

STUDY GROUP 3 (1 KINGS 18:17-END) "WHO DO YOU SERVE?"

ELIJAH: STUDY GROUP 3 – SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS

As dramatic as it may have been, Elijah victory on Mt Carmel didn't convert people at all. But **it did** contribute to Elijah coming **into a state of mind** where God could work with him.

Remember the big picture. God is educating Elijah by personal experience to become:

1. **A Shepherd** (like God): **Psalm 23**.
2. **A Father** (like God): **Psalm 103v7-12** (key quote)

Key verse: **Isa 40v11** combines these 2 concepts (context: **v1-10**)
Mt Carmel was a necessary part of the process in Elijah's education – **experience!**

Elijah had been an "**instructor**" rather than a Father... **1 Cor 4v15**
Yahweh was working with him to make his character like that of Yahweh – **to be a father.**

Psalm 103v7-13 Moses saw God's ways, Israel saw God's Acts. **John 17v3**.
Character of God is the Still Small voice – that which was revealed to Moses.
Fire from heaven is one of God's **acts** – it did not result in long-lasting conversion.

v17 – Those who sincerely try to save people are often accused of being a "troubler".

v21 – **KEY VERSE:** The issue in life. We often limp between 2 opinions.
How can we halt between 2 opinions? What does this mean for us **personally?**

Who do we serve? Jesus Christ was faced with that **choice** in the wilderness: **Matt 4v8-10**.
Jesus quotes **Deut 6v13** (cp. **v4-12** Yahweh a father, **v14-15** other gods). What sort of choices are we faced with today? **Ultimately** we **either** serve Yahweh or ourselves.

v25 "**ye are many**" – **Key issue! Stand against popular opinion.** A reality in life today.
John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah. He was not a "reed shaken in the wind": **Matt 11v7**.
What situations arise like this? How can we stand alone with faith in God?

A new altar which they had made - **A new religion** in Israel. Remember **the promises** to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the solid foundation of the Truth. Appreciated the simplicity of the Truth. Compare with the superstition and vain repetitions of apostate Church.

v28 It is the **Word of God** that cuts deep inside us: **Heb 4v12**. God's Word must cut penetrate to our hearts to change us. We are crucified with Christ yet we live: **Gen 2v20**.

v32 Seed - Elijah was wanting to **sow** the **seed** in their hearts that it might **grow** within them!
(Jezreel = God sows). God will sow his character **into their hearts** in the future: **Jer 31v27-28**. How can we sow God's Word in the hearts of our friends? Or people in the world? What are the benefits of making the right choices? Mt Ebal and Mt Gerizim (Blessing and Cursing).

v37 Elijah's Prayer – Do we have a **desire** to save people like Elijah did? **How** can we develop this heartfelt desire within us? What can we do to turn people's hearts?
Principles of Prayer – see pages **80-81,86-88** of the notes. Believe that God will hear and respond. Pray for the salvation of others. How does this change our way of thinking?

v42 Thankfulness in prayer – bowing down to the ground into the dust – realise our position.
Wonderful Quote - **Psalm 145v8-20** applies here: "Yahweh upholds all that fall, and raises up all those that are bowed down." (**v14-16** must be referring to Elijah!)

Elijah's humility – runs before Ahab (**v42**). No pride in his achievements. Acknowledges the King. Elijah wanted this wicked King to repent and sincerely thought he would.

v45 Abundance of Rain – symbol of **God's Word** in the **Kingdom age** through the Saints:
Psalm 65v9-13; 72v6; Deut 32v2; Rev 11v15-18. Saints the Clouds (**Rev 1v7; Heb 12v1**), Christ the Sun (**Mal 4v1-2**), Rainbow a symbol of the covenant (7 colours / pure white), grass - the mortals (**Isa 40v6**).
Carmel the fruitful garden of the Kingdom: **Isa 35v1-6**.

