

# Bonus Reading

Who's the  
troublemaker?

## Example #1:

The evil king of Israel, Ahab, called God's prophet, Elijah, "**you troubler of Israel.**" Elijah pointed out that it was, in fact, Ahab and his family who were causing trouble among God's people because they had "abandoned the commandments of the LORD." (1 Kings 18:17-19)

## Example #2:

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy. (Matthew 26:65)

But it was they who "crucified and killed" the "Author of Life"

"by the hands of lawless men." (Matt. 26:36 – 27:54; Acts 2:23; 3:15)

## Example #3:

Saul (a.k.a. Paul, esp. when preaching among non-Jews, Acts 13:9)

persecuted the church. (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 26:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-17)

Once he converted to Jesus Christ, unbelieving Jews made many attempts to kill him. (Acts 9:22-25; 13:50 – 14:19; 17:1-10; 20:3; 21:17 – 23:15; etc.)

They considered him "a **plague**, one who stirs up **riots**, and a **ringleader** of the sect of the Nazarenes" and they accused him of trying to **profane** the temple." (Acts 24:5-6)

Read the accounts and ask yourself, "**Who's the real troublemaker?**"

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If we follow Jesus' plan for His church, we'll **avoid causing trouble** and will **promote unity** among God's people.

End of reading