



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21

An Examination of Elijah's Life, Part II

By Alex Hale

The “flight” for his life (1 Kings 19). Because Jezebel threatened his life (rather than repenting), Elijah was forced to flee to Beersheba in Judah. Based on this, Elijah was despondent and prayed that his life would be taken. However, an angel spoke to him and provided for him. After a period of forty days, the Lord spoke to Him. Despite his success, Elijah felt like all was lost. Even after the Lord revealed Himself in a still, small voice, Elijah was still despondent.

However, God gave Elijah some new responsibilities. He was to anoint Hazael as the new king of Syria, Jehu as the new king of Israel, and Elisha to replace him as the prophet. God also told him that he was not alone, but that there were seven thousand others who remained faithful. It was at this point that Elisha became Elijah's servant.

Elijah's messages to Ahab and Ahaziah (1 Kings 21; 2 Kings 1). Elijah rebuked Ahab regarding Naboth. Jezebel had Naboth killed so that Ahab could have his vineyard. Because of this (and arguably for many other reasons), Elijah announced shameful deaths for both Ahab and Jezebel. Because he displayed a brief moment of humility, Ahab was able to delay judgment upon himself.

Elijah rebuked Ahaziah for inquiring of Baal. Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, had become injured and sent an inquiry to Baal-Zebub. Elijah was sent to turn the messengers around. At that point, three companies of soldiers were sent to bring Elijah to the king. Two of the groups were consumed by fire from heaven. The third group was spared by the plea of their captain. When Elijah got to Ahaziah, he rebuked him and foretold his death.

Elijah's journey to heaven (2 Kings 2). Elisha went with Elijah from Gilgal to Bethel, and then on to Jericho. Both at Bethel and Jericho, the “sons of the prophets” told Elisha that Elijah was about to be taken away. At both places, Elisha refused to leave Elijah. Elisha then accompanied Elijah across the Jordan River. Elijah struck the river with his mantle, which enabled him and Elisha to cross on dry land. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to fall on him.

Elijah was then transported to heaven. A chariot of fire with horses appeared. Elijah was taken by a whirlwind into heaven; this was witnessed by Elisha. Though Elisha returned, the “sons of the prophets” failed to find Elijah.

What Can We Learn?

The reality of discouragement. Elijah was not above becoming discouraged and depressed.

- Even though God had communicated directly to him.
- Even though he had enjoyed great victories by God's power.
- Even though he had displayed great courage in standing up to ungodliness.

The Lord offered a two-fold response to Elijah's discouragement. First, He reminded Elijah that he was not alone. Second, He gave him additional responsibilities.

Do you ever find yourself discouraged, or even depressed? Even the apostles were not immune to such emotions (2 Corinthians 7:5). However, God is the source of the comfort we need (2 Corinthians 7:6; 1:3-4). Just like He reminded Elijah, God wants us to remember that we are not alone. Just like Elijah, God knows that if we remain busy in God's service, we are less likely to get in a rut.

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Wednesday

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 Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
 Kelly Kendall
 Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

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The consequences of sin. The terrible consequences of sin are illustrated repeatedly.

- The three and a half year drought in Israel.
- The execution of the prophets of Baal.
- The deaths of Jezebel and Ahab.
- The consuming of the two companies of soldiers escorting Elijah.

Do we appreciate the consequences of sin (James 1:14-15)? It often brings a physical toll that is experienced in this life. In addition, and more importantly, there is a spiritual price to pay.

The hope of the righteous. Elijah illustrates the hope that the righteous have. He was translated into heaven, which meant that death had no power over him. He appeared in glory when Jesus was transfigured.

What is the hope of the righteous today? The dead will be raised incorruptible and the living will be changed, so that death will no longer have any power over them (1 Corinthians 15:50-54). They shall be glorified together with Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:7-12).