


1st Kings

18:21 Elijah went before the people and said,
“How long will you waver between two opinions?
If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God,
follow him.” But the people said *NOTHING*.

1 Kings 1-11 – Solo Solomon

1 Kings 12-14 – Rebellious Rehoboam

1 Kings 15-17 – Asa’s Ascendancy

 1 Kings 18 – Elijah’s Exhibition

1 Kings 19 – Elijah’s Escape
& Exit



Elijah & Angel
by Gustave Doré
1832-1883

Alternate Title
Elijah's Prophet
Smackdown



Transfiguration by Raphael, c. 1520

Jesus appears with *Moses* and *Elijah*
to Peter, James, & John



IMPORTANCE of ELIJAH cannot be overstated



Note to SELF

Either Christ Rose from the Dead
or ... Christ did NOT

New Testament Christians look Backward

IF Moses & Elijah appeared **WITH** Christ

Miracles of Elijah 900 years earlier
are given a **greater** credibility

Christ Rose from the Dead ... **appeared**
to Peter, James, John ... then to 500

God Intervened in a GREAT Miracle



Mt. Carmel – Elijah's defining moment of Fearless Courage

I spent a month here in 1983

Valley of Jezreel ... or

Valley of Armageddon

< Tel Yoqne'am - guards the valley at the foot of Mt. Carmel

I took this photo with a borrowed 35mm camera in 1983



1 Kings 17 – Elijah of Israel

17 – Elijah announces a great draught to Ahab
Ahab is king of Israel ... then Elijah hides in ravine

17 – Elijah is fed bread & meat by ravens ...
drinks from brook

17 – Elijah is sent to a widow in Zarephath –
on the west coast ...

> Miracle of food for widow, her son, & Elijah

> Widow's son becomes ill, dies, Elijah prays > **Son Lives!**

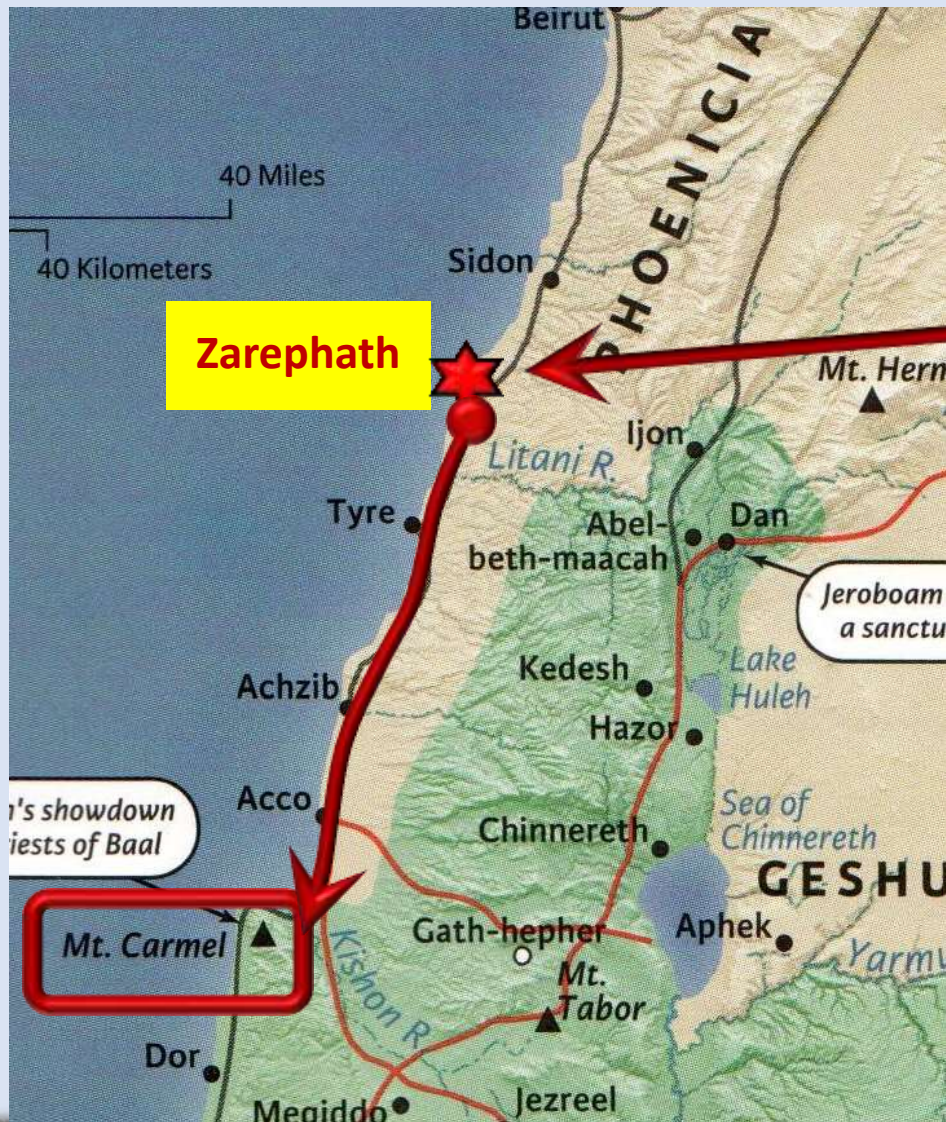


Elijah reviving the Son of
Widow of Zarephath
by Louis Hersent c. 1777

**Elijah reviving the Son of
Widow of Zarephath
by Louis Hersent c. 1777**



Elijah from dry brook to Zarephath between Tyre & Sidon



Zarephath

Then to
Mt. Carmel
for a great
exhibition



1 Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

After a LONG Draught ... a Fearless Confrontation

18:1 After a long time, in the third year,
the word of the LORD came to Elijah:

“Go and present yourself to Ahab,
and I will send rain on the land.”

Ahab summons Obadiah ... a devote believer ... *with secrets*

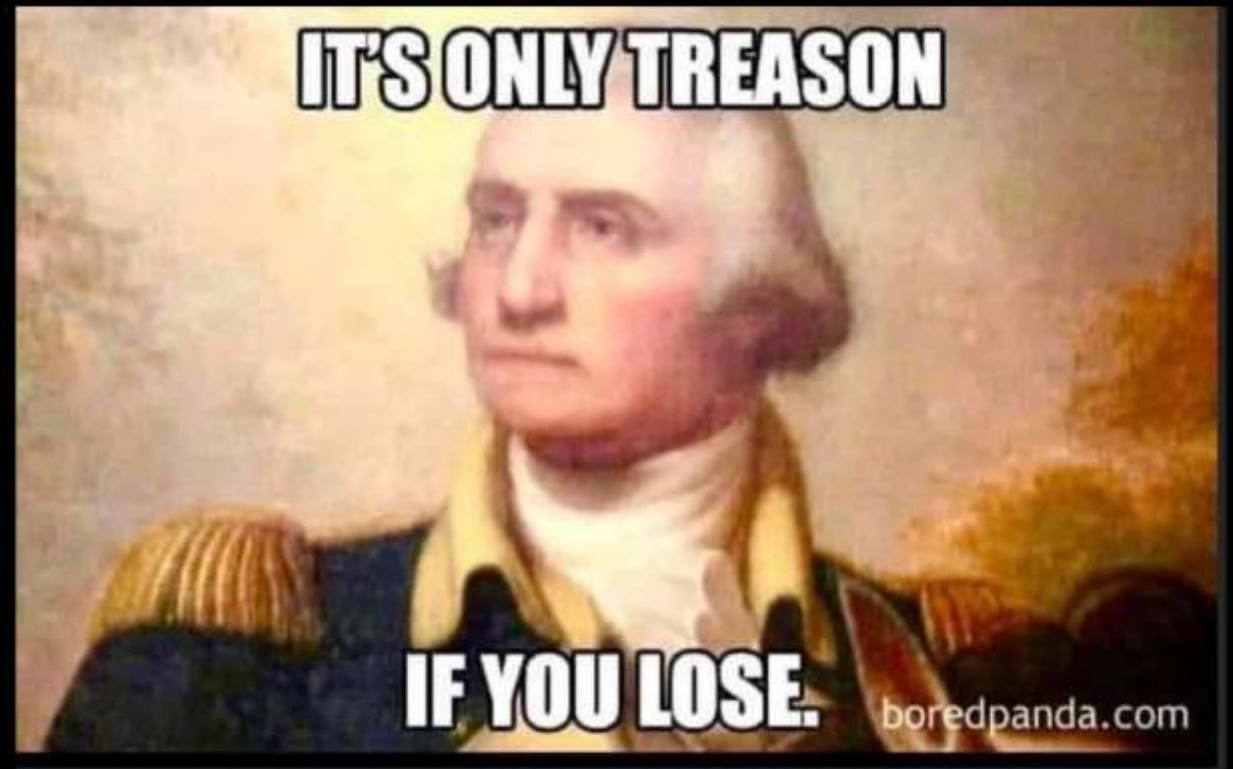
18:4 While Jezebel was *KILLING* off the LORD's Prophets,
Obadiah had taken a 100 Prophets & hid them in two caves,
50 in each and supplied them with food and water.

Obadiah > *Treason* against Queen Jezebel





Treason is often
a matter of **DATES**
Obadiah Saved Prophets
against the Law of Jezebel



1 Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

Ahab searches the land for
grass for his horses

As they scour the land,
Obadiah meets Elijah ...

18:7 Obadiah ... bowed to the ground.

Obadiah pleads with Elijah ...

Elijah's photo is in all Israel's Post Offices

Most Wanted

Dead or Alive



1 Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

Obadiah ... scared ... very afraid ... pleads with Elijah ...

18:10-11 As surely as the LORD your God lives,

there is not a nation or kingdom where

my master has not sent someone to look for you.

And ... now you tell me to go to my master and say,

“Elijah is *HERE!*”

18:12 If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me.

Obadiah tells Elijah how he hid 100 Prophets

Obadiah does NOT want to be KILLED toooo



1 Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

Elijah finally convinces Obadiah ...

18:16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him ...

18:17 When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him,

“Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”

18:18 “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied.

“But you and your father’s family have.

You have abandoned the LORD’s commands and
have followed the Baals.

to a king with absolute power ... that’s **BRAZEN**



1 Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

Elijah plans his exhibition ...

18:19 “Summon the people all over Israel to meet me on
Mount Carmel

Bring 450 Prophets of Baal and 400 Prophets of Asherah,
who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

At who’s table?

Queen Jezebel’s OWN Table!

How *Personal* This Becomes?



Mount Carmel

**450 Prophets of Baal ~ 400 Prophets of Asherah
who eat at Jezebel's table."**



Ahab sent word *throughout* all Israel ...

18:21 Elijah went before the people and said,



**"How LONG will you waver between two opinions?
If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."**

But the people said *NOTHING!*



Visit Mt. Carmel





32° Latitude or 32nd Parallel
roughly from Dallas thru Israel's center
about 7,100 birdy miles from Dallas to Jerusalem



32° Latitude or 32nd Parallel



32° Latitude or 32nd Parallel

Israel about
6,000 sq miles

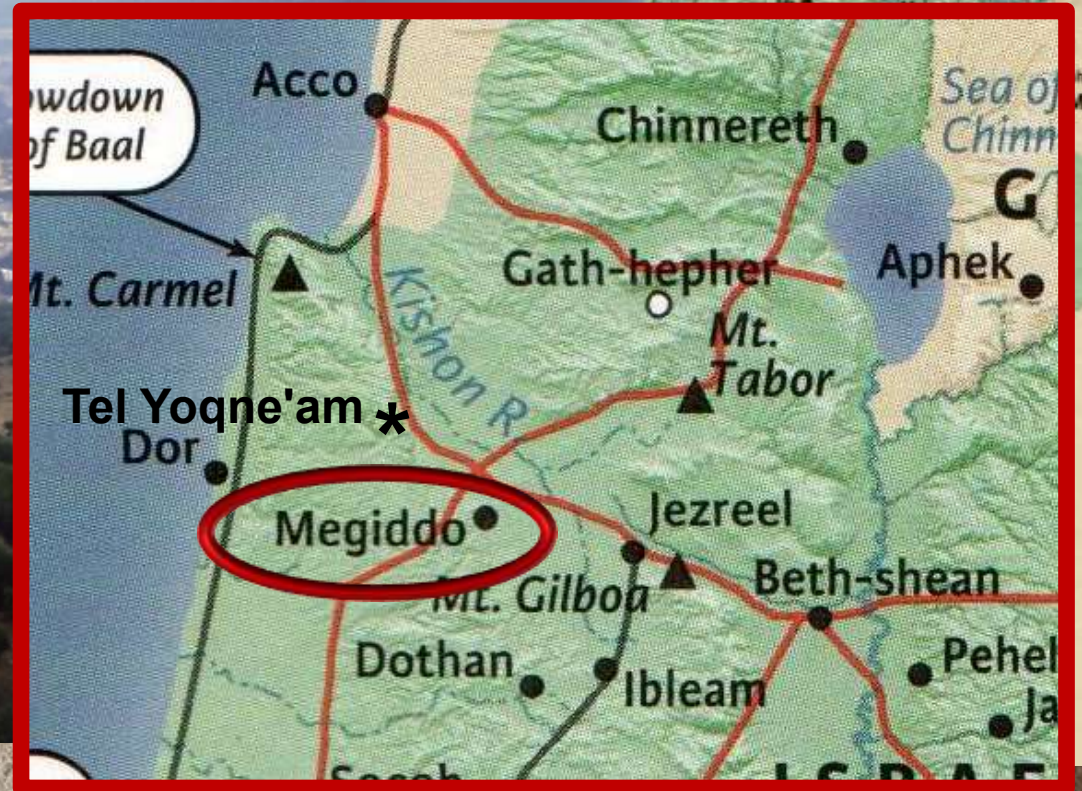
About 10th
size of Florida



Mt. Carmel - about 20 miles long @ 1,300 feet

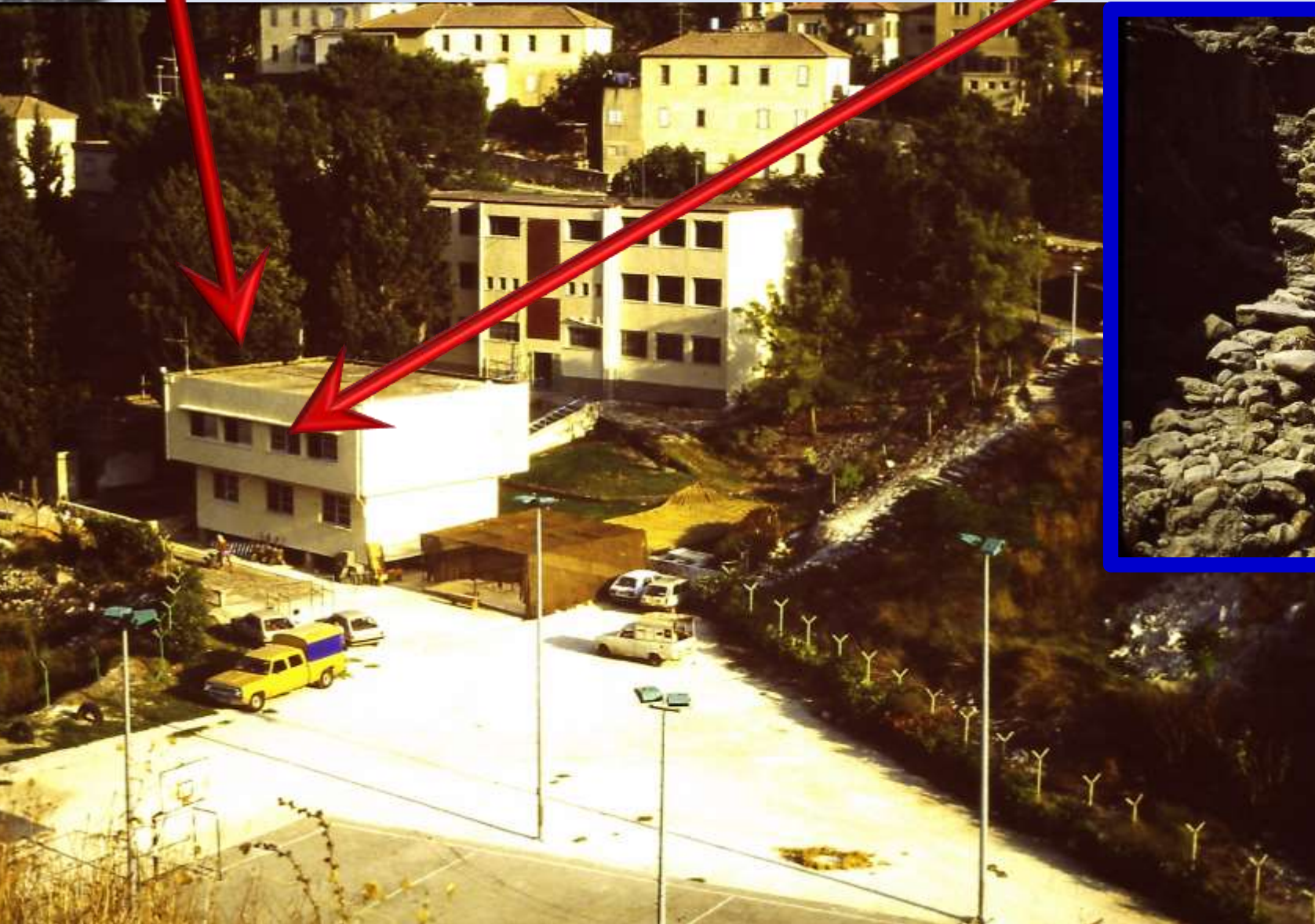


^ Tel Yoqne'am



Spent a month in this schoolhouse

My cot was by THIS window



**Remnants of
Crusader Wall
uncovered in
previous seasons**



**No Archaeological
significance**

**Just what we used
for a toilet seat
in this schoolhouse
for the summer**



**We Dug squares
5x5 meters**

**Down
and
Down**



Iron Age site – c. 900 B.C.



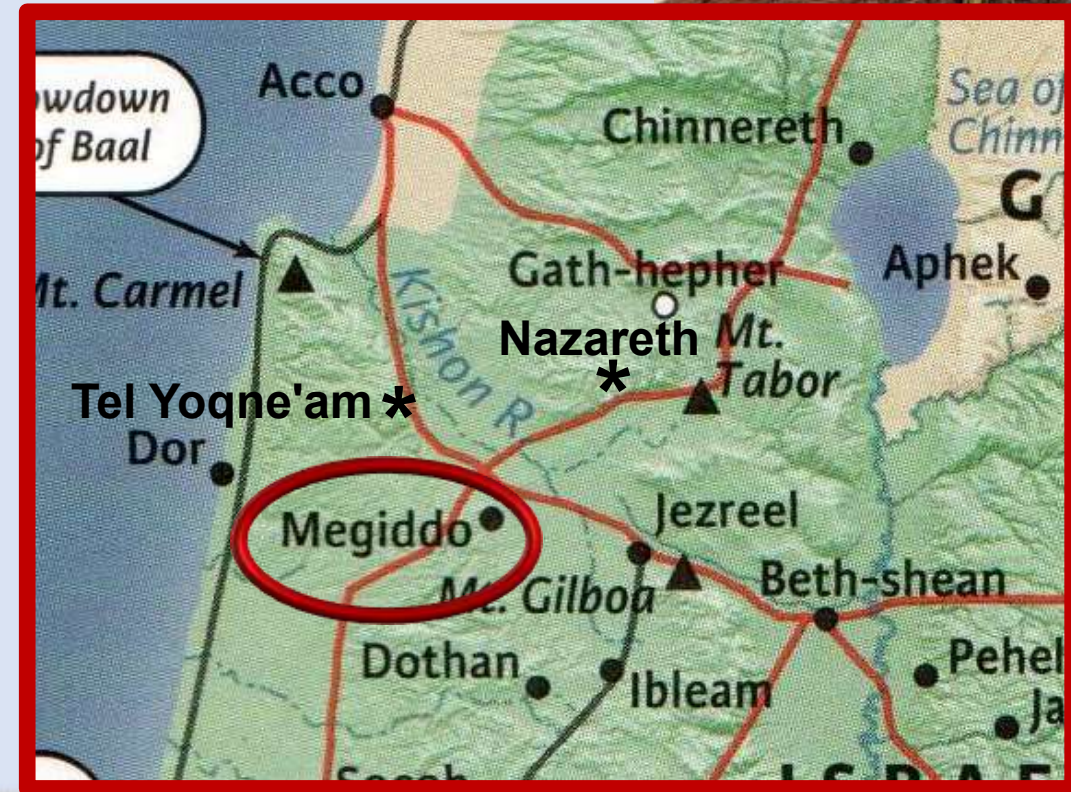
**Elijah might have
petted this Doggy**



Valley of Jezreel ... or Valley of Armageddon

From top of Mt. Carmel
“Carmel” means “Garden-Land”

Tel Yoqne'am & Megiddo guarded the two major
Valleys through Carmel range to west coast
So when Elijah called all the people before
Mt Carmel, they rallied **below**
in the
Valley of Jezreel ... or
Valley of Armageddon
or Valley of **Har**-Megiddo
or Valley of the **HILL** of Megiddo
At the foot of Tel Yoqne'am



Valley of Jezreel or Valley of Armageddon

People of Israel could see the top 1,000 feet above

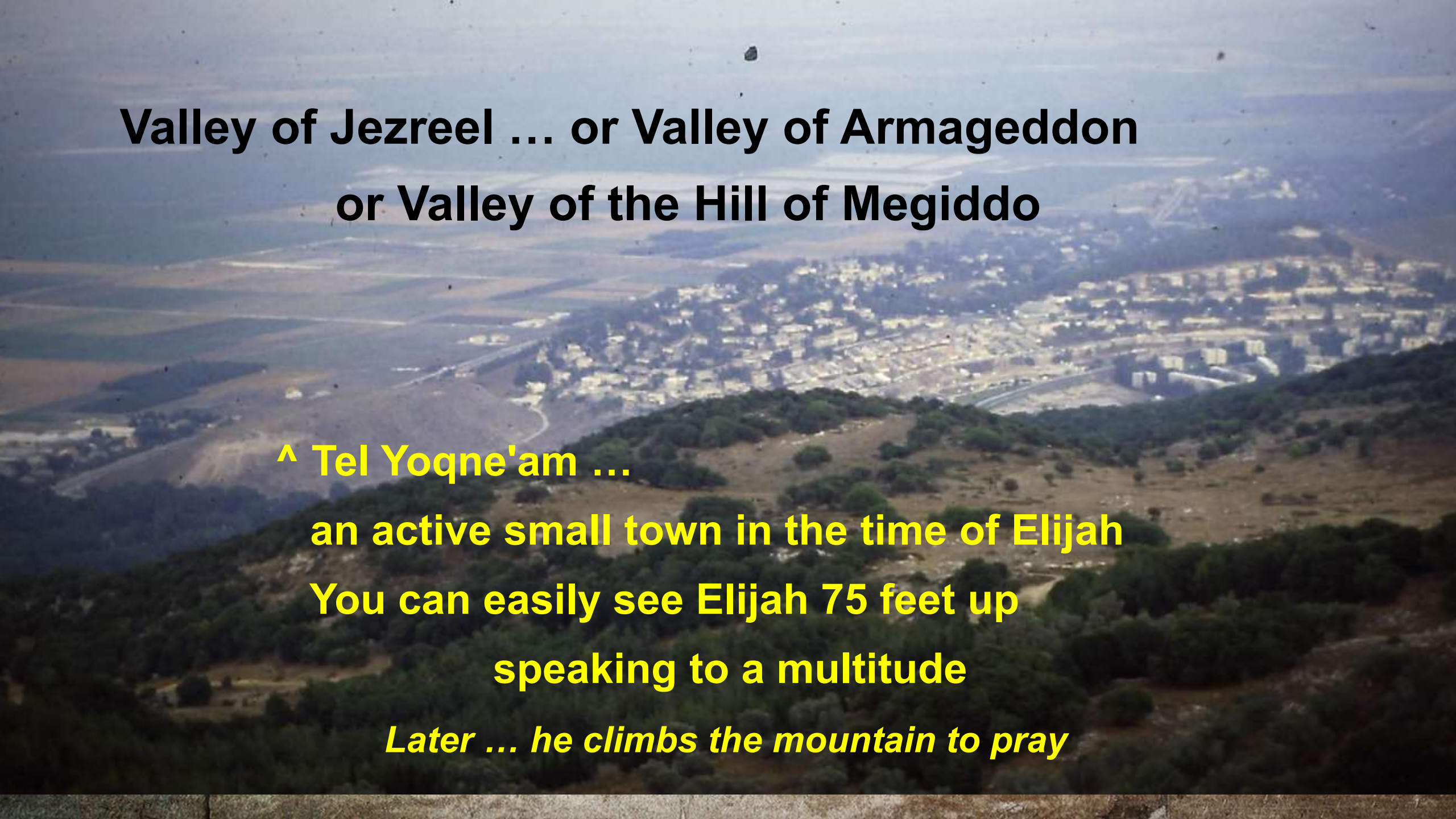
More likely gathered at the foot

Thought it's fairly easy to climb ...

for a 20-year-old

View from Stella Maris Monastery

**Claims to have Cave of Elijah
with grotto of Prophet Elijah**

An aerial photograph of the Valley of Jezreel. In the center, a densely built-up town, Tel Yoqne'am, is visible. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and brown, arid hills. The sky is clear and blue.

Valley of Jezreel ... or Valley of Armageddon or Valley of the Hill of Megiddo

^ Tel Yoqne'am ...

an active small town in the time of Elijah

You can easily see Elijah 75 feet up

speaking to a multitude

Later ... he climbs the mountain to pray

Upon Mt. Carmel stood Elijah ...

alone ... with

450 Prophets of Baal and 400 Prophets of Asherah,

who eat at Jezebel's table.

Ahab's sons were throughout all Israel ...

8:2 Elijah went before the people and said,

“How long will you waver between two opinions?

If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said *NOTHING*.

Elijah stood alone

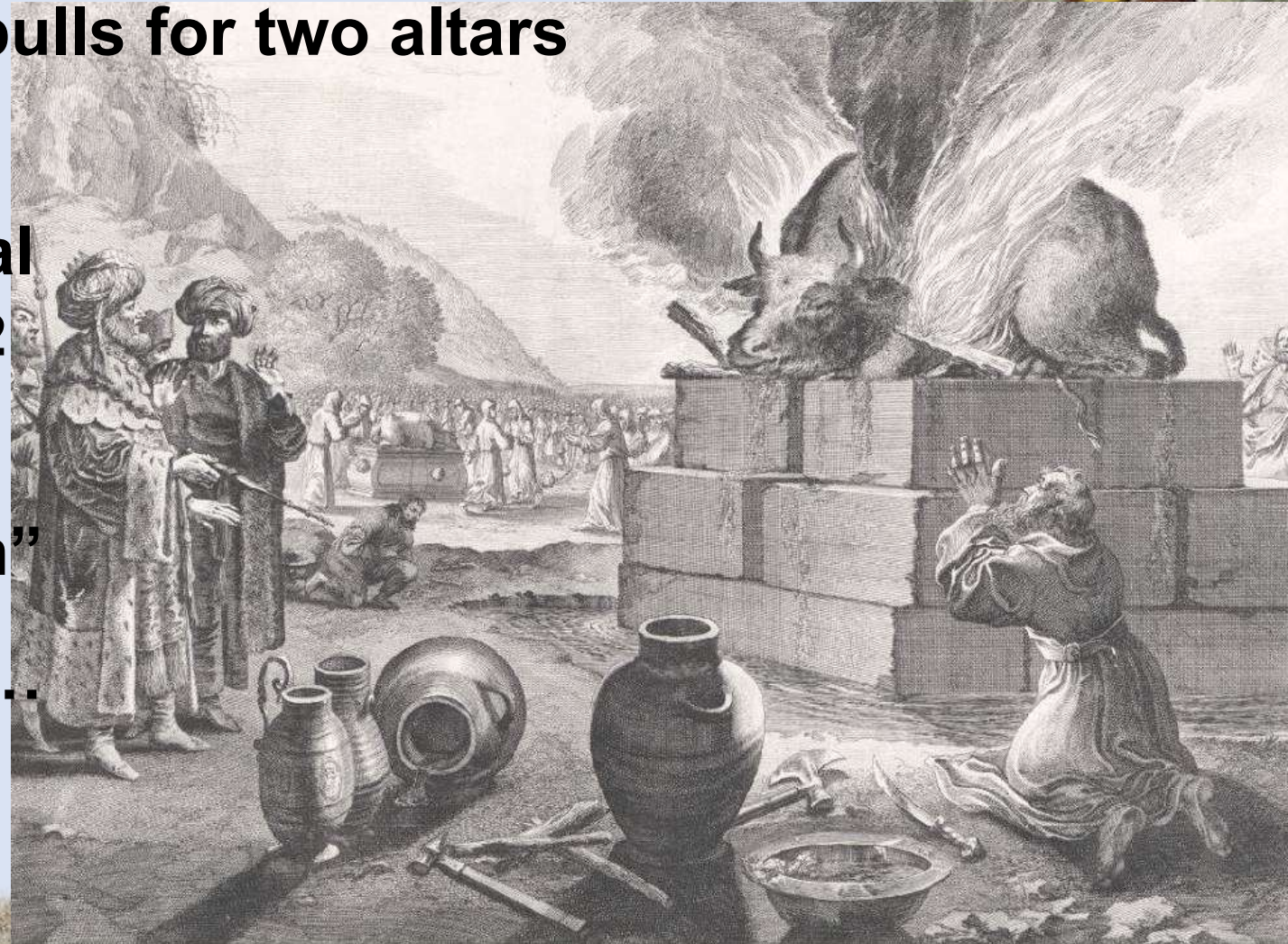


18:22 Elijah said to them, “I am the **only one** of the
LORD’s Prophets left, but Baal has 450 ...

instructs them to get two bulls for two altars

Elijah & Prophets of Baal
by Pieter Nolpe, 1623-1702

Says, “put wood under both”
do NOT put **fire** to them ...



1 Kings 18 – Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

18:24 Then you call on the name of your god, and

I will call on the name of the LORD.

god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

way of the world today

Matthew 16: ¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus ...
TESTED him ... to show them a sign from heaven.

² Jesus replied,

“You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky,
but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”



Elijah tells them to go first ...

They called on Baal from morning till noon.

“Baal, answer us!” they shouted.

But there was no response; no one answered....

18:27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “SHOUT LOUDER!”

“Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy ...

Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

18:28 So they shouted LOUDER and SLASHED themselves ...

But there was no response ...



**18:30 Elijah said to all the people,
“Come here to me.”**

They came to him....

Elijah built a trench ... had water poured on his altar

18:34 “Do it again,” ... “Pour water a third time,” he ordered....

18:35 The water ran down ... filled the trench....

**18:36-37 Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of
Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today....**

so these people will know that you, LORD, are God

**18:38 fire of the LORD ... burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the
stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.**



**39 When the people saw this ... fell and cried,
“The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”
18:40 Elijah commanded,
“Seize the Prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!”**



**They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to
the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.
Elijah tells King Ahab to go home, for rain is coming ...**

Ahab leaves

Elijah climbs to the top of Mt. Carmel and prays for rain ...

18:46 The *power* of the Lord came on Elijah and,
tucking his cloak into his belt,
he *RAN* ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

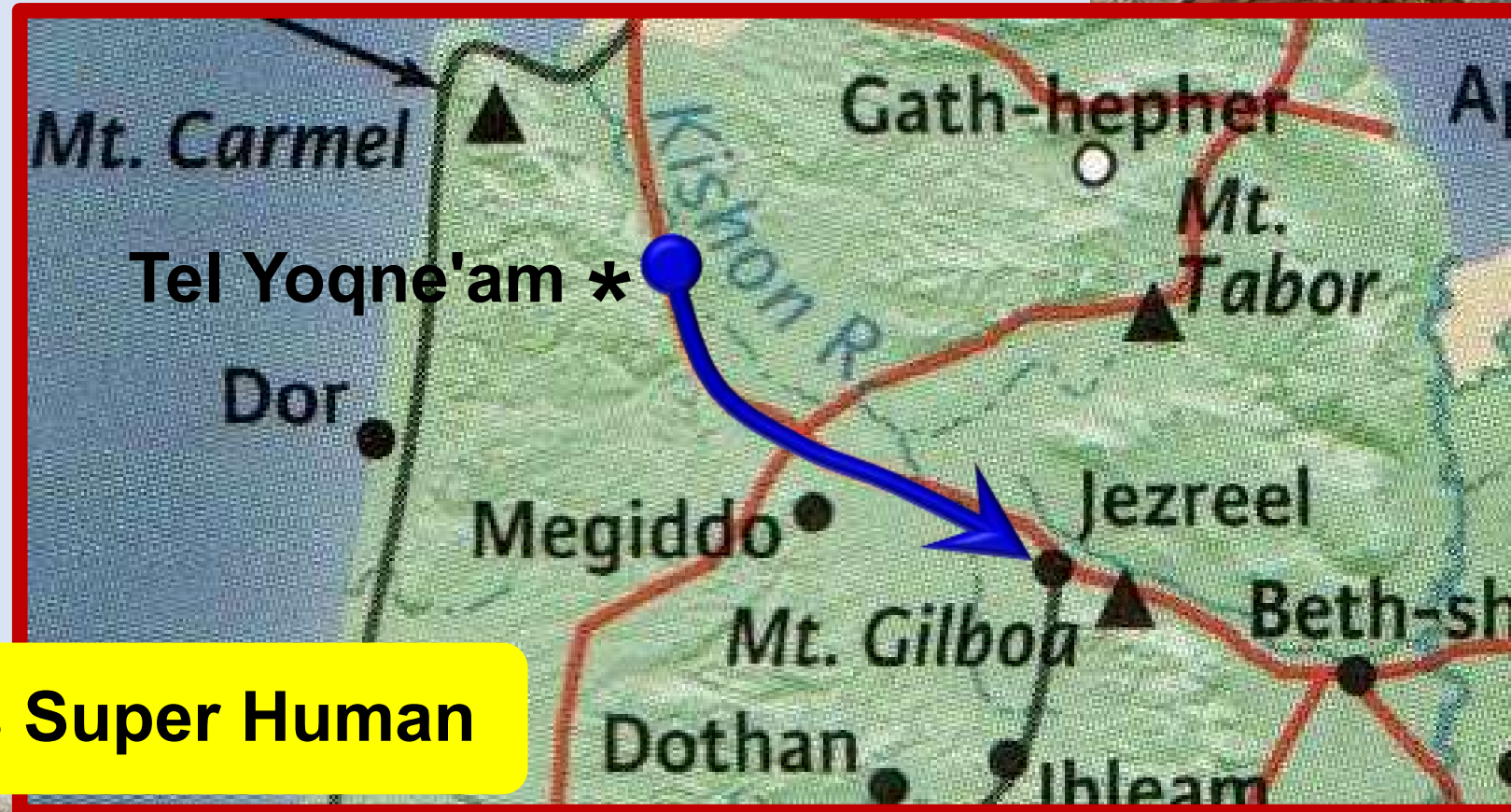


That's about 25 miles
from the SE edge of the
Carmel range to Jezreel

A Marathon

So ... he was young
and Olympic FIT

Yet His Conviction was Super Human



Elijah Depended Upon God

18:21 **Elijah asked,**
“How long will you waver
between two opinions?
If the Lord is God, follow him;
but if Baal is God, follow him.”

a Miracle ~ a Revival ~ an Execution

Esteemed *Pagan* Priests of Israel

Confronted ~ Executed

King Ahab & Jezebel
were also confronted



Today ... Many Have Chosen
Churches Are ... Not Filled
Football Stadiums ARE Filled
Every Home Has a Bible
MORE Time Is Spent watching TV
Christianity – Everyone CLAIMS
MANY Cannot Tell the Difference
oh ... yes
Many HAVE Chosen



There was once in our country
a brave man who once said



**Give me Liberty or
Give me Death**

Today it's: **Give me A/C & a Recliner**

MORE Time Is Spent watchin' TV

**18:21 Elijah asked,
“How long will you waver ... ?
If the Lord is God, FOLLOW him**

How Have *You* Chosen?

