

Message Notes

“How Long?”

1 Kings 18:17-21

October 16, 2016

What Is Featured? – Our Discovery

- ◆ A Prominent Location
 - ◆ Strategic Site (Then)
 - ◆ Solitary Statue (Today – Elijah on Carmel)
- ◆ A Perilous Situation – Spiritual Pollution
 - ◆ We Affirm Its Abhorrence
 - ◆ We Affirm Its Attraction
- ◆ A Profound Confrontation

And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.” So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was* a severe famine in Samaria.
(1 Kings 18:1-2 NKJV)

Who Is at Fault? – Our Decision

Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, “*Is that* you, O troubler of Israel?” And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house *have*, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send *and* gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”
(1 Kings 18:17-19 NKJV)

- ◆ The Accusation
- ◆ The Attribution
 - ◆ The Source – You and Your Action!
 - ◆ The Solution – Change Your Mind!
- ◆ The Account
 - ◆ Study the Potentate
 - ◆ His Practice
 - ◆ Rejected Revelation
 - ◆ Refused Repentance
 - ◆ His Pattern (Following Adam’s Sin)
 - ◆ He Evidenced Blame
 - ◆ He Expressed Bitterness
 - ◆ Israel Then – “Troubler Israel”
 - ◆ America Today – “Flight 93” Election

- ◆ **He Excused Behavior**
 - ◆ **Refused Resources (Today's Privileges)**
 - ◆ **Rejected Responsibility (Today's Problem)**
- ◆ **Hear the Prophet**
 - ◆ **As He Contributes to the Dialogue**
 - ◆ **As He Clarifies the Diagnosis**

“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: . . . And your heavens which *are* over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you *shall be* iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.” (Deuteronomy 28:15, 23-24 NKJV)

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3 NKJV)

“The profound truth is this. Every law, every command, every guideline for proper and appropriate behavior given to us by God has been bestowed upon us for our own wellbeing and prosperity. He always has only our own best interests in mind.” (Philip Keller)

Where Is the Future? – Our Destiny

So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word. (1 Kings 18:20-21 NKJV)

- ◆ **A Crisis Had Landed**
 - ◆ **Disrupting Their Notions**
 - ◆ **Devastating Their Nation**
- ◆ **A Choice Is Lauded**
 - ◆ **The Temptation to Escape – “Fitting In”**
 - ◆ **The Truth to Embrace – “Standing Up”**

“Ultimately, there is only one question which really matters. It is not what everyone else believes or does. It is not what gives us the most pleasure and comfort. It is this – What is true? . . . The crying need of the hour is for Christians to stop thinking there is some light in the world's darkness and some darkness in God's light.” (Robert Ellsworth)

*“No one can serve two masters;
for either he will hate the one and love the other,
or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

(Matthew 6:24 NKJV)