

the Tishbite

#6, a mountaintop experience - I Kings 18:30-46

Up until now, this had been a pretty good gig! Old Ahab made sure that all of us guys were well paid. We eat at the queen's table and get plenty to drink. We just have to keep the people confident in the Baal stuff. I like the robes we wear and being respected by the Jews. But this Elijah guy has kind of put a monkey wrench in the works. I thought going to Mt. Carmel would be a lark, but boy, has he ever made us look bad! I saw people actually laughing at us! I'm worn out and hoarse from yelling all day and I'll never get this blood off of my robes. I wonder what he is going to do next? It can't be as bad as what we have already been through!

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord which had been torn down.

repaired, OT:7495, to heal, to make healthful

- a) (Qal) to heal
 - 1) of God
 - 2) a healer, a physician (of men)
 - 3) used of the hurts of nations involving restored favor (figurative)
 - 4) used of individual distresses (figurative)
- b) (Niphal) to be healed
 - 1) literal (used of persons)
 - 2) used of water, pottery
 - 3) used of national hurts (figurative)
 - 4) used of personal distress (figurative)
- c) (Piel) to heal
 - 1) literal
 - 2) used of national defects or hurts (figurative)
- d) (Hithpael) in order to get healed (infinitive)

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31 Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

[1.] v:30, According to the New Englishmen's Hebrew concordance, the word use (I Kings 18:30) is (Piel – *Future*). Therefore "repair" means to "Heal national defects or Hurts". If this is the altar that had been used by the prophets of Baal, (I Ki 18:26), why would it need to be "healed"?

[2.] v:31, twelve stones according to the number of the tribes, Why 12 stones when Israel, at this time, is made up of ten tribes?

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32 So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.

33 Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood. 34 And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

36 At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. 37 "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again."

[3.] v:32, The people saw a new altar constructed in the name of whom?

[4.] v:33-35, water flowed around the altar, What would be the reason for Elijah to waste all that precious water?

[5.] v:33-35 again, Please remind me. Did Jezebel's lackeys put all that water on their sacrifice?

[6.] v:36-37, Elijah the prophet came near and said, Write down the substance of Elijah's prayer.

[7.] v:36-37 again, Why or why don't you believe Elijah wanted all the people to hear what he prayed?

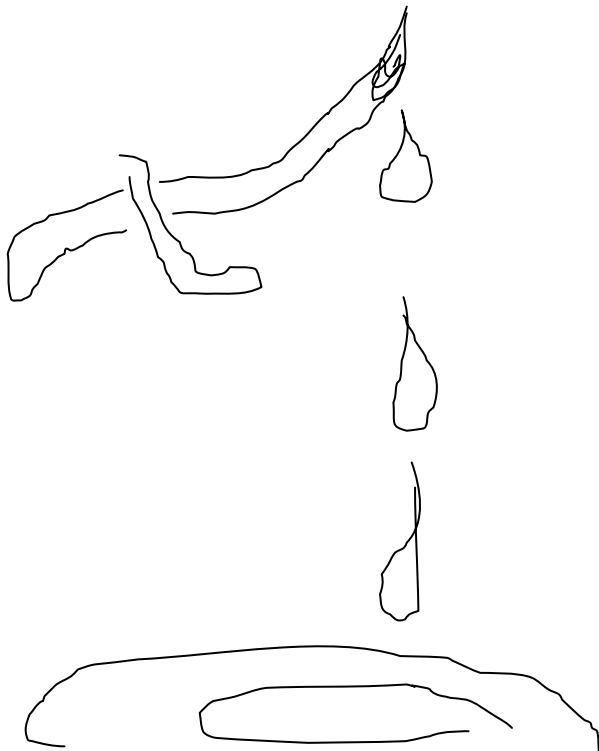
[8.] question [7.], What had the same people heard (v:26-29) when Jezebel's toadies pleaded with Baal?

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38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."

40 Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.



[9.] v:38, Then the fire, Describe how this fulfilled the challenge (v:24) that Elijah put to the people.

[10.] v:39, From v:21, But the people did not answer him a word. Now what did the people answer?

[11.] v:40, slew them, This grisly scene describes the end of those false prophets. What might be the end of the false teachers of our time, mentioned in II Peter 2:1?

[12.] question [11.], If the Lord called you to be a teacher, a good rule to follow is:

- a) make it up as you go along.
- b) rely on current opinions, i.e. evening news, latest books etc.
- c) since our real teacher is the Holy Spirit, listen to Him.

[13.] v:40 last time, As Ahab witnessed the dismembering of Jezeel's boys, what might he have also remembered about the end of the "troubler of Israel"?

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41 Now Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees.

43 He said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back" seven times.

44 It came about at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'" 45 In a little while the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.

[14.] v:41, Go up, We'll overlook the fact that Elijah is again telling the king what to do, but what did Elijah promise?

[15.] v:42, his face between his knees, From James 5:17-18, what was Elijah doing?

[16.] v:43, Go up now, What information was Elijah seeking?

[17.] v:43 again, As Christians, if we pray over many years for something and the Lord does not answer, how can we still experience comfort?

[18.] Something to think about. Why is it important for us as Christians to take note of the Lord's answer and be sure to give thanks for it.

[19.] v:44, say to Ahab, Why wouldn't Elijah wait to see if the rain was indeed a "gully washer"?

[20.] v:45, went to Jezreel OK, go ahead and find Jezreel (hint, your maps) and draw Ahab's probable route.

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46 Then the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

[21.] v:46, outran Ahab, **Come on now, Ahab rides and Elijah runs and beats him to Jezreel?**
How could this happen?

[22.] v:46 again, Why is it important for us Christians not to “limit” the power of God in our lives?