

ELIJAH

A Man of Like Passions

6 - The Voice



SERIES OUTLINE



1 - Ahab's Israel



2 - Elijah's Drought

3 - The Ravens

4 - The Widow



5 - Carmel and Judgment

6 - The Voice



Goal: to see how God was working with Elijah.

Core Message:

God:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 - Ahab's Israel | is in control. |
| 2 - Elijah's Drought | hears prayers. |
| 3 - The Ravens | gives lessons that push us beyond our comfort zones. |
| 4 - The Widow | gives lessons with fantastic blessings. |
| 5 - Carmel and Judgment | decides when it is time for judgment. |
| 6 - The Voice | doesn't relent. |

6 - The Voice

- A Converted Nation
- Becoming Moses
- The Spirit of Elijah

Core: God **doesn't** relent.

Why: Did Elijah run to Mount Horeb?

The nation had converted, so the rain was coming.



A CONVERTED NATION

1 Kings 18:41-42 Ahab was to celebrate using these precious resources.

1 Kings 18:43-44 Finally, the rain came.

Ahab needed to get in his chariot and go.

1 Kings 18:45-46 - “And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.”

Samaria was the capital. 1 Kings 16:29

But, that's where Jezebel was. Sinister motives?

And Elijah was there too. Why?

1 - This wasn't a race.

2 - This is what *servants* did.

1 Samuel 8:11 - “He said, ‘These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.’”

2 Samuel 15:1 - “After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him.”

1 Kings 1:5 - “Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, ‘I will be king.’ And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.”

Elijah thought that Ahab had converted.

And that he would take part in Jezebel's conversion.

But, Ahab wasn't as easily convinced as Elijah thought.

1 Kings 19:1-2 - "Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.'"

1 - This was what Ahab remembered!

2 - Do you notice what he calls them? He completely ignored Yahweh's prophets!

3 - Ahab kept silent during Jezebel's vow. Numbers 30:6-15

Ahab wasn't converted.

And Jezebel was going to kill Elijah.

What did it all mean?

What had happened on Carmel?

And how could Elijah have supported a king like Ahab?

BECOMING MOSES

1 Kings 19:3

Elijah didn't know what to do.

So he ran 90 miles to Beersheba.

And then went into the wilderness. He was aimless.

Yet he couldn't let go of his righteousness.

He had been right about the drought and the nation—he was sure of it.

1 Kings 19:4 - “But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, ‘It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.’”

He was frustrated with God.

He was ready to die.

Scripture confirms this by *where* he sat.

“broom tree” = **רְתֵם** H7574 only used four times twice here v. 5

one instance is Job is unrelated

but the final instance in Psalms appears to show Elijah’s attitude

Psalm 120:1-7 - “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given to you, and what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue? A warrior’s sharp arrows, with glowing coals of the broom tree! Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war!”

Do you see Elijah’s feelings of righteousness?

But he wasn’t really for peace. He had led in the killing!

There was only one thing Elijah seems to be able to make sense of...

...Moses's righteousness.

He would try to be more like Moses.

So...

1 - He went into the wilderness 1 Kings 19:4

2 - He offered his life to God because of the people 1 Kings 19:4 Exodus 32:32

But he wasn't really acting like Moses:

1 Kings 19:5-7 - "And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, 'Arise and eat.' And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, 'Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.'"

"cake" = עֶגֶה H5692

This was exactly the same as before. 1 Kings 17:10, 13

He was like Israel!

But Elijah didn't seem to notice the connection.

Instead, the angel's words about a long distance seemed to verify his plans.

He would make himself even more like Moses by running to Sinai.

1 Kings 19:8 - “And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.”

3 - He would run to where Moses met with God Exodus 34:4

4 - He would fast for 40 days and 40 nights Exodus 34:28

1 Kings 19:9 - “There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’”

“a cave” = הַמְעָרָה this includes the definite article

5 - He went to *the* cave Exodus 33:22

1 Kings 19:10 - “He said, ‘I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.’”

His answer shows where his mind was.

6 - Deuteronomy 4:23-24

Deuteronomy 4:11-12 - “And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.”

Deuteronomy 4:15 - “Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire.”

Deuteronomy 4:33 - “Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live?”

Deuteronomy 4:36 - “Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire.”

Deuteronomy 5:4 - “The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire.”

Deuteronomy 5:22-26 - “These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. And you said, ‘Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die. For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?’”

Hebrews gives a similar description, but adds something:

Hebrews 12:18 - “For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest.”

Hebrews 12:26 - “At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’”

Elijah was angry with Israel and thinking about earthquake, wind, and fire.

But this wasn't Moses's attitude! Exodus 32:30-32

Romans 11:2 - "God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?"

1 Kings 19:11 - “And he said, ‘Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.’ And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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.”

1 Kings 19:12 - “And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.”

1 Kings 19:13 - “And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’”

?????

“wrapped” = **טָוַל** H3874 only used *three times*

1 Samuel 21:9 - “And the priest said, ‘The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here.’ And David said, ‘There is none like that; give it to me.’”

Isaiah 25:7 - “And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.”

Exodus 34:33 - “And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.”

1 Kings 19:13 NIV - “When 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?’”

7 - He put a “veil” over his face

Elijah still thought he was having an experience like Moses!

He didn't realize that God wasn't in the fire!

He didn't see that God's presence was the voice. v. 9, 11, 13

Thus, his attitude didn't change:

1 Kings 19:10 - "He said, 'I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.'"

1 Kings 19:14 - "He said, 'I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.'"

There is irony here.

The earthquake, wind, and fire *made no impact on Elijah*.

Why did he expect them to change the people?

Because he refused to change, God had to be more drastic:

1 Kings 19:15-16 - “And the LORD said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.’”

God's words finished with an antithesis to Elijah's attitude.

1 Kings 19:17-18 - "And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

In contrast to Elijah, Elisha would be the third resort. 1 Kings 18:40; 19:1

But as time passed, these words became more powerful:

2 Kings 10:25-28 - “So as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guard and to the officers, ‘Go in and strike them down; let not a man escape.’ So when they put them to the sword, the guard and the officers cast them out and went into the inner room of the house of Baal, and they brought out the pillar that was in the house of Baal and burned it. And they demolished the pillar of Baal, and demolished the house of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day. Thus Jehu wiped out Baal from Israel.”

Jehu took care of this so Elisha didn't need to be involved.

This isn't a story about the people.

In some ways, this isn't a story about Elijah.

This is a story about God's mercy.

Because God kept working with Elijah.

Over time, he would fade out. 1 Kings 21:17 2 Kings 1:3-17



THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH

But, Elijah's departure in a fiery whirlwind is not the end of the story.

Consider the curious language in that chapter:

2 Kings 2:3 - "And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know it; keep quiet.'"

2 Kings 2:5 - "The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know it; keep quiet.'"

2 Kings 2:9 - "When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.' And Elisha said, 'Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.'"

God took Elijah's training one step further:

2 Chronicles 21:12-15 - “And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, “Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel and have enticed Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom, as the house of Ahab led Israel into whoredom, and also you have killed your brothers, of your father's house, who were better than you, behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.”””

Elijah was forced to be a voice!

Throughout his life, God was preparing him for his future work.

Luke 1:16-17 - “And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

And what is that spirit and power? Fire? Tempest? Judgment?

John 10:41 - “And many came to him. And they said, ‘John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.’”

John 1:22-23 - “So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said.’”

One day, Elijah will be “the voice”:

Malachi 4:5-6 - “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

And that will finally answer his prayer:

1 Kings 18:37 - “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.”

CONCLUSION

God doesn't relent.

This life is preparing us for the future age.

God doesn't forget prayers.

All of Elijah's story underscores God's character.

Oh the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!