

## Big Isn't Always Better

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by Wayne Goff

The great prophet Elijah confronted Israel on Mount Carmel with their idolatrous beliefs, 1 Kings 18. He thought he was the only prophet of Jehovah left (v. 22), so he proposed a great contest of sacrifices between himself and the 450 prophets of Baal (vv. 23-24). The Baal worshipers failed miserably, while Elijah's sacrifice was powerfully devoured by the one, true living God (vv. 25-38). The people cried out in amazement, **"The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"** (v. 39).

Elijah "won" the contest, the 450 prophets of Baal were killed, and Elijah thought he had turned the hearts of Israel back to God. However, Jezebel threatened his life and Elijah ran away, ready to give up (1 Kings 19:1-4). He cried out to God, *"Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"* (19:4).

An angel of God provided two days' worth of food for Elijah, and on the strength of that food he traveled for forty days and nights down to Mount Horeb (19:8). God then confronted Elijah with the question: *"What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

Elijah replied that he had done all God asked of him and it just wasn't enough! He alone was left and the idolatrous nation of Israel was about to kill him!

God's reply was to pass by (1) with a great, strong wind that tore into the mountains and broke rocks in pieces (19:11); (2) with an earthquake; (3) with a fire (19:12); and finally with (4) *"a still small voice."* **God was not in the mighty demonstrations but in the tiny one!** He was trying to demonstrate to Elijah that his great contest on Mount Carmel may have impressed men, but the power of God is present in the small things. It is good for us to remember the lesson. God is not in the megachurch, the TV evangelists' programs, nor the humanly impressive demonstrations. God is in the heart of the humble, obedient servant of the Lord — whether many or few. What was true in Elijah's day has always been true. The apostle Paul said that his inspired message was *"not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God"* (1 Cor. 2:4-5).

God's still, small voice of reason and revelation is the *"power of God unto salvation"* (Rom. 1:16). [Because a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.](#)

### A MEDLEY OF MATTERS

#### The Appeal of Religious Error

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by Bill Crews

In most cases the man who is teaching the truth and can by it truly save and benefit people will find few who are interested, whereas the man who is teaching some other doctrine and will by it ultimately harm and doom people will find many who are interested. Religious error, because of its false promises and its deceptive nature, will always have a greater appeal to people in general than will the truth. The truth will only benefit those with good and honest hearts or those who are willing to change their hearts to be good and honest (Luke 8:15). Everyone did not reject Jesus, but most did (John 1:11-12; 12:42; Matthew 23:37).

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