

## THE TISHBITE

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

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is this you, you troubler of Israel?"

Approximately 600 years before this meeting, Israel had crossed the Jordan R. and entered the promised land. The first city to conquer was Jericho. Prior to the assault, the Lord gave instructions for a successful battle.

- [1.] Joshua 6:17-18, All that was within Jericho belonged to the Lord (devoted, under the ban) except what?
- [2.] Josh 7:1, How was the Lord's command violated?
- [3.] Reviewing Josh 7:2-6, Because of the sin at Jericho, what happened next?
- [4.] Josh 7:10-12, When Joshua wept before the Lord, what did the Lord say?
- [5.] At the lord's instruction, Israel searched for, and found, guilty Achan. Josh 7:20-21, what did Achan steal?
- [6.] Josh 7:24-26, What happened to the troubler?

### Back to I Kings 18:17

[7.] Why did Ahab refer to Elijah as the troubler of Israel?

[8.] v:18, Whom did Elijah identify as the real troubler of Israel?

[9.] v:19, What were Elijah's instructions to Ahab?

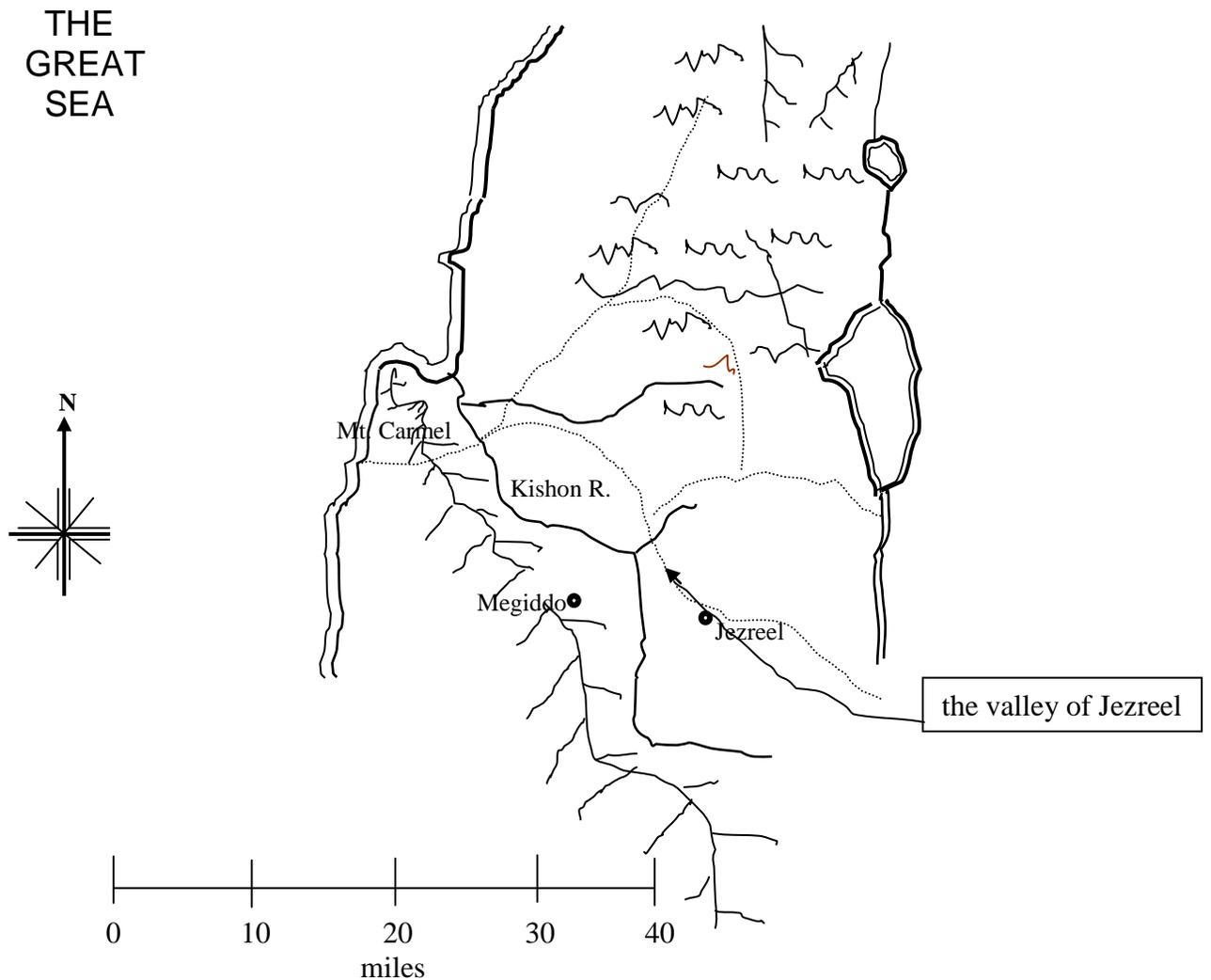
18 He said, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and you have followed the Baals. 19 "Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who 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.

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Mount Carmel, like a silent sentinel, stands approximately 1700 feet above the Great Sea to the West and the Kishon River below. 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, and a small village, Megiddo, can be seen about 15-miles away, tucked into the mountain range.

But Elijah was not sight seeing at this time. He was on the Lord's business. A business that would prove to be a very bloody affair.



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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.

[10.] v:21, With not so much as a "by your leave", Elijah went straight to the point by asking what question?

[11.] Reviewing Judges 2:6-9 we read about the death of Joshua and the surviving elders. Judges 2:7 gives a reason why Israel served the Lord. What was the reason?

[12.] Judges 2:10-11, there arose another generation, What happened to that generation?

[13.] Now then, back to I Kings 18:21, and considering the human desire to "back a winner" what had Israel concluded regarding Baal?

[14.] Why might Christians have a tendency to, ignore God and trust the things of the world?

[15.] v:22, I alone am left a prophet of the Lord **Strength in numbers is a very human tendency** why might Elijah "feel" alone?

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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."

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."

[16.] v:23-24, That is a good idea, In your own words, write the challenge Elijah put forth to the people?

[17.] v:23-24, Elijah is stepping out on cold hard faith? Why isn't faith an easy thing for him, or any Christian, to move ahead on?

[18.] Ps 34:8, O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! David as well as Elijah had experienced the Lord's power. What might the Lord be pleading for all Christians?

[19.] v:25, Choose one ox, Why might Elijah have given the Baal crowd their choice in the ox?

[20.] v:26, called on the name of Baal, How long did they call on their 1<sup>st</sup> unsuccessful attempt?

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

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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.

[22.] v:28-29, So they cried with a loud voice They really bought into Elijah's suggestion. What were the next futile actions that the people got to see them do?

[23.] v:29, At the end of v:29 the people got to witness the glowing results of the religious fervor that the ignorant prophets of Baal performed. What did the people see?

[24.] v:29 again, Why do you suppose that this is what Elijah wanted the people to see?

[25.] v:29 last time, Why do you suppose that this is what the Lord wanted us Christians to read and know about?

[26.] As Christians is there any other place, other than God's Word, where this futility is seen?