

Elijah and Elisha

#5, showdown on Mt. Carmel, – I Kings 18:17-29

The Lord called Elijah back to Israel to deliver a message to king Ahab. It should have been welcome news to him however, the old problem resurfaced.

17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is this you, you troubler of Israel?" 18 He said, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and you have followed the Baals.

19 "Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." 20 So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

[1.] v:17-18, troubler of Israel, The "bottom line" of Ahab's thinking is, since you spoke out, we had a drought. If you kept quiet everything would be fine! Determine what Satan has done to Ahab's mind.

[2.] Something to think about. Today, we are forever troubled by the behavior of national leaders. Jot down reasons why, you think, they should know better.

[3.] v:18, Baals Where did the worship of Baals come from?

[4.] v:19, gather to me all Israel, What are some things that might have gone through Ahab's mind when he heard this instruction?

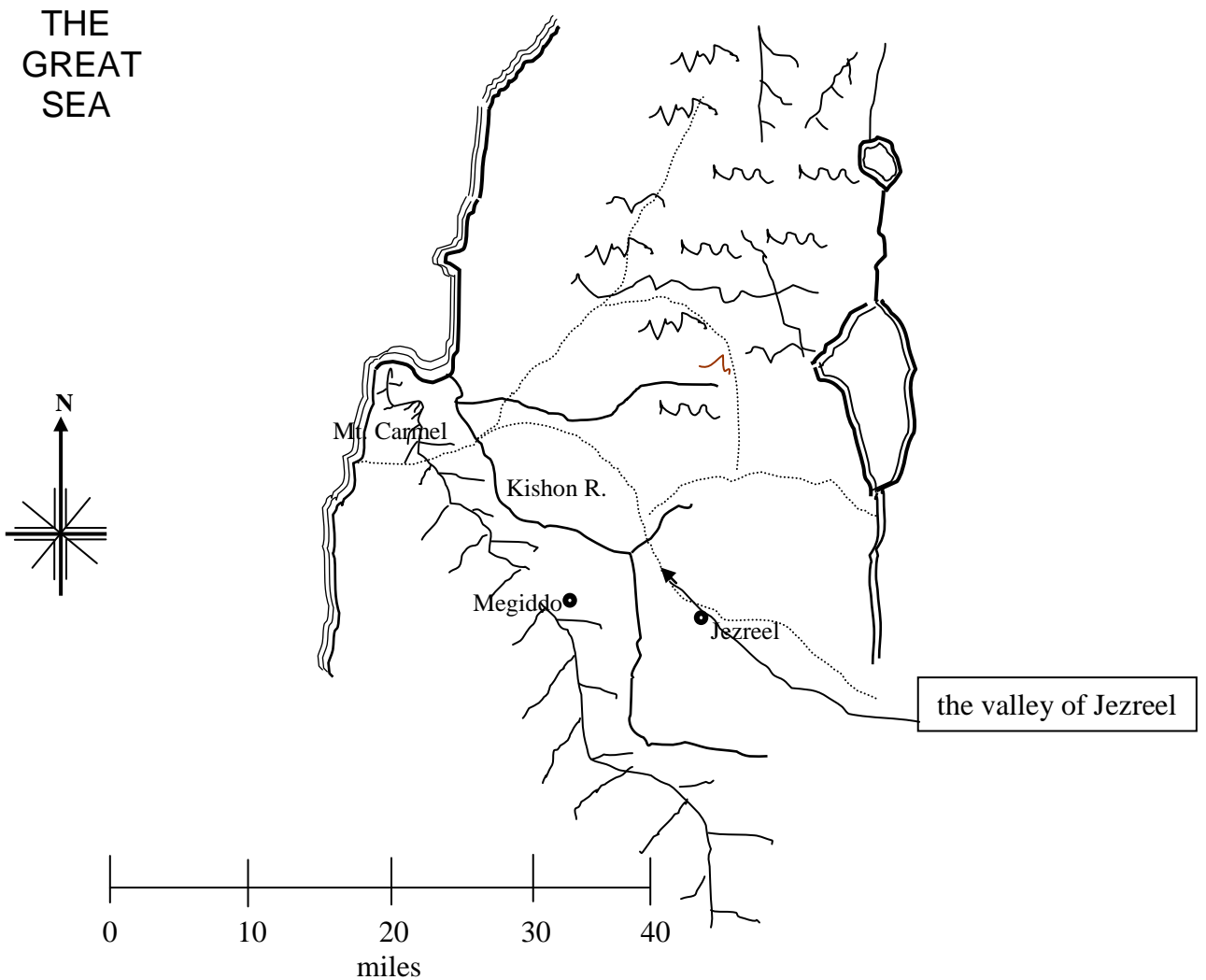
[5.] v:19-20, So Ahab sent, That's a whole lot against one man. If this didn't build Ahab's confidence, what could be his inner concern?

[6.] Question [5.], Elijah seems to show no fear. Would that be a concern to Ahab?

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Mount Carmel stands 1700 feet above the Great Sea and the Kishon River. Standing on the summit, one can see South for miles down the coast of Israel and the Plain of Sharon. Looking to the South-East, the Kishon winds its way down the valley of Jezreel. The small village of Megiddo, can be seen about 15-miles away, tucked into the mountain range.



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21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate **(be divided)** between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.

22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

23 "Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it.

24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people said, "That is a good idea."

[7.] v:21, Elijah came near, **By the question Elijah asked, he was making an accusation. What did he accuse them of?**

[8.] v:21, follow him, **Considering the human desire to "back a winner" what had Israel concluded regarding Baal?**

[9.] Question [8.], **Why might even Christians have a tendency to, ignore God's word and trust the things of the world?**

[10.] v:22, I alone, **From the list below, choose what Elijah was probably saying.**

- a) Please come serve the Lord with me for I am so lonely.
- b) I never could make friends.
- c) The Lord is all powerful. He doesn't need crowds.

[11.] v:23, Now let them, **Notice Elijah let others to make their choice first. Why might he do that?**

[12.] v:23-24, and the God who answers, **What would the answer look like?**

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25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it." 26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made

. 27 It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."

28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. 29 When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

[13.] v:23-24, I will call on the name of the Lord, **Elijah is stepping out on faith? List any tangible thing he could rely on, in this situation.**

[14.] v:25-26, they prepared it, **What might these prophets have said to each other as they made ready for the test?**

[15.] v:26, called on the name of Baal, **How long did they call on their 1st attempt?**

[16.] Question [15.] Besides calling on Baal, **what else did they do?**

[17.] v:27, Elijah mocked them, **What reasons did Elijah give for them to call louder?**

[18.] v:28-29, So they cried with a loud voice **Why do you think Elijah really wanted the people to witness this?**

[19.] v:29, but there was no, **Jot down the results of all of their efforts.**

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[20.] v:29 again, Why do you suppose that this is what the Lord wanted us believers to read and know about?

[21.] In closing. From this lesson, what have you learned about idol worship?

NOTES