



A Story from the Old Testament...

Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

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In the Old Testament, there were many rulers and kings that led many kingdoms with many people. Some of these kings were good and some of them were bad. King Ahab was one of those bad kings. He was not a man of God because he and his people worshipped idols.

During the time of King Ahab, there was a prophet that was trying to spread the word of the true God throughout the land. The name of this prophet was Elijah. Elijah was a man that listened and obeyed every word that the Lord commanded him to do. One of Elijah's tasks from God was to tell King Ahab that he was not doing good things and that God was upset with him. King Ahab didn't believe him because he worshipped idols and he knew nothing of the real God.



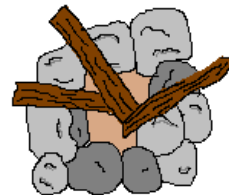
So Elijah asked that there be a little competition between his God and the idol god named Baal. King Ahab agreed to this and he sent 450 prophets of Baal to meet with Elijah by himself on the top of Mt. Carmel.

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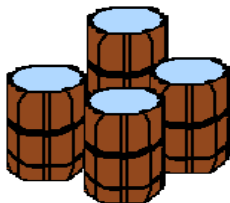
When everyone was at the mountain, Elijah and the prophets of Baal started to prepare their sacrifices to offer unto



each of their gods. They each had a bull that they would place on an altar and pray to their god that there would be a fire sent from heaven that would burn the offered sacrifice.



So the 450 prophets set up their sacrifice and prayed, and prayed, and prayed all day and into the night that their god would send them a fire to take the sacrifice. They even began to scream loudly and hurt each other to get the attention of their fake god. But there was no response.



When Elijah saw that there was no hope for them, he stopped them and told everyone to come near him to watch him pray to his God. Before he called on the Lord, he even poured water on the bull three times just to show everyone that he is not tricking them. So Elijah then prayed a simple prayer from the heart and there came a fire from the heavens that burned the sacrifice away right in front of the people's eyes. All the people that saw this miracle fell on their faces and began to worship the real and true God. The 450 prophets were executed because of their lies and their conduct towards their paying their price.

Questions:

1. Who was the king during Elijah's time to be a prophet?
2. What was the name of the fake god?
3. How many prophets did Elijah have to battle in a contest?
4. Where did the contest take place?
5. After the miracle happened, did anyone begin to believe in Elijah's true God?

