is the Sabbath;” while these men themselves know that Sunday is the first day, and not the seventh day at all.

Just so in the lesson of July 17, B.C. 898; the word of God in the first commandment said plainly that the true God was he who had brought the children of Israel “out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” Yet directly in the face of this word of God, men set up the word,

“Baal is God;”

While these men themselves knew that Baal was not he who had brought them out of Egypt.

Changing the Word

Oh, yes, we know full well that those who got up this catechism lesson of July 17, A.D. 1898, say that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh day to Sunday; this, too, in the face of the plain word of God, and of their own contradictory action in printing, in that very lesson, this: “the seventh day is

the Sabbath of the Lord your God.”

Just so those who got up the catechism lesson of July 17, B.C. 898, said that the God of Israel had been changed to Baal; this, too, in the face of the plain word of God that the God of Israel was He who had created the heavens and the earth, and had brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, and out of the house of bondage; and that He cannot change.

Citing the Fathers

True, those who got up this catechism lesson of July 17, A.D. 1898, can and do cite the “Fathers,” and the “saints” of the apostate church to sustain their contradiction of the word of God that “the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.”

Just so those who got up the catechism lesson of July 17, B.C. 898, could cite the chief father of their apostasy to sustain them in their contradictions of the word of God. Jeroboam was the chief in that apostasy; and when he began it with the setting up of the golden calves, he said to all the people:

1 Kings 12

²⁸ Behold your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

This itself was a form of sun-worship; but when Jezebel came in, she gave the apostasy a further and fuller turn to sun-worship in making the sun in Baal the chief god.

And the priests of the apostasy in Elijah’s day could cite, against the first commandment, the chief father of that apostasy, just as readily and as truly as the priests of the apostasy in our day can cite, against the fourth commandment, the chief Fathers of the later apostasy.

That Woman Jezebel

The priests back there were supporting and defending Jezebel in their setting up Baal as the God of the first commandment, just as those down here are supporting and de-

fending “that woman Jezebel” (*Revelation 2:20*) in their setting up Sunday as the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

Sun Worship

It is remarkable that in the lesson of July 17, B.C. 898, and in the lesson of July 17, A.D. 1898, the sun should be held up as the object of worship, as the true god in the place of Jehovah, who alone is the true God. There it was done through the images of the sun-god, by the influence of Jezebel; here it is done through the day of the sun-god,—Sun-day,—by the influence of “that woman Jezebel.”

Spirit and Power of Elijah

It was against such wickedness that Elijah in that day, on behalf of Jehovah lifted up his voice; and it is against that same wickedness in this day that those who are imbued with the spirit and power of Elijah (*Malachi 4:5*), on behalf of Jehovah lift up their voices.

The word of God by Elijah for that time is the word of God in the spirit and power of Elijah now:

1 Kings 18

²¹ If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.

Sunday is not the Sabbath any more than Baal is Jehovah. Sunday owes its place among those who profess to be the Lord’s people to the influence of “that woman Jezebel,” of *Revelation 2:20*, just as truly as Baal owed his place among those of Elijah’s time who professed to be the Lord’s people, to the original Jezebel of *1 Kings 14:31*.

Troublers of Israel

Elijah in his day was counted a troubler of Israel because he told the people that Baal was not God, and that in following Baal they had “forsaken the commandments of the Lord.”

And those who now, in the spirit and power of Elijah, tell the people that Sunday is not the Sabbath, and that in observ-

ing Sunday they have “forsaken the commandments of the Lord,”—these now are counted troublers of Israel, just as Elijah was.

But at that time God vindicated Elijah, and sustained him in all the contest in that day; and the same God will vindicate those of the spirit and power of Elijah, and will sustain them in all the contest in this our day.

Translation

And when the contest was over, and his work done, Elijah was translated. And now when this contest is over, and our work is done,

1 Thessalonians 4

¹⁶ ...the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Therefore...

Ezekiel 20

²⁰ Hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.

Exodus 20

¹⁰ The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.

1 Kings 18

²¹ How long halt you between two opinions? if Jehovah be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.