

Eliyahu ~ Part 6

In my last post, we explored **A Mission Impossible** in **1 Kings 18:1-15**. In this post, we learn that **Eliyahu Reencounters King Ach'av** in **1 Kings 18:16-19**.

Eliyahu Reencounters King Ach'av

¹⁶ So 'Ovadyah went, found Ach'av and told him; and Ach'av went to meet Eliyahu. ¹⁷ When Ach'av saw Eliyahu, Ach'av said to him, "Is it really you, you troubler of Isra'el?" ¹⁸ He answered, "I haven't troubled Isra'el, you have, you and your father's house, by abandoning Adonai's mitzvot and following the ba'alim. ¹⁹ Now order all Isra'el to assemble before me on Mount Karmel, along with the 450 prophets of Ba'al and the 400 prophets of the asherah who eat at Izevel's table." ~ 1 Kings 18:16-19 (CJB)

Everything that **Eliyahu** did was according to the Word of the Lord (1 Kings 18:36), including confronting the king and inviting him and the priests of Ba'al to a meeting on **Mount Karmel**. **Ach'av** called **Eliyahu the troubler of Israel**, but it was **Ach'av** whose sins had caused the problems in the land. Surely **Ach'av** knew the terms of the covenant and understood that the blessings of the Lord depended on the obedience of the king and his people. Both **Yeshua** and **Sha'ul** would be called "*troublemakers*" (Luke 23:5; Acts 16:20; 17:6), so **Eliyahu** was in good company.

Mount Karmel was located near the border of Isra'el and Phoenicia, so it was a good place for the Phoenician god Ba'al to meet the God of Israel. **Eliyahu** told **Ach'av** to bring not only the 450 prophets of Ba'al but also the 400 prophets of the **Asherah**, the idols that represented Ba'al's "*wife*." It seems that only the prophets of Ba'al showed up for the contest (1 Kings 18:22, 26, 40).

One unanswered question remains for me from this passage. Why didn't **King Ach'av** just run **Eliyahu** through with his sword; especially after **Eliyahu** accused the King of being the real **troubler of Israel**? Of course, if he had, we wouldn't have the story of **Eliyahu's Finest Hour**

In my next post, we will continue to explore the Biblical story of **Eliyahu** in **1 Kings 18:20-29**. In this passage, we continue to examine **Eliyahu's** encounter with **Ach'av** setting the stage for **Eliyahu's Finest Hour ~ Let the Fire Fall**.