

All-In Series Slide

Jon Bellion is singer/song writer/music producer that is incredibly innovative in his sound and thoughtful in his lyrics.

One of his newer projects was co-writing and producing Tori Kelly's latest EP entitled "Tori".

There's a song on this album called "Young Gun" its a duet with Jon and Tori— Its by far the best song on the EP. its lyrics are exceptional.

On first listen- the song seems to be about a two people in love, one leaves the other for a "Young Gun from another town".

But last week- Jon, in a rare instagram story said, "Young Gun is about Record Labels."

So I went back and listened- with this new perspective. And I want to share what I heard... because its going to introduce a concept that's gonna be all through the Scripture we're in today.

Listen to the first verse...the first verse is about how "All-In" an artist can be for what the record label tells them will sell records. Which is what the label cares about. So this is the perspective of the artist singing to the Record Label.

**You said you love the night
So I went in the sky
And turned off all the lights
I lassoed every star
You said you love the ocean
So I went out and dove in
Put it all out in the open
Gave up my own wild heart**

**I conquered the world and then some
Captured the golden crown**

The artist in the song did everything just right. Went all-in. Held nothing back. In fact, he gave up his wild heart, his creativity to fit into what the record label said they should be...w
And ..

**Still I heard you found
A young gun from another town and they're
Everything I couldn't be**

The label still moved on- found some young gun they thought would sell more records.

In the second verse- they sing about the inability to Keep Going. To stay young and attractive and to keep giving the label and the fans what they want.

**Soul began to break
From underneath the weight
Been tryna keep the pace
But that road went on and on**

**I coulda tried to run
But to stay forever young
Is a war that's never won
And time is just way too strong**

**Oh, what a tragic ending, mm
Oh, what a hurtful sound
When I heard you found
A young from another town**

This song- whether its about love...or the music industry...gets to the heart of idolatry.

The tragic ending of going All-In on a hope...a dream...something somebody tells you will last...and then feeling your soul break...unable to keep the impossible pace required of the record deal...or the relationship... that you think is going to save you from your loneliness... your poverty...or the feeling of failure that permeates your life.

The chorus ends with this line

**And do you ever think of me?
How could I compete with a..
A young gun from another town?**

This song clarifies the same truths through song that 1 Kings 18 does through story.

Namely- what idols are...what we want from them...and how they let us down.

Title Slide- "Young Gun: Why Going All-In on the True God is Better than Idolatry"- 1 Kings 18:17-45

But- what 1 Kings gives us that Jon & Tori don't- is the beauty that can happen when you stop trying to run the race after a person or thing that only takes from you...and you instead go All-In on the God who freely gives himself to you.

Our approach today will be to read a bit, explain a bit through this text...then we'll finish with the truths that come out of this passage...and some vision for what's coming for City Church.

Last week, we covered Elijah coming onto the scene in Israel for the first time. And YHWH puts him directly in front of Israel's King to deliver a message.

Elijah tells King Ahab- that no rain will fall, until the Lord says so. This is because King Ahab and his wife Jezebel have introduced the idols called ba'als to Israel. So one particular Ba'al was supposed to be the god of rain and thunder...and then there is the Asherah that represents fertility- things growing and producing fruit.

But YHWH, wants no confusion for Israel. He wants them to know he is the one who sends the rain- he's the one who makes the crops grow...not Baal...not Asherah.

So its now been 3 years of drought in Israel...and the LORD sends Elijah back to Ahab to finally bring this battle between gods to a head...to end the drought.

1 Kings 18:17-19

17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, the one ruining Israel?"

18 He replied, "I have not ruined Israel, but you and your father's family have, because you have abandoned the Lord's commands and followed the Baals. 19 Now summon all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

When a person doesn't want to change their life to follow God- they will do everything they can to avoid repentance. And that means- that when the result of their sin destroys people around them- they will shift the blame.

That's what Ahab does to Elijah. It's Ahab's disobedience that is the real cause of the drought- but he wants to shoot the messenger. The drought is an outward sign of the inward reality... Israel's worship of false gods is drying them up. It's killing them. Elijah came to wake them up to that reality.

But Ahab says- "Hey everybody- Look it's Elijah- we wouldn't be in this mess if he wouldn't have come along!"

Elijah's response is "We'll see you and all of the Cobra Kai dojo at the All valley tournament."

v 20-21

20 So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel. 21 Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word.

This word "waver" is more literally translated as Limp. Still means the same thing, but limp is such a good visual. It's this wounded people...trying to get what they need, and so whenever Baal sounds like the better god...they limp over there. Then when YHWH sounds like he has something to offer them...they limp over there.

And Elijah just comes over Enneagram 8 style and says, "Hey! Let's stop this. Figure out what you are going to be. Either YHWH is real...and you should follow him. Or Baal is real..and you should follow him...but stop limping around between the two! Make up your mind!"

And the people just stand there staring at him. They are completely afraid of going All-In. They want to keep their options over. When YHWH and BAAL have a party at the same time...the people of Israel be texting both of them "We might swing by...not sure yet." Then they try to figure out what their friends are doing.

v 22

22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men."

Elijah's name is a mashup of the Hebrew words "Elohim" which means God. And "YHWH"- which is God's name- that is represented in English by the all caps word "LORD". So Eli-YAH- The Lord is God.

In other words- the one God has one man representing him...while the Baals are plural and represented by 450 men.

Here's the challenge...the gauntlet being thrown down.

v 23-24

23 Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire. 24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who answers with fire, he is God."

All the people answered, "That's fine."

First- props to the CSB translation of the Bible here for the really bringing out the disinterest. I mean, "That's fine". In the future I'll be looking for a thumbs up emoji.

Anyway- the agreement is that a bull will be laid on the altar, and whichever god answers by sending down fire- then Israel will worship that god alone.

Elijah- kindly, lets the prophets of Baal go first.

v 25-26

25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god but don't light the fire."

26 So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "Baal, answer us! " But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

Baals prophets are going crazy...trying to get him to answer all morning long...but they get nothing. So Elijah jokes around with them a bit.

v 27

27 At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, "Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!"

Now- this little bit where Elijah says "maybe your Baal has wandered away. That literally means going #2. Maybe he's in the bathroom and cant hear you. Can you imagine being in the bathroom and then 450 people start screaming at you to come out? I don't think you'd get much done. Notice- in Elijah's jesting- he's pointing out human limitations. He's drawing their attention to the fact- Maybe your god is not as much of a god as you thought. Because if he has to decide...or he used the bathroom..or he can't be in more than one place at one time...or he needs rest...maybe he's not the god you think he is.

v 28-29

28 They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed over them. 29 All afternoon they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound; no one answered, no one paid attention.

This is a cultic practice of cutting to appease the gods. Blood is everywhere. And look at how the author drives home just how empty...and void the whole practice is. No sound. No answer. No one paying attention. Its like when you win your fantasy football league. No one cares.

v 30-32

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near me." So all the people approached him. Then he repaired the Lord's altar that had been torn down: 31 Elijah took twelve stones — according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel will be your name" — 32 and he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold about four gallons.

Elijah invites them close. He wants to be as intimate and up close as possible.

Notice, Elijah is not just repeating what the prophets of Baal did. He specifically is reminding Israel that YHWH is a god of Covenant. That they have a backstory with him. Of his loving care and faithfulness. That he brought them this far. that he delivered them from slavery. that he brought them into a promised land. In reminding them of his name...he reminds them of their name. Your name is ISRAEL. You are mine. You do not belong to BAAL. We have a covenant. A relationship.

v 33-35

33 Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. He said, "Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the offering to be burned and on the wood." 34 Then he said, "A second time!" and they did it a second time. And then he said, "A third time!" and they did it a third time. 35 So the water ran all around the altar; he even filled the trench with water.

Now, remember- this is happening in the midst of a drought that has lasted 3 years. Which means- it is a great sacrifice...an act of faith on Elijah's part...and a calling to an act of faith on the part of Israel...to pour out 12 pots of water.

v 36-37

36 At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah approached the altar and said, "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant, and that at your word I have done all these things. 37 Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back."

Elijah's prayer- is for his people. He's not necessarily looking for personal vindication from God, he has a heart that wants Israel to repent...to come back...to be God's family again. To stop destroying themselves by limping between gods.

v38-39

38 Then the Lord's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, "The Lord, he is God! The Lord, he is God! "

God sends the fire...and it not only consumes the bull...but all the water in the trenches. And it has Israel chanting "The Lord is God"...which remember- is Elijah's name. So if you were there...it would be hard to tell if they are chanting because Elijah is awesome....or because God is.

Which is kind of the beautiful thing about this. Elijah's desire and identity is so caught up in who God is...that to say Elijah's name is to make a statement about God. To cheer for God is to cheer for Elijah. Wouldn't that be something!

v 40

40 Then Elijah ordered them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let even one of them escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and slaughtered them there.

I know this is a tough part of this text. The Man of God just waylaying these prophets. I don't want to spend too much time here...but I also don't want to skip it, because I don't want you to think I'm just gonna pick the triumphant parts of a text that are easy to preach.

But let me highlight 3 things to think about.

First- what's gonna happen if these prophets of Baal live?- The very next chapter, Jezebel and Ahab are trying to kill Elijah. Imagine if they would have had 950 prophets of Asherah and Baal to command.

Second- Part of Israel's law is to put to death false prophets that deliberately attempt to lead them astray.

Third- as a general principle- anytime you come across a very off-putting verse in Scripture... always reserve judgment. I can't tell you how many times that when you look into the ancient context...and start to get an understanding of what is happening at this time, the way people lived...and the way events were recorded... there is almost always a clearer picture that comes into view.

And this passages aim, nor my aim today is to defend Elijah turning to Liam Neeson here. But I do think its interesting that most of us understood in the movie "Taken" and in EVERY. LIAM. NEESON. MOVIE. that followed it... that when you mess with a man's kids...there is vengeance...there is retribution that is justice. That's why nobody protested those movies.

These are YHWH's kids. And these predators have been seducing them. And Elijah executes justice according to the law.

v41 & 45-46

41 Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a rainstorm."

45 In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a downpour. So Ahab got in his chariot and went to Jezreel. 46 The power of the Lord was on Elijah, and he tucked his mantle under his belt and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

When Elijah tells Ahab, to get a feast ready- its another call to faith in YHWH. You can go ahead and eat and drink what you've been saving up. Because God is going to send the rain. The fields will bloom again. The trees will bear fruit. The One True God, YHWH will do wha Baal and Asherah never could...because they aren't real.

Besides God sending fire....then bringing the rain. There's one more little miracle in here...a display of YHWH's power- Elijah outruns Ahab's chariot.

Which is the opposite of a limp.

Ok...now let's put this all together.

1) You can't limp between gods for long. Eventually- you have to go All-In.

There are 2 ways we limp between gods.

With our mind, and with our desires.

Lets talk about the mind first.

Intellectually limping between gods is when you say, "All religions basically believe the same thing. So it doesn't really matter what you believe. If you want to take a little bit from Xianity, and little Buddhist practice over here...and I kind of like the way the Muslims operate over here."

This kind of idea is often represented as a very peaceful, non-judgmental approach.

Where someone says, "All religions are really about loving and serving your fellow man." Which- there may be some truth in that...but to make that the core tenant of every faith...is not being honest. And its not listening to the people OF those faiths who would tell you, "actually, the core tenant of our faith is to worship this god we serve with all our heart and soul and mind."

That itself is judgmental- to look at someone practicing a religion and say- "You can't tell me what your religion is about- I'll tell you what its about!" That's very arrogant and closed-minded.

Maybe you've heard it put like this.

"God is at the top of a mountain. And all the religious and spiritual pursuits of the world are all just climbing up toward the same destination- to the same God. They are just different paths up the mountain."

The problem with this is that when you say that- you are saying you have the knowledge that no one else has. While you say to all the people of those varying religions "You can't claim to have the whole truth- THAT's ARROGANT!" That is exactly what you are doing when you say "God is at the top of the mountain we're all climbing!" You are saying- "I see the mountain! You don't!"

But that's not the way most of us limp between 2 gods.

Most of us do it with our desires. Humans are not rational creatures. We are creatures of desire.

Look at the line from Young Gun

**You said you love the ocean
So I went out and dove in
Put it all out in the open
Gave up my own wild heart**

Its not that the artist didn't value his own wild heart...in other words- his freedom to create as he wanted to. Its that his desire for fame and success overtook it...so he gave up his creativity...and went out and did what the Record Executives said he needed to do. Now, if you interviewed this artist- he wouldn't say- "My own creativity isn't important. What I'm really here for is the money and fame."

Of course not. Intellectually, he was never making that trade off. Its that he wanted the money and fame more than he wanted his creativity. He never would have intellectually told you that- but he followed his desires right to that conclusion.

Of course, Its a tragic ending. Its a hurtful sound. Because eventually the record company moved on to some young gun from another town. And he was left alone- compromised.

Back to 1)

We do this all the time.

Statistically, there is a huge number of people who just stopped going to church during Covid. Some of you might be in here today. Eventually you stopped any sort of spiritual discipline at all. And its not that you ever said, "Hey, you know what- I don't believe in God anymore. I'm gonna stop wasting my time."

No. Actually-if I asked you in a survey about your theological beliefs- you would answer all those test questions the same as most of us in here.

But you made a choice with your desires. So you limp. Yes. I'm following Jesus, but right now- its more important for me to call my own shots. But don't write me off. I'll be back when I have kids. Or we'll be back when its more convenient.

Whether its with the mind or heart- The Lord says through Elijah- "Stop limping between Gods!" Choose who you will serve and go all in!

Here's the way Jesus puts it- specifically regarding money.

Matthew 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

You can't both be greedy and generous. Jesus is saying- "If you serve money- the security it brings. The comfort and excitement it can buy you. You will resent God when he says "Give it away." You'll resent the pastor when he brings up a 2 year generosity initiative called ALL-IN and then you'll say that the church is greedy and the pastor is greedy and all they do is talk about money.

But in reality- there's a question you need to ask. Maybe its not really about the church...or the pastor. Maybe- you're limping between 2 gods. And your desires have led you to serve money. And so you've given up your own wild heart to do whatever money tells you to do. SO- you hate anyone who calls you to give it away.

Elijah and Jesus both say. "Stop Limping. Be devoted to one God. Its time to make your choice and go All-In."

Transition: Because...

2) False gods make you dance & slash. The real God freely gives.

The message of any false god is “Obey me first, and then I’ll accept you.”

False Gods always ask for you to make the first move.

Just like the Record Execs in Young Gun.

You said you wanted the stars...so I went in the sky and got them.
You said you wanted the ocean...so I dove in.

That’s the approach of the prophets of Ba’al. They think if they can dance just right. If they can chant and shout just right. If they can put on a good enough show...the Baal will answer.

But Elijah says, “Perhaps he’s left you for a Young Gun from another town....or maybe he’s just in the bathroom!”

This is what sets the God of the Bible apart from every false god.

See, God’s like the Muslim “Allah” are always saying- “Do for me, and I’ll do for you.” Dance harder. Are you keeping my commandments well enough?”

Or go away from organized religion and you’ll still worshipfully dance around an altar trying to get something.

Attention, money, beauty, respect.

Like a slave- you’ll dance to get into the right school, or the right job, or to get the right amount of money.

Life is one big America’s Got Talent or SYTYCD audition. Judge me. Like me. Watch me perform and give me what I’m looking for.

To the point...that you will slash yourself trying to get what you want from your god.

Sometimes, the slashing is literal. Like cutting to get attention or to feel something.

Often, its metaphorical.

Crash diets or starving yourself or overexercising to get that standard of beauty you can never catch up to.

Slashing up your family by overworking to get that perfect amount of money that makes you feel safe or important.

Slashing up your soul by compromising your integrity by cheating or lying to get what you want.

Listen- if you want to know what a false god is...look for the things you pursue that have you dancing and slashing...but then leave you empty...and used.

Oh what a tragic ending- oh what a hurtful sound. The prophets of Baal know those lyrics. And so do everyone of us who have danced and slashed for an idol that can't deliver.

But the real God is different. YHWH is different.

v 31 & 36

Notice- that when the prophets of Baal wear out, Elijah rebuilds the altar of Jacob- who God had renamed to "Israel". Then in his prayer he references Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

And through it he is using God's covenant name, YHWH.

Why?

Because a covenant is relational. Think of a marriage. Its not contractual- its relational. Any marriage that is based on "you do for me, then I'll see about doing for you" is not going to flourish.

With Abraham, YHWH made a covenant- he didn't ask Abraham to go GET the stars...he said "Abraham- look at the stars. I'll give you more offspring than you can count." To Jacob- who was huckster and a liar- he showed a stairway descending from the heavens...God was coming down to meet him...and indeed did...in a wrestling match where he didn't come to kill Jacob- but to bless him.

See- YHWH is different than Baal. He's different than the record execs or the god of success, or comfort, or beauty or money.

Instead of saying- "You make the first move- then we'll see what I do." YHWH says, receive me- Im coming to you...then we'll see how you respond to me.

In Exodus, he gives the 10 commandments to Israel AFTER he rescues them from slavery.

God calls Israel HIS PEOPLE- THEN he tells them how his people live. He doesn't say, "Live this way and you'll prove to me that you are capable of being my people."

Where Idols say "Dance for me! Slash for me!"
the real God says "I'm coming to love you first!"

This brings us to a very important truth that you have heard me say before...and you will hear many many more times.

The Technical attitude manipulates. The Bountiful attitude receives.

The technical attitude approaches God...and life by saying "If I can just get the dance right... then I will manipulate to get what I want." Its an exhausting life that leaves you always looking for more and better.

But the bountiful attitude believes that our life is a response to what a Good God freely gives us. SO we live with open hands- ready to receive from him...and we don't have to grasp the things he gives us because we know that he will always give us what we need.

That means that I live from abundance instead of scarcity. The dancing and slashing and hoarding is over with the Bountiful attitude.

Remember how God trained this up in Elijah?

Constantly feeding him through Ravens or through the Widow of Zarapheth. So by the time he's here outnumbered by the prophets of baal- he is a calm non-anxious presence ready for the Lord to provide the fire at just the right time.

He doesn't even scramble to go first. He's so calm- he makes a couple of jokes. And he's differentiated enough from Israel that he doesn't lash out at them in anger...but calmly and kindly invites them to repent.

Why? Because he has the bountiful attitude...and in faith...he's ready to receive from the Lord instead of Dance and Slash to prove himself.

Elijah received. Baal's prophets manipulated.

Listen to Jesus in Matthew 6 talk about this non-anxious presence that comes from the bountiful attitude.

Matthew 6:25-33

25 "Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? 27 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don't labor or spin thread. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 30 If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you — you of little faith? 31 So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

All-In-

Throughout All-IN, We invited you to receive by opening your hands up to your money. To not serve 2 masters. This is the final week of that 2 year initiative...and we have almost reached our financial goal of \$2.55 million. At the start of this month- we were \$186k away.

We didn't give that money because we thought if we did God would bless us. No. As God freely gave to us first- we are ready to give away.

And now- God has trained us to have a bountiful attitude. And We are going to be the church that moves forward with a bountiful attitude.

ALL-IN Components-

G4,
Growth Pathway,
D-Groups- DW- talking about these in a couple of weeks.

Transition: Finally- I want to answer a very important question. If we have participated in the dancing and slashing for other gods- and we saw in the prophets of baal that that worship of false gods deserve the justice of death...then how do we end up becoming God's covenant people that receive forgiveness through God's grace...instead of the chopped up prophets of baal. Well, its because...

3) Jesus was slashed & slaughtered, to turn our limping to running.

One of the last lines of Young Gun is a simple question.

"Do you ever think of me?"

At the heart of every human being is a desire to be known and loved.

that's what that question is. Do you know me? Do you love me?

To be known and rejected- is everyone's deepest fear.

To be loved but not known- is superficial- and doesn't satisfy us.

We deeply want someone to know us to our core and love us anyway.

And remember the lament in Young Gun?

**Soul began to break
From underneath the weight
Been tryna keep the pace
But that road went on and on**

**I coulda tried to run
But to stay forever young
Is a war that's never won
And time is just way too strong**

This is the lament for everyone of us who have chased and chased and chased a dream...and the goal post is always moved. Just a little more dancing...a little more slashing- say the false gods- and then I'll give you that non-anxious feeling of rest...you can cross the finish line.

This line says- that's soul breaking. The weight of that performing is crushing.

You can't run like that. You can't stay forever young. Its a war thats never won.

But look what the Prophet Isaiah says...in the chapter of his book that is the turning point. Chapter 40- that begins with the words "Comfort my people Israel"

Its the turning point in that book from judgment to comfort.

**Isaiah 40:28-31
28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the whole earth.
He never becomes faint or weary;**

there is no limit to his understanding.
29 He gives strength to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Youths may become faint and weary,
and young men stumble and fall,
31 but those who trust in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not become weary,
they will walk and not faint.

Did you see that?

YHWH never grows weary. AND THEN HE GIVES HIS STRENGTH to all those who are powerless.

Those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength- they will run and no be weary.

This is the answer to the lament of everyone who has ever been let down by a false god. Your soul is crushed- you are no longer a young gun..you cant keep up.

YHWH says- let me renew your strength.

Instead of limping between false gods- you could be RUNNING with REAL GOD!

But how?

Well, remember the altar that fire fell on with Elijah? They slashed up a bull as a sacrifice.

And fire consumed it.

The sacrifice for Israel was a symbol of God's patience. For a time- you can put all your sin symbolically on an animal- and I will withhold my judgment. The bull will be in your place.

Then the fire comes- a symbol of God's cleansing judgment.

And consumes the bull- and Israel can repent and say Eli-JAH- YHWH is God!

Now listen to what Jesus says in Luke 12

Luke 12:49-51

49 "I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already set ablaze! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and how it consumes me until it is finished! 51 Do you think that I came here to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division

Jesus says- "The fire of judgment..of purification is coming. But it will be my baptism. It will fully consume me." and in so doing- I will stop the limping between gods. There will be a clear division between those who belong to me...and those who don't.

On the cross- Jesus is the God who instead of the false gods that always say "Bleed for me" he says "I'll bleed for you"

Back to 3)

I'll be the sacrifice in your place for your sins.

Look to Christ on the cross- and you have all the love you've ever wanted.

You'll see that you are deeply known. Christ saw your sin and knew someone had to die for it. And you are deeply loved- he loved you so much that he was glad to do it. The Scripture says it was his joy.

When you threw god away for a Young god from another town- you crushed him.

But- on the third day he resurrected- so when you see him in his power...and you know how deeply he loves you you can say.

Time to Stop limping. I can't serve 2 masters.

He's answering the question- Do you even think of me?

Thats what he was doing when he died for you.

And now- by the power of his Holy Spirit- you can be the non-anxious presence with a bountiful attitude that receives from the LORD and runs- and doesn't get weary.

Finish-

Has God brought a drought in your life to shake up your status quo- so you finally look to Jesus and repent?

Have you trusted Jesus?

Are you All-in?

Time to stop limping- and start running.

Pray.