

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

RLJ-1483

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PART 11: SHOWDOWN ON MOUNT CARMEL

THE SHOWDOWN ON MOUNT CARMEL

God told Elijah that it was time to show Ahab and all the people of Israel that they had followed a false god and to return to the living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **1 Kings 18:18-26**

Elijah faced 850 false prophets on Mount Carmel who had dedicated themselves to Baal. This was the religious ruling class of Israel, answering directly to Queen Jezebel. She had tried to root out all worship of the God of Israel by slaying as many priests and prophets as she could find because they refused to bow their knees to Baal. **verse 19**

There must have been hundreds of thousands of men on that mountain along with Ahab and his soldiers and the 850 prophets of Baal. **verse 20**

Elijah challenged the entire assembly in faith. The power of God had not yet manifested on the mountain and he stood alone against a large hostile multitude. **verses 21-26**

Elijah began to mock the 850 prophets of Baal at noon and challenged them to become more intense in trying to conjure up fire, knowing full well that Baal was not a god, but a demon that was not being held in check by God and allowed to perform what the prophets of Baal requested. **verses 27-29; 1 Corinthians 10:19-22**

Elijah called the people to him toward the evening to prepare an altar for God. **1 Kings 18:30-32**

Elijah wanted to be certain no one could accuse him of cheating and drenched everything in water. He then prayed a simple prayer and God answered from heaven with a fire that consumed the water, stones, wood and the sacrifice. There was no confusion after God emphatically manifested His supernatural power. **verses 33-38**

SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH

After the fire fell, the Israelites had to admit that Baal was a false god, while the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was real. The 850 prophets of Baal were rounded up and slain with the sword by Elijah, an action that would have demanded supernatural strength. **verses 39-40**

PRAYER OF FAITH

There was no rain for three years and suddenly the rains came back. **verses 41-45; James 5:17-18**

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Elijah still retained enough strength after the grueling victory on Mount Carmel that he arrived at Jezreel ahead of King Ahab who traveled by horse. **1 Kings 18:46**



FROM VICTORY TO DEFEAT

I have never heard a message preached on the defeat that Elijah suffered after his mountaintop experience. How is it possible that such a man of faith, having seen the miracle of the food and oil that never ran out; having raised a dead man back to life, and seen the mighty power of God sweep down so mightily that even the rocks and water were consumed by the fire; how could Elijah become so afraid that he ran for his life? **1 Kings 19:1-4**

This is the clarification that I have received from the Holy Spirit. Elijah had faith in God for others, but he had not developed a personal relationship with God that assured him that he, as a person, not as a prophet, was loved by God. If you are not sure about the love of God for you as a person, the Devil will be able to shake you, causing you to doubt God's love for you. **John 21:15-17**

God showed love for Elijah by sending an angel to feed him. **1 Kings 19:5-8**

The angel did not rebuke Elijah for his lack of faith and neither did the Lord when Elijah met Him upon the mountain. God reassured Elijah that there were still 7,000 men in Israel who had not bowed their knees to Baal. The Lord reinstated him in the ministry as a prophet and sent him back to do more work. **verses 9-18**

God knows the weakness of mankind; it is only through the power of God that man can remain strong and keep going. **Psalms 103:1-17**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?