

LESSONS FROM ELIJAH PART III SPECIAL EDITION!

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Elijah is moving on!

Elijah in the New Testament. Amazing revelations about Elijah.

Wow! These are such exciting lessons from Elijah, and I have the sneaking feeling that I am only scratching the surface as we reach part III! But the point of all this studying about Elijah is summed up in this beautiful verse:

1 Corinthians 10:11

'Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come'.

Meaning that God allowed all these things to happen to them, the people in the Bible and the Old Testament here to give us 'admonition', as we are going to

need all their lessons to make it through this last days on earth! Praise the Lord.

(Admonition ADMONITION | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary)

First a short note for many people who may get confused between 'Elijah' and 'Elisha'. Elijah came first. Just as his name is first alphabetically before Elisha that is the 'j' comes before 's'. Elisha, I believe, performed double the number of miracles in the Bible than Elijah, which is what he more or less asked Elijah for. As we will see.

Great! Let's get going! I am switching to the Amplified Classic Translation text for this last edition. If we can squeeze these great lessons all into only ten pages without losing anything, by God's grace!

Text of 1 kings 19:1-14

19 verse 1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had slain all the prophets [of Baal] with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.

3 Then he was afraid and arose and went for his life and came to Beersheba of Judah [over eighty miles, and out of Jezebel's realm] and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a lone broom or juniper tree and asked that he might die. He said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am no better than my fathers.

5 As he lay asleep under the broom or juniper tree, behold, an angel touched him and said to him, Arise and eat.



6 He looked, and behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a bottle of water at his head. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 The angel of the Lord came the second time and touched him and said, Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.

8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

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?

10 He replied, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I, I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

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 rent 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;

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire [a sound of gentle stillness and] a still, small voice.

13 When Elijah heard the voice, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, What are you doing here, Elijah?

14 He said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts, because the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and slain Your prophets with the sword. And I, I only, am left, and they seek my life, to destroy it.

Elijah and receives a 'death threat' from Jezebel and flees after his victory.

Comment: *Elijah was scared because he was human, he was probably exhausted physically, maybe his adrenalin had gone out of his body. Suddenly he got*

a death threat, maybe an email or text message that he was going to die in the next day or two. Oh no, wait a minute, just a messenger from that nasty queen Jezebel! I forgot where I was for a minute.

She was going to send some hitmen to take him out. 'Here they come, Elijah! You have no chance!'

Elijah though, had one advantage, even in his weakened state, and that was that he knew the country and its terrain as we see in verse 3 above. Jezebel, on the other hand was possibly not familiar with anything outside the city she lived in, and definitely not the Judean or Samaria hills!

In verses 5-14 above we see the famous passage many people ponder about. Let's bring up a couple of main points:

*Elijah, mind-bogglingly, went an entire day's journey to the middle of somewhere, and then went a **further** one whole day's journey more. That's where it all began. What a distance!*

But Elijah had another very relatable problem, at least to me, and perhaps to many of you; He wanted to die! The familiar WTD syndrome (want to die). Or the



IHE disease. (I've had enough). I'm not sure how many times these syndromes or disease have cropped up into my life over the decades,, but they would be numerous. Big mistakes, being a supposed or even real bad effect on others, the devil's attacks, feelings of great failure and

sicknesses etc. I've literally cried out to God and wept many times in my life and said the exact words as Elijah and a few other people in the Bible.

What do we often do in such cases? For one, go to sleep if I possibly can! And that's what Elijah did, of course he had travelled a great distance already.

I remember my army cadet training when I was 16 on Dartmoor, England, that remotest of remote locations; we had to carry huge back packs (about 30 or us teenage boys). We were in full uniform and kit. The weight was around 25 KG minimum. (We trekked across Dartmoor) for 2 days, possibly covering 30 miles in our young bodies).

On the second day, our 'Colonel' who was also a senior teacher at our secondary school, drove by in his army jeep, with his 'lieutenant' (another teacher!) Saying, 'come on boys, don't slack off! What's the matter with you?!' I begged him to let me get a ride in his jeep, as my one-inch blisters inside my hobnail boots were so sore.

Expecting some mercy, he calmly said; 'no chance son. Get on with it! We'll see you tonight!' and with that he drove off with his aide-de-camp! Also known as our English teacher!

But that terrible teenage experience on my end, was probably a lot less distressing than Elijah was now facing!

*But because God was not through with Elijah, he woke up to find some angelic intervention for his benefit. From the miraculous food the angel had prepared for dear Elijah, he went 40 days journey to Mount Horeb. That must have also increased his faith and that is where he met the Lord on that mountain. **Please read it again and ponder and let the Spirit show you in your own life what that conversation Elijah had with God means for you. (Verses 9:14)***

Yes, God had three more important jobs for Elijah: The Lord didn't want to take Elijah home unless he had helped set God's plan in order concerning other people.

15 And the Lord said to him, Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, **anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.**

16 **And anoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah to be prophet in your place. ++**

17 And him who escapes from the sword of Hazael Jehu shall slay, and him who escapes the sword of Jehu Elisha shall slay.

18 Yet I will leave Myself 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.

It's wonderful really how God has His own plans but still loves to use yielded people to accomplish them. We spoke about Jehu in our fascinating WCF edition called 'Military Coups' over a year ago, and in fact the week we released that revelation about military coups recorded in the Bible, there were two major military coups in the World that very week.

19 So Elijah left there and found Elisha son of Shaphat, whose ploughing was being done with twelve yoke of oxen, and he drove the twelfth. Elijah crossed over to him and cast his mantle upon him.

20 He left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, Let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you. And he [testing Elisha] said, Go on back. What have I done to you? [Settle it for yourself.]

21 So Elisha went back from him. Then he took a yoke of oxen, slew them, boiled their flesh with the oxen's yoke [as fuel], and gave to the people, and they ate. Then he arose, followed Elijah, and served him.

Elijah leaves the timing of Elisha's decision to follow him up to Elisha, and then he 'forsook all' and became his servant. (Luke 14:33)

Elisha meets and follows Elijah (Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho)

Text of 2 Kings 2 verses 1-18.

2 Kings 2 v 1 When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were going from Gilgal.

Elijah knew that God was about to translate him to Heaven in a whirlwind! Super cool! The Lord had a plan and a day for that, like He seems to have for many things!

2 And Elijah said to Elisha, Tarry here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Bethel. But Elisha replied, As the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they went down to Bethel.

3 The prophets' sons who were at Bethel came to Elisha and said, Do you know that the Lord will take your master away from you today? He said, Yes, I know it; hold your peace.

4 Elijah said to him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho. But he said, As the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they came to Jericho.

5 The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said, Do you know that the Lord will take your master away from you today? And he answered, Yes, I know it; hold your peace.

6 Elijah said to him, Tarry here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan. But he said, As the Lord lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you. And the two of them went on.

This amazing situation and monumental event is full of intrigue. Elijah according to the AMPC translation kept telling Elisha to stop following him and wait where he was, Elisha kept

*'swearing by God', (like a deep promise) that he would never leave Elijah. Now it's clear that both Elijah, Elisha and the various groups of prophets they met at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho, **all knew this was going to happen!***

*Now it dawned on me today while reading this with my son, it dawned on me for the first time, despite reading this 100 times in my life; how DID they know? Have a think about it yourself and I will give my opinion at the very end of this edition! ***



7 Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood [to watch] afar off; and the two of them stood by the Jordan.

8 And Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the waters, and they divided this way and that, so that the **two of them went over on dry ground.**

9 And when they had gone over, Elijah said to Elisha, Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you. And Elisha said, I pray you, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.

10 He said, You have asked a hard thing. However, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you—but if not, it shall not be so.

They both got to the west side of the Jordan River. Elijah like a good pastor or prophet knew the heart of his follower. Elijah was older than Elisha and I theorise that Elisha could have been in his twenties to thirties from various

other events later. Elisha looked up to Elijah as his mentor and spiritual father, there is no doubt about that.

Elijah asks him therefore what does he really want! Elisha would have to pass one more test to get his desire which we see in verses 9 and 10 above.

11 As they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire parted the two of them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

12 And Elisha saw it and he cried, My father, my father! The chariot of Israel and its horsemen! And he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

In some translations the word 'suddenly' is used to show how quickly and unexpectedly the chariot came! One Chariot of fire and a group of horses of fire. It does not specify any driver of the chariot! It must have been automatic from God Himself, and running by the power of God. The heavenly vehicle divided the two men as if to separate the earth from Heaven now, and Elijah jumped aboard or simply was translated onto it. **Elijah disappeared in a few seconds. This is awesome, what a way to go to Heaven!**

Elisha was witness to all this. He called out to his spiritual father and named what he saw!

He tore his own clothes, he burned his bridges to every vestige of the past. You have to be radical if you want to succeed for Jesus Christ.

Elijah was faithful at the last second it seems, to drop his mantle (cloak) for Elisha.

13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

14 And he took the mantle that fell from Elijah and struck the waters and said, Where is the Lord, the

God of Elijah? And when he had struck the waters, they parted this way and that, and Elisha went over.

Elisha was so fired up (no pun intended), and moved by the Spirit that he immediately put Elijah's God to the test.

15 When the sons of the prophets who were [watching] at Jericho saw him, **they said, The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha. And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him.**

People should be highly respectful of God's time-tested leaders. Bowing low is the least you should do.

16 And they said to him, Behold now, there are among your servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray you, and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley. And he said, You shall not send.

17 But when they urged him till he was embarrassed, he said, Send. So they sent fifty men, who sought for three days but did not find him.

18 When they returned to Elisha, who had waited at Jericho, he said to them, Did I not tell you, Do not go?

Well, these new elders or young people, should have started out by believing Elisha.

****Going back briefly to this question I posed earlier: How did all these people miles apart know this event was going to take place on that one day?**

Here is one possibility for an answer: People in those days who followed God were possibly far more attuned to the Spirit of God than most people today. The people involved all were believers inside a nation of paganism. For that they get some respect and praise. It is more than possible

that such people, just like to today, can 'hear from God' and pass that information around by messengers in other towns. All these people were connected by being a part of the 'school of the prophets'.

What do you think? We are not told specifically, however such examples are common in the Bible of people speaking by the 'Word of the Lord!' whatever it was, we need a lot more of that spiritual knowledge today as we get near the edge of the worldly abyss.

*So, in closing on the Old Testament section about Elijah; Elijah has gone in style, and Elisha clearly and definitively takes over the mantle, power and anointing of God for his time. Everything was done in decency and order by the Lord, with a free Heavenly fire show thrown in. **Praise the Lord.***

Elijah in the New Testament. Amazing revelations about Elijah.

There are thirty mentions ** of the name Elijah in the New Testament. Here are a few of the most significant.

Matthew 11:13-15

13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied up until John.

14 And if you are willing to receive and accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come [before the kingdom]. About how it was done!

*This is significant. Somehow in the spiritual realm, the power and spirit of a Prophet can be transferred by God to another human yet to come, another prophet! When we get to Heaven, we will have a chance to ask these questions. **However Jesus even said 'if you are willing to accept it' could the disciples accept the concept that the spirit of Elijah was in John the Baptist?***

What about you and me? Are we willing to accept 'stuff', we have to take totally by faith. I think the only reason God uses me at all, as sinful and weak as I am, is that

when he speaks to me on a daily basis on practical things, I usually immediately do it! (As far as I know anyway!). If God gives you an impression, a feeling, or a nudge to do this or that, or not do this or that, do you respond? If you don't, for example, you will suffer for it in some way, and if it is a serious thing, you will end up asking God, why didn't you help me? Think about it. Selah.

Matthew 17: 2 And His (Jesus') appearance underwent a change in their presence; and His face shone clear and bright like the sun, and His clothing became as white as light.

3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, who kept talking with Him.

4 Then Peter began to speak and said to Jesus, Lord, it is good and delightful that we are here; if You approve, I will put up three booths here—one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.

God bless dear Peter!

Matthew 17:10-12

10 The disciples asked Him, then why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?

11 He (Jesus) replied, Elijah does come and will get everything restored and ready.

12 But I tell you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know or recognize him, but did to him as they liked. So also the Son of Man is going to be treated and suffer at their hands.

Wow, an amazing mystery we take by faith! Hallelujah!

The Jewish nation did not know or recognise him, John the Baptist/ Elijah. The Jews were no longer (after the resurrection of Christ) exclusively God's people. They did not recognise either John the

Baptist, nor the Spirit of Elijah IN John the Baptist, nor even their own Messiah, Jesus Christ. Recognition of all these truths in the Gospel, in the future, was primarily accepted by the Gentiles as it is even today. Don't let anyone convince you of anything opposite.

Matthew 27:49

But the others said, Wait! Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him from death.

As we can see here, Elijah the prophet still has a priority influence, after 900 years, over the Jewish minds in A.D 33 or thereabouts! 900 years Elijah was still influencing the Jews, that is almost incredible, yet true)

Mark 9:13

But I tell you that Elijah (in John the Baptist) has already come, and [people] did to him whatever they desired, as it is written of him.

(The Israelites/Jews did not kill the first Elijah, but they killed the second one)

Luke 1:17

And he will [himself] go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn back the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient and incredulous and unpersuadable to the wisdom of the upright [which is the knowledge and holy love of the will of God]—in order to make ready for the Lord a people [perfectly] prepared [in spirit, adjusted and disposed and placed in the right moral state].

There it is, the amazing message-- John the Baptist HAD TO COME and go before (time-wise) Jesus

Christ the Messiah IN the spirit and power of Elijah.

Luke 9: 53 But [the people] would not welcome or receive or accept Him, because His face was [set as if He was] going to Jerusalem.

54 And when His disciples James and John observed this, they said, Lord, do You wish us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, even as Elijah did?

55 But He turned and rebuked and severely censured them. He said, You do not know of what sort of spirit you are,

Poor James and John, the 'sons of thunder' were not yet ready for the job of Elijah. They only THOUGHT they were. Jesus rebuked them as we can see.

You can only call down fire, or raise the dead, or do 'spectacular miracles' through the long term process and training of God; sometimes short term, depending on your obedience and yieldedness to God; but almost always it takes a great while. As the great man of God, Ralph Nader in the USA once said many decades ago, 'why doesn't The Lord have more leaders? Because He cannot break them fast enough.'

Amen and lets close with these super- encouraging verses. I pray you have a blessed week and future as you truly follow Jesus Christ the True Messiah.

Love in Christ,

Jerry Finch for the WCF Team.

James 5: 16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenc(s)es, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart].

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

17 Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.

18 And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].

++ It seems however that Elijah may not have fulfilled all the three jobs the Lord told him on the mountain. We know in 2 Kings 9, that Elisha did the anointing of Jehu, so it's fair to assume that Elijah passed that info on to Elisha.

** BibleGateway - Keyword Search: Elijah

https://www.jesuswalk.com/elijah/7_legacy.htm an excellent summary of the same events.

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