

Elijah: Channel of God's Power

The Presence of God

In This Series...

1. We are reminded that no matter how godly we may be, there are still times of growing and stretching in our faith. (Even Biblical giants have problems!)
"Elijah was a person just like us..." - James 5:17
2. We are learning that God has a plan, a response, and a lesson for every situation that we face, and that obedience is the key to our continued spiritual growth.

Running

"Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." ³Elijah was afraid and ran for his life..." - 1 Kings 19:1-3

What did Ahab tell Jezebel?

(The contest, the taunting, the fire from heaven, the killing of the prophets of Baal, the trip back to Jezreel, the rain.)

Jezebel threatened Elijah's life which should have meant nothing. (What was Elijah expecting? Revival!)

When things didn't happen like Elijah was expecting, he ran!

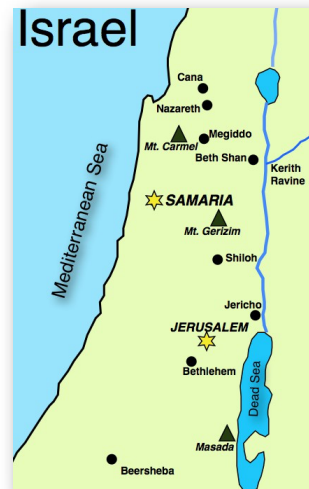
Refreshment

"When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." ⁸So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God." - 1 Kings 19:3-8

Elijah traveled a very long way.

Elijah was now alone in a desert.

Elijah was struggling with suicidal thoughts!



God allowed Elijah to sleep, to eat, and to take a long vacation which included some spiritual refreshment.

Reminder

"There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." ¹¹The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." - 1 Kings 19:9-14

God's question was for Elijah's sake and Elijah's answer was wrong on many counts!

God reminded Elijah that He doesn't reveal Himself in supernatural events normally, but in a quiet voice. *Life is not lived on mountain tops!*

God repeats His question, but Elijah still didn't "get it."

Responsibility

"The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel — all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him." ¹⁹So Elijah went..." - 1 Kings 19:15-19

God told Elijah that it was time to get back to work.

- God's plan included the anointing of three men who, together, would wipe out Baal worship in Israel.

God also explained that many in Israel were still faithfully following the True God. Elijah was not alone!

Lessons

1. The ups and downs of life are normal.
2. Don't fall into selfish thinking that you are the only one still faithful.
3. When you are at a low point, follow the same plan:
 - a. Physical refreshment;
 - b. Spiritual renewal;
 - c. Get back in the game!

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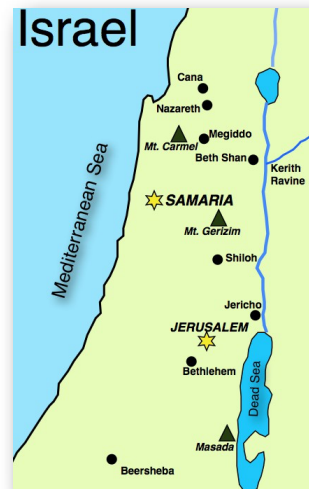
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