

ELIJAH'S WIN AND LOST ON THE SAME DAY

In our [last study](#), we learned that Obadiah and Elijah had their meeting with King Ahab regarding spiritual reason for the 3 ½ year drought which was to bring a spiritual awakening and spiritual reformation to the nation.

At this meeting, it was agreed to have a contest on Mt. Carmel between the 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah and the one prophet of the God of Israel.

The rules of the contest were established:

- One ox prepared for sacrifice,
- Call on the name of their god,
- Do not put a fire under the sacrifice,
- The god representing each side must send the fire from heaven, and winner takes all.
 - The 850 prophets went from the morning sacrifice to the evening sacrifice without any answer from Baal.
 - NOW it was Elijah's turn at the evening sacrifice which is recorded in our lesson text (1 Kings 18:30-40).

This lesson will study four aspects of Elijah's Win and Lost on the Same Day.

1. We will begin with a six-point outline of the Elijah's turn in the contest.

1st (1 Kg.8:30) Elijah called the Israelites to witness the altar representing the cross of Christ that was torn down by the prophets of Baal.

2nd (1 Kg.18:31) Elijah called their attention to the restoring the altar of burnt offering sacrifice. He laid 12 stones and reminded them that the Lord had named them - "Lord said, 'Israel shall be your name.'" (Gen.32:28; 35:10)

3rd (1 Kg.18:32-35) Elijah called their attention to the preparation for the evening sacrifice and their participation (trench, wood, ox, water). He told them to fill four pitchers of water and pour into trench until full (it took 3 times) (1 Kg.18:34-35).

4th (1 Kg.18:26-38) After Elijah's prayer at the evening sacrifice, fire of the Lord fell and consumed the ox of burnt offering, wood, 12 stones, and the dirt from trench, and water in trench.

5th (1 Kg.18:39) When the Israelites saw this they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, **He is God**; the Lord, **He is God**." A big win for Elijah's side and Spiritual reformation is in full swing.

6th (1 Kg.18:40) No sooner had he won it; Elijah lost it! "The 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."

2. God had made it clear He wanted three men to lead the Spiritual Reformation; The National Prophet; a National Statesman, and the Nation's King.

What happens to the prophets of Baal is the call of the King!

It is between the King and the Divine Laws of God!

(The Book of Deuteronomy that was kept with the Ark of the Covenant) (Heb.9:4; Deut.31:25; 2 Kings 22:8).

God is the supreme and final authority over the priest-nation of Israel!

3. Vengeance belongs to the Lord and His justice and not to the lawlessness of men (Deut.32:35-39).

(Deut.32:43) "Rejoice, O nations, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land and His people." (Nah.1:2)

A Word to the Christian: "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, '**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay**,' says the lord." (Rom.12:19) (Deut 32:35; 2 Thess.1:6-9).

4. Spiritual Reformation is never about vengeance, getting even, retribution, pay back, settling old scores or an eye for an eye.

It is about getting people born again, regenerated, saved. It is not about destroying them.

It is about getting them prepared to go to heaven and not to go to hell.

As the national prophet of Christ, Elijah's responsibility was to explain the gospel of Christ along with the burnt offering of Shadow Christology (Heb.10:1-10). Like Philip did with the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39).

Elijah took the same position against God's grace salvation of that "NONE perish but all come to repentance (2 Pet.3:9)" as Jonah did with the Ninevites.

Elijah was sent to represent the Plan, Will and Character of God - NOT his own! (2 Cor.2:14-17)