

1 Kings 18:36-46

Elijah's contest with the priests of Baal

1 Kings 18:31 - "And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name"

I think this links the passage to the Torah reading. Joseph has revealed himself to the "sons of Jacob" who will found the 12 tribes of Israel. Elijah sets up 12 stones representing those tribes as an altar to the Lord.

The haftarah passage begins in verse 36:

1 Kings 18:36 - "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word."

1 Kings 18:37 - "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again." Or, "that you are turning their heart back to you."

When we see idolatry proved baseless and vain, we will repent.

The prophets of Basal are then hunted down and killed. Spiritually, these are the lying voices in our heads that deceive us. We "revenge the disobedience" (**2 Corinthians 10:6**).

Prayer for Rain on Mt. Carmel

1 Kings 18:41-46 - Once idolatry was defeated, Elijah prays for rain to break the drought.

James 5:16-18 - "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."