

THE CONTEST ON MT. CARMEL

INTRODUCTION

- I. In 1 Kings 16, we read about a wicked king of Israel in the O.T. named Ahab.
 - A. He promoted the worship of Baal (the name of a collection of idol “gods” among the Canaanites, and was married to a very wicked immoral woman named Jezebel.
 - B. Ahab provoked God to anger, Who announced that there would be a drought of rain to accompany the spiritual drought in the land. 1Ki.16:33; 17:1
 1. During this time God miraculously provided food and drink for His servant Elijah
 2. After about 3 1/2 years, God sent Elijah to have a confrontation with old Ahab.
 - a. Here he met Obadiah, a servant of Ahab (who had protected many of God's prophets from being slaughtered by Jezebel, Ahab's wife).
 - b. Elijah told Obadiah to find Ahab, but he was afraid Elijah would disappear and Ahab would then kill him for Elijah not keeping the appointment.
 - c. There was an interesting conversation between Elijah and Ahab as they met. 1 Kings 18:17-19 (Read and explain).

- II. Now let's look at the **contest that was about to take place on Mt. Carmel.**

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the CHALLENGE IS MADE.

- A. Elijah issues the challenge to the **people** of Israel who had compromised their religious life to idolatry. 1Ki.18:21
 1. Elijah continuously pointed out that the contest would be between the Lord God and the dead idol of Baal, and that he (Elijah) alone would oppose the 450 false prophets of Baal. v. 22
 2. Elijah laid out the plan for the contest. vs. 23-25 (Read and explain).
 - a. The false prophets vainly called upon Baal to accept the sacrifice. v. 26
 - b. Elijah taunted them to continue to arouse Baal to respond. vs. 27-29...
- B. Now, Elijah is going to call upon the Lord God. vs. 30-37...
 1. God responded. v. 38
 2. The people NOW declare their allegiance to God. v. 39

II. 2nd, the EVENTS AFTER THE CONTEST.

- A. All the false prophets of Baal were seized and destroyed. v. 40
- B. Then, the drought was brought to an end. vs. 41-45; cf Jas. 5:16-18..

CONCLUSION

- I. What do we learn from this study? Ro.15:4
 - A. 1st, we learn that the Lord God is the **only** true and living God, and only **He** can bless or save anyone.
 1. He shows us His power without idols that men can see and touch.
 2. He happens to be the **only** God there is. 1Co.8:5-6
 - B. 2nd, we learn that God is **all powerful** and will never be defeated. Ro.1:18-20; 3:4; 8:31-39
 - C. 3rd, we learn that all evil will ultimately be **defeated**, including Satan himself. 2Thes.1:6-9; Rev.20:10
 - D. 4th, we learn that God is **not well pleased** with His people in any age who become indifferent about Him and His word. Mt.12:30; Rev.3:14-19..
- II. Exhortation.

