

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

*We're in... Unit 1: The God Who Reveals Himself*

**Unit 1 Big Question and Answer:**  
**How Can I Know What God Is Like?**  
**He Shows Me What He's Like!**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4

**Unit 1 Bible Verse: Amos 4:13, ESV**

"For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

## BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 2:*  
**God's Creations Tell Us about Him**

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God's creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He's like.

## BIBLE VERSE

*How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!*

**Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4, ESV**

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

## CASE STORY

1 Kings 17:1-18:46

**Our story is called:**

**The Case of the Speaking Rain**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. How did the rain "speak"?
2. What the rain "tell" the people of Israel?

This story is a Old Testament story that takes place in Israel, about 900 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Mount Carmel. That name might not mean much to you. It is the name of a little mountain range in Israel, 1800 feet high, sixteen miles long and four miles wide, right near the Mediterranean Sea. No, that name might not mean much to you, but to the people of Israel, it was about the closest thing they had to paradise.

Unlike the rest of Israel, which was fairly dry and rainless except during the short rainy season, Mount Carmel stayed green all year round. Men took advantage of Mount Carmel's richness and planted vineyards all over its slopes. They named these mountains "Mount Carmel," meaning "Vineyards of God," because God certainly had blessed them with so much fruitfulness.

But, at the time of this story, Mount Carmel was brown and liveless. Its slopes had lost their greenness. the trees were leafless, the grass was dead. The grapevines were bare and dry. What had happened?! The prophet Elijah knew. It had to do with King Ahab's sin.

"King Ahab," Elijah said, "the LORD made you king over Israel. You should worship Him, but you have led the people to worship the fake god, Baal, instead! You worship him as the god of rain and lightning. You've built altars to him on the hilltops and even on Mount Carmel. You think he's the one who brings the rain that grows all your crops and makes your families and animals happy and healthy. But you're wrong! The LORD is the creator of all things and now He will prove it to you," Elijah told Ahab. "He is going to withhold rain from Israel for a few years. It will not come back until he says so. Then you will see that He, not Baal, is the one, true God."

Everything happened, just as Elijah said. No rain fell for the next two years. Plants didn't grow. Wells dried up. Some people and animals even died!

"Bring us rain, oh great Baal!" the prophets of Baal, King Ahab and the people prayed. They offered sacrifices, too. But no matter how much they prayed or how many

sacrifices they made on the altars, no rain came. The LORD was sending a message loud and clear through the rain – or lack of it. He, not Baal, was the one, true God. King Ahab and the people should turn back and worship Him alone. When they did, the rain would come.

At last the LORD spoke to Elijah: “It’s time. The people are ready to repent. Go to Ahab. I’m going to make it rain.”

King Ahab was far from happy to see Elijah. The king blamed all this trouble on him. “Why have you come here, you troublemaker?” he said to Elijah, when he appeared before him.

“I’m not the troublemaker. You are,” Elijah replied. “You and your father’s family turned away from the LORD and worshiped Baal instead. But now it’s time for you to see that the LORD is the one, true God. Have all of the people of Israel and all the 450 prophets of Baal meet me up on top of Mount Carmel. There’s going to be a showdown between Baal and the LORD up there.”

The king sent the message throughout Israel. Before long, the prophets of Baal and all the people joined King Ahab and Elijah up on Mount Carmel.

“Is the LORD God or is Baal?” Elijah asked them all. “It’s time for you to decide who you will worship.”

The people just stood in silence.

“Get two bulls,” Elijah told them. “The prophets of Baal can choose one to sacrifice to Baal. Let them cut it up and put it on the wood of Baal’s altar, but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull, put it on the wood of the LORD’s altar, but not set fire to it,” he instructed.

They will call on the name of Baal and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire is the one, true God,” Elijah told them.

Everyone agreed to the contest. The prophets of Baal prepared their bull and put it on the wood of Baal’s altar, just as Elijah had told them too. They cried out to Baal from morning until noon. “Oh Baal, answer us!” they shouted, as they danced around his altar. But Baal did not answer.

At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely Baal is God! Perhaps he’s sleeping and must be awakened. Or maybe he’s thinking or busy.”

So the prophets of Baal shouted louder and louder. They even cut themselves with swords, as they sometimes did when they worshiped Baal. Surely this supposed god of rain and lightning could send down a spare lightning bolt to light the fire. But no. Nothing happened.

At last it was Elijah’s turn. “Come here to me,” he told the people. They gathered near and watched as Elijah repaired the LORD’s altar. He built it with twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. He dug a deep trench all the way around the altar. He put wood on the altar, then cut his bull into pieces, and laid it on top.

“Fill four, large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood. Do this three times,” he ordered. At last there was so much water that it ran down the altar and filled the trench. No ordinary fire would burn up this wet wood and offering!

Then Elijah prayed: “O LORD, accept this sacrifice. Answer me, Lord, so that the people will turn back and worship You, the one, true God.”

Immediately, the LORD sent fire down and burned up not just the sacrifice and the wood, but the stones, the water in the trench and even the soil!

The people saw this and fell down to the ground, worshiping the LORD. “The LORD, He is God! Baal is just a fake god,” they declared.

“Seize the prophets of Baal Don’t let any get away!” Elijah commanded the people. The people quickly obeyed. These false prophets wouldn’t get to tempt the people to turn away from the LORD anymore.

Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink! Celebrate! The LORD is going to send rain now. Heavy rain!”

As Ahab headed back to his palace in Jezreel, the sky began to change. First, only a tiny, black cloud was spotted in the distance. But before long, the wind began to blow and the whole sky became dark and stormy. Then whoosh! Down came the rain!

For over two years the rainless skies had proclaimed that it was the LORD, not Baal who was God. Now, the rain proclaimed that He was God, too. It drenched the earth and quenched the thirst of the people, the animals and even the dry slopes of Mount Carmel.

**Our Bible Truth is:****God’s Creations Tell Us about Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 8:1,3-4**

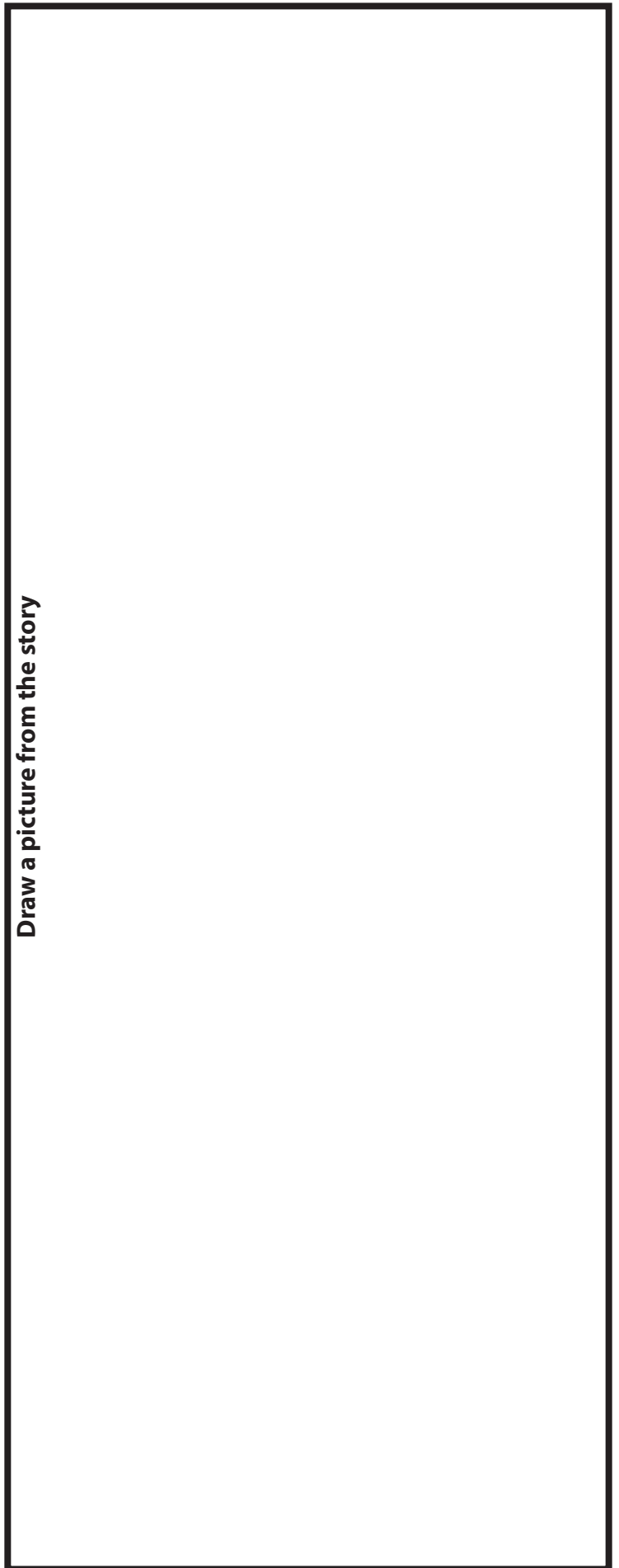
“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

The whole world is full of the majestic of the LORD. Everything in it was made by God and tell us something about Him. He has filled both heaven and earth with wonderful things for us to enjoy and from which we can learn about Him.

But what will we do when we see God's creations? Will we remember look for each can tell us about God and praise Him? Or, will we forget Him when we look at them? Too many times, we—like the Israelites, like all people—forget the LORD who made them all.

Let's praise the LORD now: the great God who shows us what He's like in all He's created. Let's ask Him to help us know Him better through His creations and always remember to praise Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

**Draw a picture from the story**



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p><b>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:</b>                      Creations tell us something about the person who created them.                      Answer: True.</p> <p><b>2. Crack the Case Questions:</b>  <b>a. How did the rain “speak”?</b>                      Answer: It showed who was the one, true God and who was not, as the LORD first withheld the rain, then brought it back, all at His command.</p> <p><b>b. What the rain “tell” the people of Israel?</b>                      Answer: That the LORD was the one, true God, not Baal, who they called the God of Rain and Lightning. They learned that they should turn back and worship the LORD.</p> <p><b>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:</b>  <b>Psalm 8:1,3-4</b>                      “O LORD, our Lord, how ___ is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the ___ and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are ___ of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”                      Answers: majestic; moon; mindful.</p>	<p><b>O, Worship the King</b>  <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15</i></p> <p><b>Verse 3</b>                      Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?                      It breathes in the air,                      it shines in the light,                      It streams from the hill,                      It descends to the plain,                      And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.</p> <p>Words: Robert Grant Music: Attr. Johan Michael Haydn</p> <p>All of God’s creation tells us about Him. We can look at everything from the air to the light, to the hills and plains, to the dew and rain, and see that God cares for us.</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p><b>A</b> God, we praise You for being the Creator of all things. We can see how wonderful You are in the many things You have made!</p> <p><b>C</b> God, we confess that we are sinners, just like the people of Israel. And, that even though we know about You and Your good ways, we still don’t seek You as we should or could. We need Jesus to save us!</p> <p><b>T</b> God, we thank you for telling us so much about You through Your creations. Thank You for being so merciful to the people of Israel long ago and to us. You want us to know and worship You!</p> <p><b>S</b> God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Use Your creations to help us know You better.</p>	<p><b>O LORD, Our Lord</b>  <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16</i></p> <p>O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!                      How majestic is your name in all the earth!                      O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!                      How majestic is your name in all the earth!                      When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,                      The moon and the stars that you have set in place,                      What is man? What is man?                      That you are mindful of him?                      And the son of man that you care for him?                      Psalm Eight, verses one, three and four.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 8:1,3,4, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the “name” of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. They display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God’s glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it’s amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!</p>