

Which Mountain Will Your Run To?

1Ki 18:19 "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."

1Ki 19:8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb [Sinai], the mountain of God.

This is a story of a man and two mountains. These mountains represent two different places that a believer can place his trust. A mountain in scripture speaks of a place of strength and trust. God told Elijah to go to the first mountain, Mount Carmel. Elijah went to this mountain in faith in the spoken Word of God. God told him to go show himself to Ahab at this mountain. We know the story of how Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal while they fruitlessly tried to call upon their gods. Elijah then had his turn. He placed out the sacrifice and drowned it with water. God's fire fell upon the sacrifice and burnt it up and not only that but the wood, stones, and the dirt! Then Elijah put to death these demonic worshippers of Baal. What a victory on this mountain called Carmel! It is interesting to see what the name "Carmel" means. This mountain meant a "fruitful garden or paradise". This mountain represented God's Promised Land for the believer that is extremely fruitful and blessed. This mountain is really a type of Christ for the believer today. To come to this mountain we must heed the Word of God and come by faith. This mountain represents trusting in God's grace for all. It is a place we freely receive from God's provision and goodness. It is all received by heeding and believing the spoken Word of God to us. Elijah did a mighty miracle upon this mountain because he came under the direction of God Himself. He saw the power of God demonstrated in his life on that mountain. On the mountain his enemies were defeated and removed from him. On that mountain those who watched Elijah became believers. On this mountain Elijah was a witness of God and for God.

Unfortunately there is another mountain Elijah ran to when he was challenged by Jezebel. Jezebel is a type of deception. Jezebel warned Elijah that she was going to kill him for what he had done.

Instead of staying on the mountain of Carmel, God's garden of provision, the place he saw his enemies killed, he was deceived and ran to another mountain. Elijah should have stood his ground against Jezebel on Mount Carmel! However, Elijah ran in fear to Mount Horeb. This mountain was also called **Mount Sinai**. This mountain is where God gave the Law. Elijah ran to this mountain on his own determination unlike being told by God to go to Mount Carmel. He ran to the mountain of Law on his own. This mountain represents man's works. It represents man's pride. It represents man's own strength, efforts, and might. This is the mountain Elijah ran to in fear because he was deceived by his enemy. On this mountain God visited Elijah.

1Ki 19:8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.
1Ki 19:9 Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

God asked him, "What are doing here, Elijah?" God was asking him why he departed from the mountain of His blessing in Carmel to come to this mountain of the curse and self dependence. God asked him why he was there because God did not tell him to come there! This mountain revealed Elijah's pride.

1Ki 19:10 He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your 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."

Elijah tells God that how great he was and that he was the ONLY one serving Him. What an ego we can have can't we. Mount Sinai will reveal this pride in us and how much we really come short of God's glory.

1Ki 19:13 When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah wrapped his face in his mantle. He covered his face. We are told in the New Testament that those who are under the law have a

veil over their face so they can not see the grace of God. (2 Cor 3:15) Elijah was blinded from God's grace by his own pride! God asked him a second time, "What are you doing here, Elijah? This was not the place he should have been. He should have stayed on Mount Carmel where the power, strength, victory, and protection of God were freely poured out. It was the place where the Spirit told him to be. Now, he was on a barren mountain of self dependence feeling sorry for himself. Elijah missed out on seeing what God would have done further on Mount Carmel. He forfeited his ministry on this mountain.

How does this story speak to us today? We all have a choice of which mountain will run to. We can listen to God and be where He tells us to be and experience His provision. We can trust in Him and see His grace outpoured on our lives. But we can also trust in our own selves and go to the mountain of our own strength, wisdom, and self dependence. Being on Mount Sinai is living out of fear and making decisions without praying about them and getting God's answer on the inside of us. Oh, what blessings we forfeit by leaving our Mount Carmel to visit Mount Sinai. When we run to escape the things we fear we will always end up on Mt. Sinai. God is asking us, "Why are you here?" Making the trip from Mount Sinai to Mount Carmel is much easier and faster today! We can do it in a moment of time. In a moment of repentance! We can repent and return to Mt. Carmel, the promised land of God. We can return to the obedience of faith and trust in God. We can repent from the mountain of pride and self dependence. We can repent from this mountain of self pity. We can return to God's Promised Land right now! Only on this Mountain of grace will we truly see our God will face unveiled. On this mountain we shall see the grace and glory of God. Let us go to Carmel!