

## 2019 EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR

### Study Guide for 5 b & d: Mt. Carmel and Megiddo



#### Historical background:

*Mt Carmel* is actually a range stretching southeast from the Mediterranean Sea, with the city of Haifa at its north end. It is often mentioned in the Old Testament for its beauty and fertility and was considered a sacred place. One of the Old Testament's most spectacular contests between the God of Israel and the idol god of Baal is told in 1 Kings 18.

*Megiddo* is a tel (a stack of civilizations), not too far east of Mt Carmel. Megiddo is located at the crossroads of the north-south and east-west trade routes, so it was a very popular place for civilizations to arise over many years. In addition, pagan worship often took place there. (See a pagan altar to the left.) Another reason cities continued to be built upon one another over time here is that there was a water source. An underground spring supplied water to the city and we will see the water tunnel Ahab built. When we place the word *Har*, meaning hill, with *Megiddo*, meaning a place, we create the name of this site "Har Megiddo." Does that sound familiar? The Bible describes an end-time event which we call Armageddon in English! Yes, the Battle of Armageddon will take place in the valley seen clearly from both Mt Carmel and Megiddo.



**Bible Application:** Read [1 Kings 16-18](#). Is it God or Baal on Mt. Carmel?

1. Elijah's challenge to King Ahab came during a period after successive kings did evil in the sight of the Lord. 1 Kings 16:33 says that Ahab did more to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.
2. Even though Ahab was warned about the drought a few years prior, he didn't recognize God but worshipped Baal instead. Elijah made it very clear that, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, \_\_\_\_\_, before whom I stand, there shall be neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ these years except by my word" (1 Kings 17:1).
3. The Lord asked Elijah to meet with Ahab for a fire-lighting challenge to determine which god was the one true God, and this battle took place on Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kings 18:20).
4. When Ahab first saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is it you, you \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Kings 18:17-18)? Did you notice Elijah's response?
5. Elijah called on Ahab to assemble the 450 priests of Baal and challenged them to call on fire from Baal to light their sacrifice (1 Kings 18:24-29). It is disturbing to read how these 450 men cried out to their pagan deity only for Baal to never respond. They believed Baal would answer!

6. Elijah said to all the people, “Come \_\_\_\_\_ to me” (1 Kings 18:30-38). Once they were near, he repaired the altar in such a way, making it impossible to light on fire. Then he called upon Yahweh, the God of Israel, and God responded with fire (1 Kings 18:38).

**Thanksgiving and Praise:** God attempted to reveal himself to Ahab many times while Ahab allowed other people to turn his allegiance from God. Thank God for the people in your life who draw you near to him. Praise God for his patience and persistence toward you.

**Digging Deeper:**

How did Ahab get so off base? It says it well here at the [Jewish Virtual Library](#).

For pictures and more information on Mt. Carmel and Megiddo go [here](#).

For an overview of many events that occurred or will occur at Tel Megiddo, watch this [video](#).

**Keep looking for blessings!**