

Park Street Church Christian Formation

Elijah at Mount Carmel

[1 Kings 17-18]

Review: “Mapping” Time and Space

United Monarchy under Saul, David, Solomon				
Temple Construction – 966 BC				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Prophets</u>	<u>Judah</u>	<u>Foreigners</u>
931 BC	<i>Jeroboam</i>	Ahijah “Man of God”	Rehoboam	Egypt (Shishak)
	Abijah	Shemaiah		
	Nadab		Abijah	
	<i>Baasha</i>	Azariah Hanani	Asa	Syria (ben-Hadad)
		Jehu, son of Hanani		
	<i>Omri</i>			Phoenicia
	Ahab/ Jezebel	Elijah	Jehoshaphat	

Review: Defining Events in the Northern Kingdom

- Golden calves at Bethel and Dan
- Dynasties: Jeroboam, Ba’asha, Omri
- Omri moved capital to Samaria
- Omri’s son, Ahab, married Jezebel from Phoenicia

Foreign Threats

- Aram/Syria – ongoing threat to the northeast
- Phoenicia – worship of Ba’al imported as “state religion” by Jezebel and Ahab

Why was Mount Carmel important for this drama?

Elijah Appeared on the Scene

- From Gilead
- Announcement to Ahab – implications of “no rain”
- In hiding!
 - East of the Jordan
 - To Sidon (Ba'al's turf)
- Note the nature of the miracles

Confrontation with Ahab

- Severe famine in the land
- What was Obadiah doing in the evil court of Ahab and Jezebel?
 - How did he get there?
 - How did he stay there?
- Who was the “troubler of Israel”?
- We wonder why Ahab followed Elijah's instructions; what did he expect?

The Dramatic Contest: Elijah's God vs. Ba'al and Asherah

- The people – fence-riders
- The test – the God who answers by fire
- The false prophets – frenzied
- Elijah's preparations and prayer
 - Altar on Mt Carmel
 - Water
 - Appeal to the LORD of the covenant

Responses

- Fire from heaven
- “The LORD, He is God!”
- Death of false prophets (Deut 13) at Kishon Brook
- A mighty storm and rain
- Race to Jezreel
- Looking ahead: What might Elijah have expected from Ahab and Jezebel after this remarkable demonstration?