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to agree to Elijah's terms that they should have that contest on Mt. Carmel. And then you remember how they came on Mt. Carmel and there were all the prophets of Baal standing there and here was Elijah alone and the prophets of Baal called out to Baal to set fire to the wood there and burn up the sacrifice according to the terms of the contest and Elijah said, Cry louder, perhaps he's out on a trip. Perhaps he's busy somewhere. Perhaps he's asleep. They laughed at him and they kept on trying and trying and of course they failed, and then Elijah took wood and poured water over it and put the sacrifice on it and then he quietly prayed to God that God would send the fire down, and the fire came down from heaven and the people called out, The Lord is the God, the Lord is the God and the people unitedly were ready to follow God. And that tremendous work that Elijah had done reached its great climax there. The tremendous great work of Elijah. It's certainly worth a full hour's sermon with people who are not familiar with it so tremendous it was.

But tonight I'm interested in seeing and noticing what came right after. Just imagine this situation of Elijah. Elijah going through this tremendous contest. Through this awful struggle with these prophets of Baal standing before the king there who wanted to kill him; trying for 3 years to get a hold of him and kill him, standing there and having this contest with God honoring him in such a way so wonderfully and then Elijah said to Aham, Get thee up. Eat and drink for there is a sound of abundance of rain and Elijah had fulfilled the first part of the task. He'd made the great exhibition. He'd given the great evidence. He'd broken down the resistance to the Word of God. Now what was needed was to go among these people and teach them; teach them the Word of God and show them how to grow in grace. They wanted to follow the Lord. They were ready to. Ahab wouldn't dare say a word to do a thing against them. Ahab as you know never did openly become a follower of Baal. The majority of the people wanted to follow God if they followed anybody. They were ready now to learn and it was time for Elijah to think: How can this great victory be utilized to reach people's hearts and to bring them the message and to build them up in the faith. Now I don't like to criticize Elijah. He was a marvellous man. And I think the probabilities are that any of us would have failed even worse than he did at this point. But at