

“Elijah The Tishbite”

1 Kings 17-21, 2 Kings 1-2

Who Was Ahab?

- ▶ History of the kings.
- ▶ Ahab was a rather weak man, easily influence by those near to him.
- ▶ Built the house of Baal in Samaria.
- ▶ Jezebel, his wife was a domineering woman who was steeped in idolatry. Wanted the elimination of the prophets of Jehovah. (1 Kings 18:4).

Who Was Elijah?

- ▶ He is called “*the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead*” – 1 Kings 17:1
- ▶ “*A hairy man and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins*” – 2 Kings 1:7-8; cf. John, Matthew 3:4
- ▶ “*Man of like passions with us.*” James 5:17-18

Elijah’s Judgment Of Drought

- ▶ 1 Kings 17:1 “*As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*” KJV
- ▶ Baal & Astarte (love goddess, fertility – Ashtoreth); together would have been responsible for fruitful seasons and vegetation.

Elijah’s Judgment Of Drought

Provisions of God for Elijah.

- ▶ By the Brook Cherith – 1 Kings 17:2-7
- ▶ At the widow of Zarephath – 1 Kings 17:8-24
 - The miracle of the bin of flour and jar of oil.
 - The raising of the widow’s son.

Prelude To The Contest On Mount Carmel

More than three years pass without “*dew nor rain*”

- ▶ God instructed Elijah to, “*Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.*” 1 Kings 18:1
- ▶ Ahab getting hungry. 1 Kings 18:5
- ▶ Obadiah (who was over the household of Ahab; who hid 100 prophets and fed them – 18:4, 13) told to arrange a meeting.

Prelude To The Contest On Mount Carmel

Ahab and Elijah meet. 1 Kings 18:16-17

- ▶ **"Thou troubler of Israel."**
- ▶ Elijah answered: *"I have not troubled Israel; **but thou, and thy father's house**, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of Jehovah, and thou hast followed the Baalim."* 1 Kings 18:18
- ▶ Ahab hated Micaiah. 1 Kings 22:7-8, 18 ... Ahab killed. NOTE: 1 Kings 22:34-38; cf. 21:19
- ▶ Often truth is troubling. Matthew 10:34
- ▶ Jesus also accused of stirring up the people. Luke 23:5
- ▶ Paul accused of turning the world upside down. Acts 17:6

The Contest

Location. 1 Kings 18:14 Mount Carmel.

Symbol of Beauty and fertility

- To be given the *"splendor of Carmel"* was to be blessed indeed (Isaiah 35:2).
- Solomon praised his beloved: *"Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple."* (KJV) (*Song of Solomon 7:5*).
- For Carmel to wither was a sign of devastating judgment (Nahum 1:4).

The Contest

Elijah's command.

1 Kings 18:19 "Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the Asherah four hundred, that eat at Jezebel's table."

The Contest

The purpose of the contest was set forth in Elijah's question:

1 Kings 18:21 "How long go ye limping between the two sides? if Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

No middle ground! cf. Josh. 24:15

The Contest

The participants contrasted. 1 Kings 18:22

- ▶ Here stood ONE MAN ALONE — a man of coarse manner and garb, a man of the wilderness, a man unafraid, a man who in reality was the best friend Israel had at this time.
- ▶ There stood 450 WELL-FED, SLEEK, ELEGANTLY ARRAYED PROPHETS — Endorsed by the queen. Pomp and ceremony which accompanied idolatry.

The Contest

The Procedure Proposed By Elijah.

1 Kings 18:22-24

- ▶ All the people agree, *"It is well spoken."*

The Contest Begins 1 Kings 18:25–29

Prophets of Baal cry from morning until noon.
"O Baal hear us..."

- ▶ Elijah's sarcasm. 1 Kings 18:27
- ▶ False prophets increased their vigor.
1 Kings 18:28
- ▶ At last at the time of the evening oblation ... exhausted, they gave place to Elijah and his sacrifice.

The Contest Ends 1 Kings 18:30–38

Preparation of Elijah.

Elijah invites them to *"come near unto me."*

- ▶ Repairs the altar.
- ▶ Trench around the altar.
- ▶ Water poured on the altar 3 times.
Trench filled with water.

The Contest Ends 1 Kings 18:30–38

Once! Elijah called upon God.

1 Kings 18:37 "Hear me, O Jehovah, hear me, that this people may know that thou, Jehovah, art God, and (that) thou hast turned their heart back again."

The Contest Is Over! 1 Kings 18:38

*"Then the fire of Jehovah **fell**, and consumed the burnt-offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench."*

NOTE: This was no ordinary fire. It did not come from beneath the altar, but FELL.

The Result Of The Contest 1 Kings 18:39–46

- ▶ People believed. *1 Kings 18:39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, **Jehovah, he is God; Jehovah, he is God.**"*
- ▶ Prophets of the idols slain. *1 Kings 18:40*
– 450 prophets of Baal slain.
- ▶ Prayer and providence brought rain!
1 Kings 18:41–46; cf. James 5:17ff
- ▶ Ahab remained the same. 1 Kings 18:41–46
 - Sold himself to do evil. 1 Kings 21:19–20
 - Killed. 1 Kings 22:34–35
 - Dogs licked up his blood. 1 Kings 22:38

Lessons Learned

- ▶ God hates sin.
- ▶ Like the widow, we will be blessed if we follow God's instructions.
- ▶ The majority is not always right.
- ▶ *"Jehovah, He is God!"*
- ▶ God has promised to answer our prayers like He answered Elijah's prayer (James 5:15–18).
- ▶ The wages of sin is death.