

"The Showdown on Mount Carmel"

1 Kings 18

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of the false prophets we were looking at Elijah and the announcement of judgment that he had made to Ahab.

1 Kings 17:1

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, 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.

Following this announcement God commanded Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith. It was there that God fed him as the ravens brought his food. When the Brook went dry God commanded him to go to Zarephath where he stayed with a widow. She was quickly running out of food, but God performed a miracle as He multiplied the flour and the oil. After a while the widow's son died and Elijah raised him from the dead thus making that the first resurrection in the Bible.

As we entered into 1 Kings 18 God commanded Elijah to return back to his land and namely to Ahab where he was to reveal himself to the king. This was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years after the announcement.

James 5:17

¹⁷ 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 conditions of Israel were very sad. There was the drought and the famine. There was very little grass for livestock and so Ahab called Obadiah the governor of his house and the two went on a search for grass to save the remaining livestock. In his search Obadiah ran into Elijah. Elijah sent him to tell Ahab to come for a meeting. Obadiah was very reluctant because everyone had been searching for Elijah for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. Obadiah was afraid he would disappear again, and Ahab would kill him for saying he had found him. In the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years Jezebel had many of the Lord's true prophets put to death. Obadiah had saved 100 of them alive.

Notice 1 Kings 18:13

When we stopped last week Ahab had come to Elijah and the two met. This is where we are going to begin today but before I do I want you to notice something that we looked at last week that fits so well with what we are about to look at.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

⁹ *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.*

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

What we are going to see today is exactly what we see happening today.

I. The Challenge

Notice 1 Kings 18:16-18

These were the verses which we closed with last week. Ahab was focused upon the problem and Elijah was focused upon the cause. The famine and the drought were the results of the sins of Ahab and his family.

Notice 1 Kings 18:19-20

There were 850 prophets that were gathered to Mount Carmel. There were now thousands of people gathered on mount Carmel. The people came to watch what was going to transpire.

Notice 1 Kings 18:21

Here is a very revealing verse. The word "halt" means "to limp". The point we need to see is that the people were not grounded. Let me explain what had happened.

During the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ year drought and famine Ahab had convinced the people to turn away from the Lord and to turn toward the false god, Baal. He had convinced them to trust him and not the Lord. They had been deceived by his words and now they were going back and forth between the TRUE God and Baal. The TRUE prophets were killed because the people were convinced it was their fault that this devastation had come upon them.

So, the government used the drought and the famine and in less than 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years the people had been deceived into turning from the TRUE God and basically trusting a false god.

Application:

This is exactly what we are seeing in our nation and even across the globe today. The enemy is trying to replace the TRUE God with a false god. Let us remember that in order for socialism to work the government MUST be the highest authority.

Many believers today are "LIMPING" between two opinions. They are torn between listening to the government and listening to God's Word. God is calling His people to follow Him regardless of what the governmental leaders say and regardless of what the situation looks like.

I want to share with you the observation of a man who is not a believer from an article in which he says Christianity is being replaced:

CARLSON'S ARTICLE:

"Everybody believes in something. All of us are born with the need to worship. The question is what?"

So, no, America has not lost its religion. It's just replaced its religion. What's dying is the faith that created Western civilization—Christianity. In its place is a new creed, and like all religions, it has its own sacraments, its own sacred texts. It's the cult of coronavirus.

Kathy Hochul is one of the high priestesses of this new faith. She's the governor of New York. No, no one voted for her as governor. And that seems odd for a politician, but it's typical for a faith leader. No one voted for Jim Jones either. Yesterday, Kathy Hochul held her first service as the leader of the New York Diocese of the Corona cult. Around her neck. She wore not a cross—that's yesterday's symbol—but instead a vaccination necklace. That necklace signified to the faithful gathered that Hochul is ascended to the select priesthood of those who have taken full intravenous communion. Listen to Bishop Hochul preach.

"And I wear my vaccinated necklace all the time to say I'm vaccinated. All of you. Yes, I know you're vaccinated. You're the smart ones. But, you know, there's people out there who aren't listening to God, what God wants. You know this. You know who they are. I need you to be my apostles. I need you to go out and talk about it and say we owe this to each other. We love each other. Jesus taught us to love one another. And how do you show that love but to care about each other enough to say, please get vaccinated because I love you. I want you to live."

How do you show your love to one another the old way is to visit people, say, in the hospital as they died, that's no longer allowed. The new way to show your love is to get the vaccine. God himself wants you to take the vaccine. I need you to be my apostles, Hochul thundered. No one comes to the Father except through the shot. Sinners in the hands of

an angry health care worker. At the pulpit. Kathy Hochul, standing there, she wasn't merely a mediocre, unelected governor of a dying state with bad weather. No, Hochul was the vaccine messiah preaching the undying word of St. Anthony Fauci."

I share this because I want you to understand that we are in a spiritual battle and the enemy is doing all he can to suppress the Christian faith so that the stage will be set for the kingdom of the Anti-Christ. His kingdom will be a Communist ruled kingdom in which people will be greatly suppressed. Those who get saved after the Rapture will suffer greatly. True followers of Jesus Christ will be severely persecuted.

Revelation 6:9-11

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Notice 1 Kings 18:21 again.

When Elijah challenged the people not one person would say word. How sad. They should have known the reason why the drought and the famine had come upon them.

Deuteronomy 28:15-17, 23-26

¹⁵ But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

¹⁶ Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

¹⁷ Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

²³ And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

²⁴ The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

25 The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

26 And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

The people of Israel should have known this but instead of searching God's Word they listened to the lies of the government and false prophets.

Application:

Let us be very careful not to set God's Word aside and listening to the world's reasoning.

Mark 8:10-15

10 And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.

11 And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him.

12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.

13 And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.

15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

Let us beware of the fear and discouragement of the world for it will surely keep us from walking by faith.

Notice 1 Kings 18:22-30

I want you to notice something here.

Notice 1 Kings 18:28 again.

This is a picture of the worldly churches. When they start to lose the attention of the people, they must go to greater lengths to hold the people's attention. They have not the power of the Spirit to keep their attention, so they resort to entertainment.

Another thought comes from a passage in 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

³ *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

⁴ *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

⁵ **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** *from such turn away.*

After the efforts of the false prophets, Elijah called the people to come close. He wanted them to see he used no tricks. **Then he repaired the altar.** The altar had been broken down and so it needed repair.

Application:

This is the problem in the lives of many believer's lives today. The altar of worship has been destroyed. The altar was the place to meet God. Many believers have no such place today. They meet the world on their phone or their computer but the altar they once knew when they were first saved has been torn down.

Let us be sure we have a place and a time to meet with our God on a daily basis. If your altar has been torn down build it again. Let us meet there with our God and listen to what He has to say through His Word instead of listening to the world and the world leaders who do not even know our God.

Notice 1 Kings 18:31-37

I want to bring your attention to verse 37. Have you seen the power of God in your life? Maybe it is because your heart has not been turned to God.

Matthew 6:21

²¹ *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Notice 1 Kings 18:38-40

A twenty second prayer brought the power of God. But that twenty second prayer was backed up with a life of faithfulness.

The false prophets were all killed.

Application/Conclusion:

What is it that is leading you away from God? What ever it is it needs to be completely eliminated from your life.

Don't allow the false prophets of our day lead you down a path of disobedience. We are in a spiritual battle, and we must stay very alert. Let us remember just how important it is to be faithful to God's church.

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;