

Ki Tisa, Haftarah

I Kings 18:1-39

Much later, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go, appear before Ahab; then I will send rain upon the earth.”

Thereupon Elijah set out to appear before Ahab. The famine was severe in Samaria.

Ahab had summoned Obadiah, the steward of the palace. (Obadiah revered the LORD greatly. When Jezebel was killing off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and provided them with food and drink.)

And Ahab had said to Obadiah, “Go through the land, to all the springs of water and to all the wadis. Perhaps we shall find some grass to keep horses and mules alive, so that we are not left without beasts.”

They divided the country between them to explore it, Ahab going alone in one direction and Obadiah going alone in another direction.

Obadiah was on the road, when Elijah suddenly confronted him. [Obadiah] recognized him and flung himself on his face, saying, “Is that you, my lord Elijah?”

“Yes, it is I,” he answered. “Go tell your lord: Elijah is here!”

But he said, “What wrong have I done, that you should hand your servant over to Ahab to

מלכים א י"ח:א'-ל"ט

וַיְהִי יָמִים רַבִּים וַדְּבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֶל-אֱלִיָּהוּ
בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁלִישִׁית לֵאמֹר לֶךְ הֲרֵאָה
אֶל-אַחָאָב וְאֶתְנֵה מָטָר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה:
וַיֵּלֶךְ אֱלִיָּהוּ לְהִרְאֹת אֶל-אַחָאָב וְהָרֶעַב חָזַק
בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן:

וַיִּקְרָא אַחָאָב אֶל-עֹבַדְיָהוּ אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַבַּיִת
וְעֹבַדְיָהוּ הָיָה יָרָא אֶת-יְהוָה מְאֹד:
וַיְהִי בַּהֲכָרִית אֵיזֶבֶל אֶת נְבִיאֵי יְהוָה וַיִּקַּח
עֹבַדְיָהוּ מֵאָה נְבִיאִים וַיַּחְבֵּאֵם חֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ
בַּמְעָרָה וְכָל־כֶּלֶם לֶחֶם וּמַיִם:
וַיֹּאמֶר אַחָאָב אֶל-עֹבַדְיָהוּ לֶךְ בְּאֶרֶץ
אֶל-כָּל-מַעְיְנֵי הַמַּיִם וְאֵל כָּל-הַנְּחָלִים אוּלַי |
נִמְצָא חֲצִיר וּנְחִיָּה סוּס וּפָרָד וְלוֹא נְכָרִית
מִהַבְּהֵמָה:

וַיַּחֲלֶקְוּ לָהֶם אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ לְעֵבֶר-בַּיָּמִין אַחָאָב
הַלֵּךְ בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶחָד לְבָדוֹ וְעֹבַדְיָהוּ הַלֵּךְ
בְּדֶרֶךְ-אֶחָד לְבָדוֹ:

וַיְהִי עֹבַדְיָהוּ בְּדֶרֶךְ וְהִגִּה אֵלָיו לְקִרְאָתוֹ
וַיִּכְרַהֵל וַיִּפֹּל עַל-פְּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הֲאֵתָה זֶה אֲדֹנָי
אֵלָיו:

וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֲנִי לֶךְ אֲמַר לְאֲדֹנָיךָ הִנֵּה אֵלָיו:

be killed?

As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom to which my lord has not sent to look for you; and when they said, 'He is not here,' he made that kingdom or nation swear that you could not be found.

And now you say, 'Go tell your lord: Elijah is here!'

When I leave you, the spirit of the LORD will carry you off I don't know where; and when I come and tell Ahab and he does not find you, he will kill me. Yet your servant has revered the LORD from my youth.

My lord has surely been told what I did when Jezebel was killing the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred of the prophets of the LORD, fifty men to a cave, and provided them with food and drink.

And now you say, 'Go tell your lord: Elijah is here.' Why, he will kill me!"

Elijah replied, "As the LORD of Hosts lives, whom I serve, I will appear before him this very day."

Obadiah went to find Ahab, and informed him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

When Ahab caught sight of Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

He retorted, "It is not I who have brought trouble on Israel, but you and your father's House, by forsaking the commandments of the LORD and going after the Baalim.

Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, together with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred

וַיֹּאמֶר מֶה חָטָאתִי כִּי־אַתָּה נִתַּן אֶת־עַבְדְּךָ
בְּיַד־אַחַב לְהַמִּיתָנִי:

חַי ׀ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אִם־יִשְׁגֹּי וּמִמְלָכָה אֲשֶׁר
לֹא־שָׁלַח אֶדְנִי שָׁם לְבַקֶּשְׁךָ וְאָמְרוּ אֲנִי
וְהַשְׁבִּיעַ אֶת־הַמְּמַלְכָה וְאֶת־הַגֹּי כִּי לֹא
יִמְצָאָהּ:

וְעַתָּה אַתָּה אָמַר לְךָ אָמַר לְאֶדְנֶיךָ הִנֵּה
אֵלַיְהוּ:

וְהִיָּה אֲנִי ׀ אֵלֶיךָ מֵאַתְּךָ וְרוּחַ יְהוָה ׀ יִשְׁאַף
עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־אֲדַע וּבָאתִי לְהַגִּיד לְאַחַב וְלֹא
יִמְצָאָךָ וְהִרְגֵנִי וְעַבְדְּךָ יֵרָא אֶת־יְהוָה מִנְעָרַי:
הֲלֹא־הֲגַד לְאֶדְנִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי בְּהַרְגַּ
אִיזָבֵל אֵת נְבִיאֵי יְהוָה וְאַחַבָּא מִנְבִיאֵי יְהוָה
מֵאָה אִישׁ חֲמִשִּׁים חֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ בַּמְעָרָה
וְאֶכְלָפְלָם לֶחֶם וּמַיִם:

וְעַתָּה אַתָּה אָמַר לְךָ אָמַר לְאֶדְנֶיךָ הִנֵּה
אֵלַיְהוּ וְהִרְגֵנִי: {ס}

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַיְהוּ חַי יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֲשֶׁר עִמָּדְתִּי
לִפְנָיו כִּי הַיּוֹם אֶרְאֶה אֵלָיו:

וַיֵּלֶךְ עַבְדֵיהֶו לְקִרְאֵת אַחַב וַיַּגִּדְלוּ וַיֵּלֶךְ
אַחַב לְקִרְאֵת אֵלַיְהוּ:

וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹת אַחַב אֶת־אֵלַיְהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אַחַב
אֵלָיו הֲאֵתָה זֶה עֹכֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא עֹכְרְתִי אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי אִם־אַתָּה
וּבֵית אָבִיךָ בַּעֲבוּבְכֶם אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה וַתִּלְךָ
אַחֲרֵי הַבְּעָלִים:

וְעַתָּה שְׁלַח קִבְץ אֵלַי אֶת־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַר
הַכַּרְמֶל וְאֶת־נְבִיאֵי הַבְּעַל אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת

prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.”

Ahab sent orders to all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel.

Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long will you keep hopping between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; and if Baal, follow him!” But the people answered him not a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, “I am the only prophet of the LORD left, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men.

Let two young bulls be given to us. Let them choose one bull, cut it up, and lay it on the wood, but let them not apply fire; I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, and will not apply fire.

You will then invoke your god by name, and I will invoke the LORD by name; and let us agree: the god who responds with fire, that one is God.” And all the people answered, “Very good!”

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one bull and prepare it first, for you are the majority; invoke your god by name, but apply no fire.”

They took the bull that was given them; they prepared it, and invoked Baal by name from morning until noon, shouting, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no sound, and none who responded; so they performed a hopping dance about the altar that had been set up.

When noon came, Elijah mocked them, saying, “Shout louder! After all, he is a god.

וּחְמָשִׁים וּנְבִיאֵי הָאֲשֵׁרָה אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אַכְלֵי
שְׁלַחַן אֵיזוֹבֵל:

וַיִּשְׁלַח אַחְאָב בְּכָל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְבְּצֵן

אֶת־הַנְּבִיאִים אֶל־הָר הַכַּרְמֶל:

וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלֵיהֶם אֶל־כָּל־הָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר עַד־מַתִּי

אַתֶּם פֹּסְחִים עַל־שְׁתֵּי הַסַּעֲפִים אִם־יְהוָה

הָאֱלֹהִים לָכֵן אַחְרָיו וְאִם־הַבַּעַל לָכֵן אַחְרָיו

וְלֹא־עָנּוּ הָעָם אֹתוֹ דְבָר:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם אֶל־הָעָם אֲנִי נֹתַרְתִּי נְבִיא

לַיהוָה לְבַדִּי וּנְבִיאֵי הַבַּעַל אַרְבַּע־מֵאוֹת

וּחְמָשִׁים אִישׁ:

וַיִּתְנוּ־לָנוּ שְׁנַיִם פָּרִים וַיִּבְחָרוּ לָהֶם הַפָּר

הָאֶחָד וַיִּנְתְּחֵהוּ וַיִּשְׂמוּ עַל־הָעֵצִים וְאֵשׁ לֹא

יִשְׂמוּ וְאֲנִי אֶעֱשֶׂה | אֶת־הַפָּר הָאֶחָד וַנְּתַתִּי

עַל־הָעֵצִים וְאֵשׁ לֹא אָשִׁים:

וַקְרֹאתֶם בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְאֲנִי אֶקְרָא

בְּשֵׁם־יְהוָה וְהָיָה הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲנֶנּוּ בְּאֵשׁ

הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים וַיַּעַן כָּל־הָעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ טוֹב

הַדְּבָר:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם לְנְבִיאֵי הַבַּעַל בַּחֲרוּ לָכֶם הַפָּר

הָאֶחָד וַעֲשׂוּ רֵאשִׁינָה כִּי אַתֶּם הָרַבִּים וַקְרֹאוּ

בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְאֵשׁ לֹא תִשְׂימוּ:

וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־הַפָּר אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן לָהֶם וַיַּעֲשׂוּ וַיִּקְרְאוּ

בְּשֵׁם־הַבַּעַל מִהַבְּקָר וְעַד־הַצֹּהָרִים לֹא־מָר

הַבַּעַל עָנָנוּ וְאִין קוֹל וְאִין עֲנָה וַיִּפְסְחוּ

עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה:

וַיְהִי בַצֹּהָרִים וַיִּהְיֶה בָהֶם אֵלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר

קְרֹאוּ בְּקוֹל־גָּדוֹל כִּי־אֱלֹהִים הוּא כִּי שָׁיַח

But he may be in conversation, he may be detained, or he may be on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and will wake up.” So they shouted louder, and gashed themselves with knives and spears, according to their practice, until the blood streamed over them. When noon passed, they kept raving until the hour of presenting the meal offering. Still there was no sound, and none who responded or heeded.

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come closer to me”; and all the people came closer to him. He repaired the damaged altar of the LORD.

Then Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob—to whom the word of the LORD had come: “Israel shall be your name”— and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Around the altar he made a trench large enough for two *seahs* of seed. He laid out the wood, and he cut up the bull and laid it on the wood.

And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it over the burnt offering and the wood.” Then he said, “Do it a second time”; and they did it a second time. “Do it a third time,” he said; and they did it a third time.

The water ran down around the altar, and even the trench was filled with water.

When it was time to present the meal offering, the prophet Elijah came forward and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel! Let it be known today that You are God in Israel

וְכִי־שָׁיֵג לְוֹ וְכִי־דַרְדַּר לְוֹ אוֹלֵי יָשׁוּן הוּא וַיִּקְרָץ:
וַיִּקְרְאוּ בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל וַיִּתְגַּדְּדוּ כַּמְשַׁפְּטִים
בַּחֲרָבוֹת וּבַרְמָחִים עַד־שִׁפְפוּ־דָם עֲלֵיהֶם:
וַיְהִי כַּעֲבַר הַצֹּהָרִים וַיִּתְנַבְּאוּ עַד לְעֹלוֹת
הַמִּנְחָה וְאִין־קוֹל וְאִין־עֲנָה וְאִין קָשָׁב:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵיו לְכֹל־הָעָם גִּשׁוּ אֵלַי וַיִּגְשׁוּ
כֹל־הָעָם אֵלָיו וַיִּרְפָּא אֶת־מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה הַהָרוּס:
וַיִּקַּח אֱלֹהֵיו שְׁתֵּים עָשָׂרָה אֲבָנִים כַּמְסַפֵּר
שְׁבֻטָי בְּנֵי־יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר הָיָה דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלָיו
לֵאמֹר יִשְׂרָאֵל יִהְיֶה שְׁמִי:
וַיִּבְנֶה אֶת־הָאֲבָנִים מִזְבֵּחַ בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וַיַּעַשׂ
תְּעֹלָה כַּבַּיִת סָאתִים זָרַע סָבִיב לְמִזְבֵּחַ:
וַיַּעַרְךָ אֶת־הָעֵצִים וַיִּנְתַּח אֶת־הַפֶּךָ וַיִּשֹׁם
עַל־הָעֵצִים:
וַיֹּאמֶר מִלְּאוּ אַרְבַּעָה כַּדִּים מַיִם וַיִּצְקוּ
עַל־הָעֹלָה וְעַל־הָעֵצִים וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁנוּ וַיִּשְׁנוּ
וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלֹשׁוּ וַיִּשְׁלֹשׁוּ:
וַיִּלְכוּ הַמַּיִם סָבִיב לְמִזְבֵּחַ וְגַם אֶת־הַתְּעֹלָה
מִלְּא־מַיִם:
וַיְהִי | בַּעֲלוֹת הַמִּנְחָה וַיִּגֹּשׁ אֱלֹהֵיו הַנְּבִיא
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל
הַיּוֹם יוֹדַע כִּי־אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲנִי
עַבְדְּךָ (וּבַדְּבָרִיד) [וּבַדְּבָרֶךָ] עָשִׂיתִי אֵת
כֹּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה:
עֲנֵנִי יְהוָה עֲנֵנִי וַיִּדְעוּ הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי־אַתָּה
יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים וְאַתָּה הִסַּבְתָּ אֶת־לִבִּם
אֲחֻרָנִית:

and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your bidding. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God; for You have turned their hearts backward.” Then fire from the LORD descended and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the earth; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When they saw this, all the people flung themselves on their faces and cried out: “The LORD alone is God, The LORD alone is God!”

וַתִּפֹּל אִשׁ־יְהוָה וַתֹּאכַל אֶת־הָעֹלָה
וְאֶת־הָעֵצִים וְאֶת־הָאֲבָנִים וְאֶת־הָעֶפְרָר
וְאֶת־הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר־בַּתְּעֹלָה לַחֲכָה:
וַיֵּרָא כָּל־הָעָם וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ יְהוָה
הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים:

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