

**Great Controversy Series**  
**Do you FEAR GOD or FEAR PEOPLE?**  
**Chapter 21 - A Warning Rejected**  
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

Shadows of what is coming....

**Russia Labels Jehovah's Witnesses An Extremist Group**

NPR April 21, 2017 Heard on Morning Edition <http://www.npr.org/2017/04/21/525010796/russia-labels-jehovahs-witnesses-an-extremist-group>

Russia has banned Jehovah's Witnesses as an extremist group, in a sign of the Russian Orthodox Church's political influence. Steve Inskeep speaks with *Washington Post* reporter Andrew Roth in Moscow.

STEVE INSKEEP, HOST: "Russia's Supreme Court has accepted a request from the government to declare Jehovah's Witnesses an extremist group. This puts the Christian denomination in the same category as the Islamic State."

ROTH: Well, yes, you know, there's a joke that they're the most pacifist extremists in Russia now...

ROTH: ...Because it seems like the Russian government's decided to declare them an extremist group because of pamphlets that they distributed. And the formal argument by the Justice Ministry was that those pamphlets incited hatred against other religious groups.

... And it seems like what's happening now is that the Russian government is really trying to clamp down and to sort of recreate an idea of what official religion is in Russia. You know, there's official Christianity Orthodoxy. There's official Islam. And these are figures who are both religious and also have a sort of government position. And clearly, Jehovah's Witnesses don't fit into that conception of official Christianity in the country.

...the Russian Orthodox Church which is official Christianity in Russia is this sort of - there's an important symbiosis between religion and the political power in the country. And so the Orthodox Church and the Kremlin have walked in lockstep. And I think it's fair to see that this crackdown is in some ways sort of influenced - growing influence of Orthodox Christianity and a view of Christianity that can support the Kremlin's aim.

July 18, 2017 Independent UK

"Jehovah's Witnesses ban comes into force in Russia after Supreme Court dismisses appeal"  
Court upholds justice ministry's **claim** religious group is 'extremist' for second time

**<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-jehovahs-witnesses-ban-supreme-court-dismisses-appeal-vladimir-putin-religion-freedom-a7846826.html>**

"A **[ban on Jehovah's Witnesses](#)** is to come into full force in Russia after a **court** dismissed an appeal against the group's classification as an "extremist" organisation.

"**[Russia](#)**'s Supreme Court upheld the ruling on Monday, having previously decided in favour of the justice ministry's characterisation of the **[Jehovah's Witnesses](#)** as an "extremist organisation" whose members "pose a threat to the rights of the citizens, public order and public security".

Judges ordered the closure of the group's Russian headquarters, local chapters and the seizure of its property by the state.”

### **Russia’s Supreme Court Ruling Has Negative Impact on Jehovah’s Witnesses [JW.org]**

**June 16, 2017 - Russia**

**<https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/russia/supreme-court-ruling-negative-impact-jehovahs-witnesses/>**

On May 25, police raided the religious services of the Oryol Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses. The police arrested Dennis Christensen, a Danish citizen and an elder of the Oryol Congregation. Mr. Christensen is being held in pretrial detention until July 23 while the prosecutor attempts to build a case against him for “extremist activity.” If convicted, Mr. Christensen could be sentenced to a six-to-ten-year prison term.

### **Arson attacks on members houses and meeting halls have been burned down [show pics]**

Even though JW’s teach error that is not Biblical they are being attack because of the stance against the Orthodox church in Russia and are not involved in the politics of Russia like the many other religions.

### **Trump threatens to change the course of American Christianity**

By John Fea July 17, 2017 Washington Post [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/07/17/trump-threatens-to-change-the-course-of-american-christianity/?utm\\_term=.d34c353149a0](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/07/17/trump-threatens-to-change-the-course-of-american-christianity/?utm_term=.d34c353149a0)

“Jeffress is not a household name in the United States, known mainly in Southern Baptist circles. But he has recently gained national attention as a “court evangelical” — my term for a Christian who, like the attendants and advisers who frequented the courts of monarchs, seeks influence through regular visits to the White House. ...For nearly half a century, evangelicals have sought to influence the direction of the country and its laws through politics. ...The court evangelicals have befriended Trump as a way to win his approval and advance their agenda of making the United States a Christian nation.”

### **What is the main urgent message in the first angels’ message?**

Rev 14:7 says “The hour of his judgment IS come.”

Verse 7 reveals God’s judgment!

Judgment = Greek word = Krisis

In other words the hour of God’s Krisis is come! This is why the first angel’s message is so urgent and loud! Also the “hour” or time that was scheduled has arrived!

Remember, “The hour of his judgment IS come,” was the main message during the Great Awakening between 1833 and 1844.

### **What are the two phases of judgment?**

- 1) Investigative
- 2) Executive

We learned from our previous studies that the time prophecy of Daniel 8:14, 2300 days the “sanctuary shall be cleansed” and Revelation 14:7 is referring to the investigative phase of judgment. William Miller and many

others thought that the cleansing of the sanctuary and the hour of judgment was pointing to the executive phase of judgment in which they concluded was the end of the world and cleansing by fire. Based on the interpretation of Daniel 8:14 in Daniel 9:24 – 27, they believed that the coming of Jesus was going to take place on October 22, 1844. It was not until October 22, 1844 came and went did others realize their mistake that they got the right date but the wrong phase of judgment.

When did the investigative judgment begin according timeline of Daniel 8:14? October 22, 1844

**What was the main motive of William Miller in giving the urgent message of the coming of Jesus Christ?**

“In preaching the doctrine of the second advent, William Miller and his associates had labored with the sole purpose of arousing men to a preparation for the judgment. They had sought to awaken professors of religion to the true hope of the church and to their need of a deeper Christian experience, and they labored also to awaken the unconverted to the duty of immediate repentance and conversion to God. ‘They made no attempt to convert men to a sect or party in religion. Hence they labored among all parties and sects, without interfering with their organization or discipline.’” GC 375

Miller was not seeking fame or fortune. Matter of fact, he used much of his own money from farming to travel from place to place to speak in many places. He did not desire to start a new denomination, but to awaken churches to the reality of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

**How did the churches respond to the warning call, “get ready, because Jesus is coming again!” at the time of William Miller and others preaching the second coming of Jesus?**

Remember, before the great awakening many protestant churches were not preaching and teaching about the urgent message of the second coming of Jesus Christ. At first the doors of many protestant denominations were wide opened to receive the message of the advent of Jesus Christ. It appeared that a grand revival and reformation was going to be ignited among the Christian churches who were unified with the same message, “Jesus is coming again, are you ready?”

“As his [William Miller] work tended to build up the churches, it was for a time regarded with favor. But as ministers and religious leaders decided against the advent doctrine and desired to suppress all agitation of the subject, they not only opposed it from the pulpit, but denied their members the privilege of attending preaching upon the second advent, or even of speaking of their hope in the social meetings of the church.” GC 376

**What were those who believed in the urgent Bible message about the second coming of Jesus Christ supposed to do? Stay in submission to those who reject Bible truth?**

No. Many from various denominations, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and many others believed in the message of the second coming of Jesus. Instead of submitting themselves to men they submitted to God! They had to leave the churches who rejected the truth (period).

“Thus the believers found themselves in a position of great trial and perplexity. They loved their churches and were loath to separate from them; but as they saw the testimony of God's word suppressed and their right to investigate the prophecies denied they felt that loyalty to God forbade them to submit. Those who sought to shut out the testimony of God's word they could not regard as constituting the church of Christ, "the pillar and ground of the truth." Hence they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection. In the summer of 1844 about fifty thousand withdrew from the churches.” GC 376

**Why would churches and pastor not be excited about the second coming of Jesus Christ? Why would they reject its urgency?**

Many of the churches in Miller's day have made an infinity with worldliness. They became accustomed to ease and worldly "comforts" that pleased the sinful flesh. They had gambling, dancing, and parties in the church. The members were caught up in the latest fashions of the world. They were blinded by their rejection of truth!

**Rejected Daniel 8:14!**

**They rejected the evidence in Daniel 8:14 timeline with all anchor points of the baptism of Jesus, His crucifixion and the stoning of Stephen all perfectly fulfilled!**

**What will those who are spiritually blinded and deceived by their worldly acceptance call good and light?**

Isaiah 5:20

20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

**Why did the Jewish nation reject Jesus?**

The Jews also were not excited nor expecting the first coming of Christ because they had an affinity with the world that left them in darkness. Even after Jesus came and proven Himself to be the Messiah, they still rejected the evidence! **They rejected the evidence of the timeline of Daniel 8:14** that Jesus was in fact the Messiah! The evidence was overwhelmingly clear, but the desire to please other sinners, money, world praise and honor, they rejected the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

"The prophecy of Daniel pointed so unmistakably to the time of Messiah's coming, and so directly foretold His death, that they discouraged its study, and finally the rabbis pronounced a curse on all who should attempt a computation of the time. In blindness and impenitence the people of Israel during succeeding centuries have stood, indifferent to the gracious offers of salvation, unmindful of the blessings of the gospel, a solemn and fearful warning of the danger of rejecting light from heaven." GC 378

**For example, what excuse did many Jews try to use to prove that Jesus was not the Messiah?**

**John 7:40-43**

40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

Even though there was a great abundance of evidence that Jesus was the Messiah, many people in the crowd believed that Jesus was born in Galilee. They knew from scriptures that He was supposed to be born in Bethlehem, but made their conclusion that Jesus was born in Galilee. **Why? Obviously that was the popular belief at the time.** From that they reasoned that Jesus could not be the Messiah, especially since the Jewish leadership did not accept Jesus. What was the main problem with their conclusion? They made their conclusion based on an error not the truth! This error led many to reject the truth! Jesus was in fact born in Bethlehem! If they wanted to know the truth they could have asked Jesus directly, but their pride keep them from seeking truth.

When seeking truth we must go to the SOURCE of truth, the Word of God! There is no need to assume or guess. We must humble ourselves and study for ourselves in order to find truth.

### **Jeremiah 29:13**

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

### **What is the danger of rejecting Bible truth and the conviction of the Holy Spirit to follow the TRUTH?**

### **Romans 1:24**

24 Wherefore God also **gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

### **Psalms 81:11-12**

11 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

12 So I **gave them up** unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

### **Hosea 4:6, 17-18**

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will **also reject thee**, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

17 Ephraim is joined to idols: **let him alone**.

18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.

### **Mark 3:28-29**

28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

“Blaspheme” in the context of Mark 3:28, 29 – Greek meaning - to vilify; defame, rail on, revile, speak evil.

Total rejection of the conviction of the Holy Spirit is extremely dangerous. The Holy Spirit's main role is to convict you of sin and lead you to Jesus Christ.

### **What is rebellion and stubbornness compared to and why did king Saul rebel against God?**

### **1 Samuel 15:23**

23 For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry**. Because **thou hast rejected the word of the LORD**, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Witchcraft = sorcery, enchantments, intercourse with the Devil (Webster's Dictionary). Satan is the father of rebellion. He is the father of witchcraft.

### **What was King Saul's excuse for rejecting truth and disobeying God?**

**1 Sam 15:24** And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because **I feared the people, and obeyed their voice**.

“Fear” (Hebrew) – 1) to fear, revere, be afraid (BDB Hebrew Dictionary)

Not only did Saul fear the people but he revered (worship in reverence) their human reasoning over God's command.

Remember the first angels message in Revelation 14:7 says "Fear GOD and give Glory to HIM!

"Fear God" in this context is to reverent obedience, in awe of His majesty and divine power! Today like king Saul millions rather "fear" people other than "fear" God. They rather worship human reasoning rather than worship the ONE who created man. **They fear those who they revere and worship such as pastors, church leaders, spouse, parents, doctors, siblings, etc**

Many professed Christians say today I would follow the commandments of God including God seventh-day Sabbath but "I fear the people". "I fear what my pastor, elder, or bishop may say." "I fear that I might kicked out."

"I feared the people", is this the same excuse that millions use to reject truth and the clear evidence of God and His power! "I fear the people" is the reason why just about ALL the church leaders, pastors, and support ministries such as 3ABN, Amazing Facts, ASI, and other do NOT cry aloud and openly rebuke the LGBTQ movement that is excused, allowed, and ignored in the SDA corp church. They "fear the people" to openly rebuke the many other abominations and apostasies that have left the corp SDA church in darkness such as abortions at the SDA hospitals, worldliness in all our schools and universities, spiritualism, and the coming soon SUNDAY sacredness!

**Do you FEAR GOD or FEAR PEOPLE?** Are you a God worshiper or worship other people'd ideas and philosophies? Do "fear people" because you are more concerned about your selfish desires and your reputation among the people? Think about it. Who do you FEAR?

What does Jesus say...

**Matthew 10:28** *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him [God] which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

"He who deliberately stifles his convictions of duty because it interferes with his inclinations will finally lose the power to distinguish between truth and error. The understanding becomes darkened, the conscience callous, the heart hardened, and the soul is separated from God. Where the message of divine truth is spurned or slighted, there the church will be enshrouded in darkness; faith and love grow cold, and estrangement and dissension enter. Church members center their interests and energies in worldly pursuits, and sinners become hardened in their impenitence." {GC 378.2}

Those who reject the truth walk in darkness, but still believe they are walking in the light. They still have a love for the world.

**Why do many professed Christians (church leaders, pastors, laypeople) reject TRUTH even after the EVIDENCE has been clearly revealed?**

**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they **received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but **had pleasure in unrighteousness**.

**Those who reject the truth really don't seek the evidence of the truth for themselves.** They are satisfied with youtube and facebook videos without getting deeper in God's word. They are satisfied with what the pastor presents without checking it out for themselves. They don't receive the love for the truth, because still have their affections on worldly things. They have pleasure in following after the things of the world!

Do you have a love for the TRUTH? Do you seek the TRUTH like a person seeking for water in a hot and dry desert? **Are you a lover of TRUTH or a lover of pleasure?**

1 Timothy 3:4 says that in the last days the professors of truth will be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

**Do you have a love for the TRUTH? Are spending time searching for TRUTH in the Word of God or surfing Dish Network, Direct TV, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, or the Internet?**

**Only those who have a love for the truth will not reject the truth and they will live by the truth! They Fear GOD and not others. Is that you?**

**Did you know that the first Angels' message is a call of separation?**

"The first angel's message of Revelation 14, announcing the hour of God's judgment and calling upon men to fear and worship Him, was designed to separate the professed people of God from the corrupting influences of the world and to arouse them to see their true condition of worldliness and backsliding." GC 379

What unifies God's one true remnant church with one faith, one baptism, one head, Jesus Christ, is truth that pours directly from the WORD of God as living water! It is the obedience to God's TRUTH that unifies a movement to finish the last day work of evangelism, not a pastor, church denomination, or man made creeds and philosophies – TRUTH! Those who have a love for the truth, take heed to the truth, must share the truth in love to others! Remember truth and error does not mix. **If errors, abominations, and apostasies are ignored, excused, or promoted within a local church regardless of denomination or name on the sign by the road, if you have a love for the truth you would separate yourself and family from this church toxicity of worldliness.**

**Amusement parks, church picnics, church parties, fish fries, church movie nights, dance parties, golf tournaments, do not unify a church in truth to finish the work of Christ, but only unifies them into deeper darkness, apostasy, and abomination!** [show a few slides]

**First Angel Message Rejected**

Those who reject the first message will also reject the second angels' message. This is what happened in the past in 1844, it is happening today.

**Why is it dangerous to reject the first angel's message?**

"In refusing the warning of the first angel, they rejected the means which Heaven had provided for their restoration. They spurned the gracious messenger that would have corrected the evils which separated them from God, and with greater eagerness they turned to seek the friendship of the world. Here was the cause of that fearful condition of worldliness, backsliding, and spiritual death which existed in the churches in 1844." GC 380

**What is the warning of the second angel's message?**

**Revelation 14:8**

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

The second angel's message in Revelation 14:8 reveals false worship that is connected to Satan's false church system. A very urgent message about the fall of Babylon is given.

**Who is Babylon?**

Revelation 14:6-11 is a prophetic message that is within the context of the last days. Babylon is not referring to the literal Babylon whose empire fell to the Medo-Persian kingdom in 539 BC as prophesied in Daniel chapter 2 and fulfilled in Daniel chapter 5. After the literal ancient Babylonian kingdom fell it never regained its prominence.

**Babylon is a symbolic representation of the spiritual condition of those within it.**

"In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman --a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church." - GC 381

**What does God compares relationship to His true church to?****Hosea 2:19**

19 And I will betroth (engage for matrimony) thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

**Jeremiah 3:14**

"...I am married unto you."

**2 Corinthians 11:2**

2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste [pure] virgin to Christ.

The union between God and his pure church is compared to a holy marriage with a husband and wife who are faithful to each other.

**What violates the marriage covenant between God and his wife, the church?****James 4:4**

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

**Ezekiel 16:32**

32 But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!

Those who profess to be married to God but have friendship with worldliness commit spiritual adultery against God and break the marriage vow!

**1 John 2:15-16**

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

### **How is the mother of Babylon, an adulterous vile and corrupt church, described?**

#### **Revelation 17:4-6**

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of **abominations** and **filthiness of her fornication**:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The mother of harlots have daughters, who are also apostate churches who reflect the character of the Babylon!

The meaning of the name Babylon is “confusion.” This describes the state of mind that all ministers, leaders, and people have who drink the Babylonian “wine of the wrath of her fornication” as revealed in Revelation 14:8.

The Babylonian wine is the “adulteress” character and false doctrines of Babylon. Like real alcoholic wine, one sip of Babylonian wine will compromise and confusion your spiritual thinking. Babylonian wine is extremely addictive.

**Proverbs 20:1** “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Those who sip on this Babylonian wine is NOT wise and will be DECEIVED from the truth!

Like the real wine, Babylonian wine pleases the “flesh”, the sinful and lustful nature of man. Babylonian wine arouses and tickles all the worldly senses, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life and causes ALL who drink it to compromise God’s Word. The more Babylonian wine is consumed, the more people crave it and are overcome by it. The more they drink, the more they become filled with false doctrines which leads them to commit abominations.

### **Babylonian Detox Program**

There is hope. The only way to break free from the drunken stupor of Babylon is to enroll in a spiritual and Biblical detox program. Jesus, out of His great love, is offering a free Babylonian detoxification program to everyone in Babylon.

The only way to truly overcome Babylonian wine through God’s power is to **stop buying it, drinking it, and socializing around those who drink it.**

### **Who is in control of Babylon?**

#### **Revelation 18:2**

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the **habitation of devils**, and the hold of **every foul spirit**, and a cage of every **unclean and hateful bird.**

### **What does God call His people to do if they are in Babylon?**

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

**Why is the message so urgent? Babylon is a fallen, fallen! (Revelation 14:8)**

- 1) The first “fallen” shows that Babylon first fell away from God’s truth and compromised with the world.
- 2) The second “fallen” is the final result of Babylon and all those in Babylon drinking and feasting on her false doctrines.

As we get closer to the end of time Babylon does not get better, it gets worse! It continues its adulteress, corruptible, and abominable ways.

Babylon excuses the wicked and condemns the true.

**Proverbs 17:15** “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.”

However, how do you know if you are in Babylon? In general, Babylon is confusion by mixing the holy with the profane; truth with error; righteousness with sin; humility with pride; and godliness with worldliness.

Let’s make it more practical. Churches in Babylon mix the devil’s worldly rhythm of rebellion such as hip hop, rock, rap, jazz, and R&B with the gospel and call it Gospel Hip Hop, Gospel Rock, Gospel Rap, Gospel Jazz, or Gospel R&B. They mix the filth and demonic doctrines of Hollywood with the gospel and call it “Christian entertainment.” They mix the worldly pagan dances of ballet, hip hop, etc. with the gospel and call it “praise dance.” By the way, who are they truly praising? They take the pagan entertainment of miming with the gospel and call it “gospel miming.” Did you know that the pagans used miming to mock Christians? Now it is performed in many “Christian” churches. Babylonian churches take the pagan craft of puppets and ventriloquism mix it with the gospel and call it “gospel ventriloquism or puppetry.” They eat the disease causing worldly lustful diet and pray over it hoping for healing and vitality. They are deceiving themselves and deceiving others. They allow themselves to be mesmerized by the world but still claim godliness. They love lustful pleasure more than doing the things of God. There are more people at a fish fry, card night, pool party, movie night, church Super Bowl night, gospel prom, and the church picnic, then at a truth filled Bible study. This is confusion, mixing the world with the church! This is Babylon. Babylon pleases the sinful flesh.

**1 Corinthians 10:21**

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.

**What was Elijah’s question to the professed people of God on Mt. Carmel?**

**1 Kings 18:21**

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD [Hebrew: Jehovah] be God, follow him: but if Baal [= “lord”], then follow him. **And the people answered him not a word.**

**Why did the people answer him not a word?** They were guilty! They were drinking the wine of Baal worship.

Afterward Elijah explained that he and the prophets of Baal will build two separate altar with a sacrifice and the one that consumed by fire from heaven is the true God of heaven.

**Notice, after Elijah's explanation did the people respond?**

**1 Kings 18:24**

24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

**Did the people really believe that Baal was going to answer by fire?** This is how deep their apostasy was.

God consumed Elijah's sacrifice and clearly proved Himself to be the true God of heaven.

**Did this supernatural evidence spark an all out revival and reformation among the Israelites?** NO Even though God revealed MORE evidence that He is true, the leadership, Ahab, still continued his life of rebellion.

God has already proven Himself. He speaks to us in a still small voice. Repent, turn from sin and turn to Jesus!

Another Fire from Heaven - Beware: Satan will use the lamb like to bring "fire from heaven"

**Revelation 13:13**

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

This fire from heaven will be a catalyst for a false revival and reformation of apostasy. Satan will use it to embolden those in Babylon to deepen their attacks on the true remnant people of God in the last days.

-Appeal-