

## **MISGUIDED ZEAL AND AUTHORITY (Part 2)**

In our [last lesson](#), we introduced Elijah's Misguided Zeal and Authority. After winning a great victory by the Lord God of Israel on Mt. Carmel, he told the Israelites to murder 850 prophets of Baal.

By doing this Elijah destroyed any chance of a Spiritual Reformation that God had set up after 3 ½ years of drought which was designed to cause a spiritual awakening to those with positive volition. By this one act, Elijah destroyed the hope of reuniting the twelve tribes as one priest-nation of Israel.

Within 150 years, these ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom will disappear from biblical history until the Second Coming of Christ.

<p><b>This lesson will continue part two by studying <u>five additional aspects</u> of Elijah's Misguided Zeal and Authority.</b></p>
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(1 Kings 19:10) "He said, **I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts**, for the sons of Israel have forsaken covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. **And I alone** am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." (1 Kings 19:14) (Preview of coming studies from chapter 19)

### **1. Once Elijah's part in the Mt. Carmel victory was completed, his ministry phase of moving the priest-nation from spiritual awakening to spiritual reformation was done.**

Now he must wait for the next assignment regarding the Spiritual Reformation.

(Ps.27:14) "**Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.**"

(Eph.6:10) "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power".

It was now a matter of waiting on King Ahab and the Lord God of Israel to rid the nation of idolatry and the prophets of Baal.

Whichever won the contest, the god of Baal or The Lord God of Israel, it was a WINNER TAKE ALL spiritual contest on Mt. Carmel? **The Lord God of Israel won it hands down!**

The Divine Chain of Command of Authority in the Priest-Nation of Israel goes from the Lord God (Theocracy) to King (Monarchy) form of government.

(Rom.13:1 "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authority. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." (Rom.13:5) (Rom.13:1-7)

Notice **subjection** (hupotasso) is required no matter what form of governing authority (Rom.13:1, 5).

Now God will hold King Ahab responsible and deal with him directly.

This was true with Priest-Nation of Israel and with client nations.

**SEE:** Nebuchadnezzar in the Book of Daniel 4:28-37).

**2. The governing authority of a nation is a minister of God for good and praise as well as for evil and the sword.**

(Rom.13:3-4) “For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.”

Note that the governing authority is an **avenger** (ekdikos) who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. In (1 Kings 19), we will see Jezebel attempting to do this against Elijah.

**3. Elijah abused his position of spiritual authority when he took it upon himself to punish violators of the criminal laws of idolatry (Ex.2:18, 20; Lev.20:1-8; Deut 18:9-22).**

Note also that King Ahab allowed Jezebel to violate the criminal law of idolatry, and the Israelites participated in her doing so!

Fixing this mess falls under the office of the King and the governing authority and its criminal law statutes.

- It was Jezebel who violated the criminal law by instituting the phallic cult of Baal worship and murdering the prophets of the Lord God of Israel.
- The Israelites were also guilty by saying nothing and engaging in it.
- The only voice of objection was the prophet Elijah and God who sent the 3 ½ year drought
  - Example: John the Baptist was beheaded (John 3 and 14).

As the prophet to the nation, Elijah’s responsibility was to teach the truth of the word of God to equip the Israelites with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph.6:10-17; Deut.18:15-22).

**4. The Lord God of Israel had already won the victory over the idolatry of Baal worship on Mt. Carmel. Now we are ready for Spiritual Reformation in Israel.**

All who attended the contest on Mt. Carmel understood the complete victory and the principle of “Winner Take All”.

Now it was up to King Ahab to select the manner of ridding Israel of Baal worship, one that God would approve.

While the victory was political and legal for King Ahab, the victory was spiritual for Elijah.

Elijah was God’s mouthpiece for the Word of God (1 Kings 17:24) and the message of gospel of grace salvation (Gal.3:8).

**QUESTION:** How many men like Saul of Tarsus could be in the multitude of the prophets of Baal? (Gal.1:11-17)

(Acts 22:3b-4) “Strictly according to the law of our fathers, **being zealous for God** just as all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prison.