- "Lessons from The Holy Land #1: Mt. Carmel & Caesarea"
- 1. Genuine Christians Must Eventually Take a Stand to Achieve Personal Victory (1 Kings 18:20-24, 36-39)

1 Kings 18:20 So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

²²Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it.

²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.

³⁷ Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God."

- "Lessons from The Holy Land #1: Mt. Carmel & Caesarea"
- 2. Genuine Christians Must Be Willing to Be Faithful in the 'Valley' (Acts 23:11, 31-35; 24:23, 27; 25:13-15; 26:30-32)

Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

³¹So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.

32 And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him.

33 When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him.

³⁴On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia,

35 he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

Acts 24:23 Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

²⁷ When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

25:13 Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.

¹⁴ And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix,

¹⁵ and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.

26:30 Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

31 And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."

32 And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

3. Genuine Christians Will Be Validated by the Lord (and the World)! (Acts 26:24-29; 28:23-24, 30-31)

Acts 26:24 And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."

²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.

²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.

²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"

²⁹ And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

28:23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,

³¹proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

