

## "The Showdown on Mount Carmel"

### 1 Kings 18

#### Part 1

**Introduction:** There is something which Solomon said in Ecclesiastes that we MUST keep in mind in our day.

#### **Ecclesiastes 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

<sup>10</sup> *Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*

There is nothing new under the sun. In other words history repeats itself and it is important that we understand this Truth. That means as we study the Old Testament, we can often see pictures of what is happening today.

Today we are going to begin to walk with Elijah to Mount Carmel where he will enter a showdown with the prophets of Baal. But before we get to Mount Carmel there is a great deal for us to see in the events that lead us to the showdown.

### I. The Announcement

#### **Notice 1 Kings 16:30-33**

I show you these verses so that we may see how wicked King Ahab really was. Let us keep in mind he is the head of the "STATE" thus he is the political leader. Now let us notice the announcement by Elijah.

#### **Notice 1 Kings 17:1**

God's announcement through Elijah was that there would be no rain or dew for several years. After this announcement God commanded Elijah to go to the brook Cherith.

#### **Notice 1 Kings 17:2-7**

After the brook dried up, he was commanded to go to Zarephath. It was there that he stayed with a widow.

#### **Notice 1 Kings 17:8-16**

While there the son of the woman dies, and Elijah performed a miracle which is the first resurrection in the Bible.

**Notice 1 Kings 17:17-24**

## II. The Cause of the Drought

**Notice 1 Kings 18:1**

We need to slow down here and pay attention to the reference to the time. We are told these events take place "AFTER MANY DAYS" and "IN THE THIRD YEAR". We know because of what James wrote that we are now  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years after the drought started.

**James 5:17**

*<sup>17</sup> Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

The  $3\frac{1}{2}$  year period in the Bible is prophetically important. What has happened in 1 Kings 17 and what is about to happen here in 1 Kings 18 is a picture of something yet future.

**Revelation 12:13-15**

*<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

*<sup>14</sup> And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

*<sup>15</sup> And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*

A "TIME" is a full year cycle. "TIMES" would be two years. "HALF A TIME" would be six months.

So here we see that Israel will flee into the wilderness for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years where she will be nourished by God. After the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years God will see that the false religious system is destroyed, and Jesus will establish His Kingdom. Notice what Pater said about the Kingdom.

**Acts 3:19**

*<sup>19</sup> Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

Elijah was sent in hiding for 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years while God provided for him. As we move on, we shall see the destruction of the false prophets and the people will bow the knee to the Lord. Then the rain will come and refresh the land.

Let me show you another picture concerning 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years.

**Esther 1:1-4**

*Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)*

*<sup>2</sup> That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,*

*<sup>3</sup> In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:*

*<sup>4</sup> When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.*

At the end of the 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of his reign Haman will launch a decree to kill all Jews. This is a picture of the first 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of the Tribulation.

**Daniel 9:27**

*<sup>27</sup> And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

**Matthew 24:21**

*<sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

**Notice 1 Kings 18:2**

"A sore famine in the land". This is the result of the 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  year drought. This is a description of what Elijah was seeing as he walked. He had about a 50-mile journey to see Ahab. He is walking and see all the devastation and here he is looking strong and healthy. He has been nourished by the Lord for the 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years.

Now the scene changes.

**Notice 1 Kings 18:3-4**

Apparently during the drought and famine Jezebel killed many of the prophets of the Lord as they were blamed for what was happening. They hunted for Elijah and could not find him, so she had the prophets killed. Obidiah saved 100 of them by hiding them in the caves of which there were some 2000.

**Notice 1 Kings 18:5-6**

There were not many animals left alive and so they were hunting for grass for those surviving to feed upon.

**Notice 1 Kings 18:7-16**

Jezebel and Ahab had sent searchers to every corner of the land, and they could not find Elijah. Now he shows up and Obidiah is fearful he will disappear again, and Ahab will kill him. This is why the sons of the prophets insisted on searching for him after he was taken up in the whirl wind.

**Application:**

When God protects his people and hides them there is not anyone who can get to them.

**Job 1:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?*

*<sup>10</sup> Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.*

**Notice 1 Kings 18:16 again.**

I can only imagine how nervous Ahab was to meet Elijah. The words of Elijah which he spoke 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years earlier still echoed in his ears. There was also something else that Ahab would have been thinking of. It happened with King Jeroboam.

**1 Kings 13:1-5**

*And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon*

*thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.*

*<sup>3</sup> And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.*

*<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.*

*<sup>5</sup> The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.*

There were 2 things which happened here:

1. The alter split. This was a sign that the message was truly from the Lord.
2. The king's right hand withered. This was God letting him know that He could strip him of his power at any time. God's power was far superior to the king's.

**Notice 1 Kings 18:17-20**

We need to notice that Ahab was focused upon the problems and Elijah was focused upon the CAUSE of the problem.

**Application:**

**Noticed 1 Kings 18:18 again.**

Let us pay very close attention to that fact that the blame fell on the king and his household. I point this out because we need to know that the sins of the political leaders will bring dire consequences upon the people of the nation. This very same Truth can be seen in Exodus when Pharaoh refused to let God's people go.

**Proverbs 14:34**

*<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

**Psalm 9:17**

*<sup>17</sup> The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

I want to notice what God said concerning Israel and at the same time consider the parallels with our nation.

**Isaiah 5:1-7**

*Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:*

*<sup>2</sup> And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.*

*<sup>3</sup> And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.*

*<sup>4</sup> What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?*

*<sup>5</sup> And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:*

*<sup>6</sup> And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.*

*<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.*

**Conclusion:**

This is what we are seeing today, and we can be sure judgment will come. What should we then do?

**Matthew 7:24-25**

*<sup>24</sup> Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

*<sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*