

1 KINGS 19– ELIJAH - ESCAPES FROM JEZEBEL - CRISIS IN FAITH – GOD RESTORES!

11/3/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

HAVE THINE OWN WAY – Pollard/Stebbins - Maranatha Music

*1 Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*2 Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

*3 Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.*

*4 Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me.*

1 Kings 19– “Elijah’s Message to Ahab and Mount Carmel Victory; The Drought Ends!”

Ahab reports to Jezebel that Elijah had slain all her prophets of Baal. She vows to kill Elijah. He beats a cowardly retreat to Beer-sheba, where he leaves his servant and continues on into the wilderness to crawl under a juniper tree, where he requests that he might die. We see Elijah having what seems to be a most unusual struggle with his faith in God. This is surprising as we have just seen a demonstration of so much faith in the Mt. Carmel victory. It would seem that based on that, that Elijah would never have a struggle in this area of faith.

Elijah Flees Jezebel

1Ki 19:1 *And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.*

1Ki 19:2 *Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.”*

1Ki 19:3 *And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba (90 miles away), which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.*

1Ki 19:4 *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”*

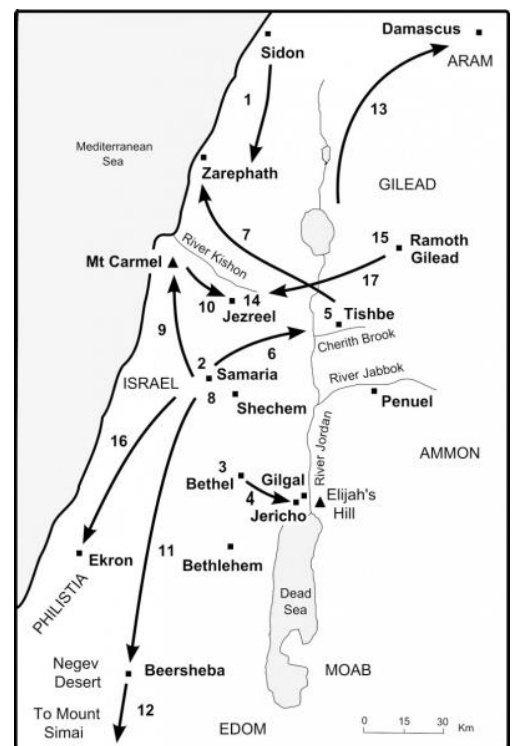
- Elijah doesn't only want to quit the ministry, severe discouragement in ministry, but **he wants God to take him home!** Lord, put me out of my misery! Aren't we thankful for our prayers that God doesn't answer?
- Elijah states that he was no better than his forefather in ridding Israel of false prophets!
- **Jas 5:17-18** *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.[18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*
- We see here what James was talking about in that **he had “a nature like ours”!**
- The James passage is to be an encouragement to us because we don't have to have a strong faith to have our prayers answered!
- Elijah flees totally exhausted and hungry. He falls asleep.

1Ki 19:5 *Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.”*

1Ki 19:6 *Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.*

1Ki 19:7 *And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.”*

1Ki 19:8 *So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as*



Horeb, the mountain of God. (about 100 miles)

The Lord Speaks to Elijah

1Ki 19:9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

- Elijah didn't answer – what he really was doing there was nothing!
- How do we answer that question whenever God poses that question to us, anywhere in life?
- We should be able to say immediately, Lord, You've directed me here!
- But Elijah can't say that to the Lord right then. He has run to another country.
- Elijah was doing nothing! He had deserted his post and the Lord hadn't prepared him for that!

1Ki 19:10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

- Elijah is basically rebuking God at this point. It looks like we're losing and the enemy is winning! Your voice is being resisted and lost in this country!
- Every servant of the Lord will likely find themselves at this same point OF DISCOURAGEMENT, one time or another! No matter how strong we are; how bold we are; how brave we are; how great we've been used.
- This is a great study of the type of personality God uses. Elijah is an absolute zealot for God and the things of God!
- Elijahs may be more vulnerable than anyone else. Two causes;
- 1) A sense of what I'm doing, doesn't make ANY DIFFERENCE at all! There's no fruit to show for it. It doesn't make any difference whether I live or die, whether I continue.
- 2) UNMET EXPECTATIONS – Things haven't worked out the way we hoped and wanted. Mt. Carmel didn't change the nation the way he had hoped-they're still in apostasy. Ahab and Jezebel are still ruling! God didn't destroy them when He had the perfect chance! Worst of all, where everything got turned around and the momentum of Israel seemed to have a chance to change, God allowed Jezebel to threaten Elijah with his life!!
- The biggest problem Elijah has with his life is not Ahab and Jezebel, but the crisis with his faith, is that he has a BIG PROBLEM WITH GOD! Have you ever been in that place? His whole world is spinning! He is completely confused! Nothing is turning out the way he wants. He didn't get this at all! Where he is, is real in the Christian life. He is not doubting the power of God. He is doubting the wisdom of God. Elijah is having a crisis because he has faith! He knows God! His whole life has been one miracle after another! He knows what God can do in an instant! And yet God isn't! Why can't God, which he knows can do it in an instant. Why doesn't God do it? It's inexplicable to him why God wouldn't do it.
- The lesson of Elijah is that he got discouraged, we get discouraged. All God's children get discouraged. **But what does God do to get Elijah out of his discouragement?**

God does three things:

1) v.11 –

1Ki 19:11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

1Ki 19:12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

- Go out and stand on the mountain. There was a wind, then earthquake, then a fire, but the LORD was not in any of these. But there was a still, small voice and God was in that still, small voice! God is speaking in that still small voice that all of life is not Mr. Carmel! It's not all mountain top experiences. God is not any less God when things are quiet! God is still working! He is still active even when it is completely quiet in our ministry. He's teaching Elijah that it's not whether there is wind or earthquake or fire, but HIS STILL SMALL VOICE. **Quiet, still periods in our ministry are important too!** That's not easy for Elijahs because it always has to be wind, earthquake or fire or God's cause is lost! But God reveals that that isn't true.

2) v. 13 -

1Ki 19:13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1Ki 19:14 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

1Ki 19:15 Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.

1Ki 19:16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel

Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

1Ki 19:17 *It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazeel, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.*

- The second thing that He does is to again show His power and then asks, “What are you doing here, Elijah”? God doesn’t accept Elijah’s resignation, He simply tells Elijah in **vs. 15-17** what he is to do next! God doesn’t give him any chance to quit. You simply take your place in what I’m doing. What you’re doing is not your problem.
- The world is not your problem. That’s My problem. Your problem is **TO BE FAITHFUL TO WHAT I’VE CALLED YOU TO DO!** Elijahs need to hear that because they tend to take the problems of the whole nation, the whole world upon themselves. God tells Elijah, that’s not your problem! God simply tell Elijah what he is to do next! That’s so simple, but so needed for us, who have a trace of Elijah in us! You do just what the LORD is calling you to do. Leave the big problems to God! That keeps us reeled in and healthy!

3) v. 18 –

1Ki 19:18 *Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

- God informs Elijah that **GOD’S PLAN DOESN’T DEPEND ON HIM!** Elijahs suffer from their own over exaggerated self-importance, how much they are needed. Sooner or later every Elijah will run out of their own strength, energy and resources. Then in exhaustion, they think that all depends on them **vs. 10 & 14**, “I ALONE”.
- But God shows Elijah he is not alone. That He has 7,000 times the resources that Elijah thinks He has. God’s plan and work in the world never depends on anyone as weak and tenuous as you and I. It doesn’t depend on us! It depends **ON HIM** and His grace! **It’s humbling to hear that, but it frees us in our lives and perfects us!**
- Elijah thought his life and his ministry was finished, but he could not know or dream what God had in store for him! Fiery chariots up into heaven, anointing Elisha as the next prophet! Be on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Jesus! Interesting that all three went through a 40-day period of fasting. From the Book of Revelation, we know that Elijah has an end times appointment as one of the two witnesses. All that is in his future on the other side of his crisis in faith!
- God is working in the quiet times too! Just do the next thing He tells you to do. It doesn’t depend all on you. Just be faithful to God. Then just watch what He will do as we are faithful to Him!

SUMMARY:

- **Just as Elijah had a crisis in his faith, so we too, at some point will also encounter!**
- **Thinking it all depends on us, when it certainly doesn’t!**
- **God is working in the quiet times too!**
- **We are just to do the next thing He tells us to do!**
- **It doesn’t depend all on you!**
- **We are simply to be faithful to God!**
- **Then just watch what He will do as we are faithful to Him!**
- **Our God is faithful!**

Holy, Holy, Holy- London Orchestra Festival

*1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity. AMEN!*

Pray Today For: Our Church, Internationally/Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com