

1 Kings 19:1-18 **Elijah fled from Jezebel to Mt Horeb – God sent him back with a mission**

Elijah Escapes from Jezebel to Mount Horeb on Angel's Food and Water

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

³ And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 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!"

⁵ Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 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. 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." 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.

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?"

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."

God's Revelation to Elijah – A Still Small Voice

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; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

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?"

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."

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. 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.

¹⁷ It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

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."

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Facts Revealed:

Elijah Escapes from Jezebel to Mount Horeb on Angel's Food and Water

- ✧ 1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 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." [1 Kings 19:1-2]
- ✧ After the contest between Jehovah and Baal at Mount Carmel when Jehovah had sent fire that burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones of the altar, the dust and licked up the water from the trench, the people were convinced that Jehovah Elohiym is indeed the only true God because Baal had not been able to respond in any way at all. [1 Kings 18:18-39]
- ✧ At Elijah's command, the people seized all of the prophets of Baal and they were executed by the Brook Kishon. [1 Kings 18:40]
- ✧ When Ahab told Jezebel what had happened, she threatened to kill Elijah within 24 hours.
- ✧ 3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 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!" [1 Kings 19:3-4]
- ✧ Elijah had been out of the country for 3 years as the Lord commanded him while Yehowah plagued the land with drought of rain and dew at the word of Elijah. [1 Kings 17:1-16]
- ✧ At the command of the Lord, Elijah had returned to show himself to Ahab the king, and enjoyed the great victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and oversaw the execution of them, as the king and the people were convinced that Yahweh is God and Baal is nothing. [1 Kings 18:1-46]
- ✧ Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Elijah had outrun the horses of Ahab's chariot in a race of over 30 miles from Mount Carmel to Jezreel, leaving Elijah elated by his success under the power of God. [1 Kings 18:45-46]
- ✧ When Ahab told Jezebel about the experience on Mount Carmel, she was not impressed by the demonstration of power from Yehowah, but she was angered that her prophets of Baal had been killed.
- ✧ So often when unquestionable evidence is presented that proves the fallacy of one's religion, instead of reconsidering their beliefs and accepting the truth, the person responds violently against the one who offered the evidence, as if truth is subject to the persons own will on the issue.
- ✧ When Jezebel turned her fury against Elijah with her death threat, Elijah's elation turned to fear and he fled for his life.
- ✧ It is obvious that Ahab had no control over Jezebel, but she ruled with a heavy hand.
- ✧ Elijah fled from Jezreel in North Israel to Beersheba in the wilderness of southern Israel where he left his servant, and continued a days journey into the wilderness.
- ✧ There under a broom tree, he sat down feeling all is lost, his work is rejected and he prayed that he might die. He had done his best at the command of God and found himself rejected and running for his life. Discouragement and depression was heavy upon him.
- ✧ Here we see God's faithfulness and power displayed through a faithful man, only to see him crash when he ran into opposition through Jezebel.
- ✧ James referred to Elijah as a man with the same nature as the rest of us. [James 5:17-18]

- ✧ Here we see it is true, and his reaction is quite human.
- ✧ 5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 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. 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." 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. [1 Kings 19:5-8]
- ✧ God knew well the situation of Elijah and what he would do, so He sent an angel to Elijah who was sleeping under the broom tree.
- ✧ Twice the angel woke Elijah and gave him a cake of angel food and water which strengthened him for a forty day and forty night journey to Horeb, the Mountain of God.
- ✧ The journey was much too great for a mortal man without strength from God.
- ✧ 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?"
- 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." [1 Kings 19:9-10]
- ✧ Elijah, now safely out of the reach of Jezebel, in a cave on Mount Horeb, could relax and after spending the night was able to receive from the Lord.
- ✧ The Word of Yahweh, God the Word, [John 1:1-3] came to Elijah and asked "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- ✧ God did not tell Elijah to flee to Mount Horeb, that was Elijah's choice out of fear of Jezebel, but God was with His prophet all the way enabling the journey.
- ✧ Elijah's answer indicates that in the rush of terror, Elijah had forgotten the words of Obadiah who told him he had saved 100 of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave and sustained them with bread and water when Jezebel had attempted to annihilate them all.
- ✧ Elijah feels his life is threatened because of His zeal for the Lord and for the Children of Israel, who have forsaken the covenant of Yahweh, broken down His altars, and killed His prophets, leaving Elijah the only survivor, and they are seeking his life.

God's Revelation to Elijah – A Still Small Voice

- ✧ 11 Then He (The Lord) said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord (Yahweh)." And behold, the Lord (Yahweh) 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; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.
- 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?" [1 Kings 19:11-13]
- ✧ All that God has created is evidence of Yahweh, but Yahweh is not in them, the great powerful wind, the earthquake, the fire. Yahweh was present and caused them but was not in them.
- ✧ Yahweh was found in the still small voice.
- ✧ When Elijah went out and stood in the entrance of the cave, Yahweh repeated His question, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- ✧ 14 And he (Elijah) 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." [1 Kings 19:14]

- ✧ Elijah repeated his reason for fleeing to Mount Horeb in Arabia, only to learn that God had other plans for him. A long flight requiring a long return, but God was with him all the way and still had a plan for him to accomplish.
- ✧ 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.**
- 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.**
- 17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.
- 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.**" [1 Kings 19:15-18]
- ✧ God is preparing for great changes in the governance of the entire region.
- ✧ From Mount Horeb in the land of Midian, in Arabia, Yahweh sent Elijah to Damascus the capital city of Syria with instructions to anoint Hazael as king of Syria.
- ✧ There is no Scripture that tells of Elijah anointing Hazael as king of Syria, but he did become king of Syria according to the word of Elisha as recorded in 2 Kings. [2 Kings 8:7-15]
- ✧ There is no Scripture that tells of Elijah anointing Jehu as king of Israel, however Scripture speaks of Jehu as anointed at the command of Elisha to cut off the house of Ahab. [2 Kings 9:1-10, 2 Chronicles 22:7]
- ✧ The story does show that Elisha was approached by Elijah and followed him. [1 Kings 19:19-21]
- ✧ Elijah was finally informed that God still had 7,000 men who had not bowed to Baal or kissed him, so Elijah was not alone after all. [1 Kings 19:18]