

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Baalism

Baal is sometimes plural *Baalim* (1 Kings 18:18)

Sometimes called *Baal-Hadad* (thunder)

A god of rain and fecundity (wind, cloud, and thunder)

According to Ugarit texts (found in 1928, written in the 13th Century B.C),

Baal as a son of El,

held under gods of sea (*Yam*), desert and death (*Mot*)

partnered with *Anat/Ashera/Ashtoreths* (Jud. 1:33, 2:13, 3:7, 1 Ki. 15:13, 1 Sam. 7:3-4)

Before getting married, a bride had to join temple prostitution,

giving the virginity and receiving the fecundity from *Anat* or *Ashera*. (Hosea 4:11-14)

3. Let us read Ch. 10

- a. How shall we understand verse 3?
- b. Who are “they” in verse 4?
- c. What would be the “double iniquity” in verse 10?
- d. What does verse 12 imply?

4. Let us read Ch. 11

- a. How shall we understand “cords of human kindness” and “bands of love” in verse 4?
- b. How do you understand the compassion of God?

5. Closing Prayer