

MOUNTAIN VIEWS: MT. CARMEL

I. The view from Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18)

Key Players:

- **King Ahab and Queen Jezebel:** King and Queen of Israel...and they were the best at being the worst! They rejected God and worshipped idols and led the nation of Israel away from God.
 - *"There was never anyone like Ahab, who **sold himself to do evil** in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by **going after idols...**" 1 Kings 21:25 (NIV)*
- **Baal-Canaanite god:** often shown in the form of a bull, representing strength and sexual perversions (450 prophets of Baal: 1 Kings 18:19)
- **Asherah-Canaanite fertility goddess:** who was viewed as the consort of Baal (400 prophets of Asherah: 1 Kings 18:19)
- **Elijah-Follower and Prophet of the true God:** He calls the nation of Israel to make up their minds; if Baal is God, follow him, but if the Lord is God, follow Him.
- **God:** Withholds rain from Israel to get people's attention. When that doesn't work, He gives Elijah instructions for a showdown with the prophets of Baal.

II. What can we learn from Mt. Carmel?

1. Stop **BLAMING** others and take **RESPONSIBILITY** for my life.

*"When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, 'So, is it really you, **you troublemaker of Israel?**' 'I have made no trouble for Israel,' Elijah replied. 'You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the LORD and have worshiped the images of Baal instead.'" 1 Kings 18:17-18 (NLT)*

2. I must **CHOOSE** who/what will be **FIRST PLACE** in my life.

*"Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, 'How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? **If the LORD is God, follow Him!** But if Baal is God, then follow him!'" But the people were completely silent." 1 Kings 18:21 (NLT)*

3. You may feel **OUTNUMBERED AND ALONE**...but you're not.

"Then Elijah said to them, 'I am the only prophet of the LORD who is left, but Baal has 450 prophets.'" 1 Kings 18:22 (NLT)

"Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. 'For there are more on our side than on theirs!' Then Elisha prayed, 'O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!' The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire." 2 Kings 6:16-17 (NLT)

"The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

4. We may need to **"REPAIR THE ALTAR"** before the fire falls.

*"Then Elijah called to the people, 'Come over here!' They all crowded around him as **he repaired the altar** of the LORD that had been torn down." 1 Kings 18:30 (NLT)*

5. We can only experience **GOD'S POWER** when we clearly **HEAR HIS VOICE** and follow His **INSTRUCTIONS**.

*"...Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, 'O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **prove today** that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant. Prove that I have done all this at Your command.'" 1 Kings 18:36 (NLT)*

[Jesus]"But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!" John 15:7 (NLT)