

Week 6 Elijah the Prophet

Wednesday Bible Study

Elijah in Fear of Jezebel. 1 Kings 19:1-8

1. Jezebel Responds. Verses 1-2

So what has happened to Ahab on his chariot ride? We get no indication of repentance on his part after the judgment of God in the Kishon Valley. But surely he was intimidated— or thinking through what to do as he rode back to his palace in Jezreel. I wonder what Jezebel thought when it started to rain? Ahab apparently complains and whines to his wife once he arrives at the palace. (this is apparently a pattern of his see 1 Kings 21:4-7). He is a divided man with no confidence in his rule. Jezebel however threatens to kill Elijah.

What should Ahab have done when he got back to his palace based upon what he has witnessed? Let's read what the Lord Jesus has to say from a letter written from him to the church in Thyatira centuries later. (Rev. 2:18-29)

2. Elijah is afraid. Verse 3-5

What has happened to Elijah? The man who had so much confidence in the LORD has now shrunk back in fear for his life. Let us remember. Elijah has no assurance of how his story will end. The confrontation on Mt. Carmel would be the highpoint of anyone's life. He may have thought, surely Ahab will repent now. How discouraging! Elijah is not superhuman, though God does at times reveal the supernatural through him. SJ Devries in his commentary on 1 Kings speculates on what may be going through Elijah's mind, *"Elijah interprets Jezebel's personal attack on him as the end of his ministry."* Who knows what was in his mind but we can be sure of this: he has been public enemy #1 in the Royals thinking. He is physically and emotionally worn out. Panic and anxiety can arrive at any time. As we will read, the Lord will minister healing to him and strengthen him once again.

He lays down under a broom bush and Falls asleep. "the broom bush is a small flowering shrub or tree, reaching a height of 12 feet. With long slender branches and small leaves....it provides little relief from the desert sun; its burning quality makes good fire wood. (Ps. 120:4) and its mildly poisonous roots supply little gratification to hungry people. (Zondervan Illus. Bible Dictionary) Elijah goes from victory on a mountain top, to testing in a wilderness. In every circumstance, Elijah is learning to trust in the Lord. But at this point he is not— He is running. Often in the scripture God meets people under a tree. (John 1:47-49) Where do you meet with God?

3. Relief from the Lord for the journey. Verses 6-8

An angel of the Lord comes on the scene. Heb. 1:14. Elijah has gotten himself in a predicament. His emotions have led him into a wilderness— a wilderness physically and spiritually! He has stopped looking up to the LORD and instead is looking horizontally. (Is. 26:3-4) Though Jesus did not allow fear to dictate his movements, this scene is reminiscent of Jesus temptation from Satan in the wilderness for 40 days. When Jesus was tempted it was right after signs from heaven validating his identity. Elijah as well is in a wilderness right after the validation of his own ministry. Interestingly, before entering the wilderness, in both accounts the sacrifice to God is baptized. (1 Kings 18:32-38; Mark 1:9-13; John 1:32-34) Elijah arrives at Mt. Horeb, Mount Sinai— where he will meet with God Just as Moses did centuries earlier. Vs 9.

