

Elijah and the Still Small Voice

Horeb = Mt Sinai

Background - 1 Kings 18: God just wrought an amazing victory on Mt Carmel. **Fire** came from heaven and Elijah thinks Israel will repent and turn to Yahweh. It appears that King Ahab is even convinced. It even rains. But now a devastating turn for the worse. One moment he is on an incredible high, then the next he is in the depths of depression. But God cares for him. God's love for Elijah helps him see what he should be doing for the ecclesia.

Moses and Elijah – A type of God's purpose with ourselves: **Moses** was a wonderful **type of Christ**. He made "atonement" for Israel's sin, **Ex 32v30-32**. He truly knew God, **Psa 103v7-8**. He was a wonderful shepherd of God's sheep, like Christ, **Isa 63v11; Num 27v16-18**. **Elijah** is a **type of ourselves**, of like passions as we are, **Jms 5v17**. We are striving to be like Christ, but all of us needing God to mould our characters along the way. It takes a lifetime and then immortality. God works with all of us during our lives to make us like Him. So too with Elijah.

Elijah learnt that he needed to develop **relationships**, to be a shepherd and a father, **Isa 40v11**. The only way to convince people of God's ways is by gentle persuasion. This is achieved by showing God's character, expressed in love: **1 Jn 4v12,16**.

1 Kings 19: Elijah flees to Sinai v1-2 Jezebel threatens Elijah

v1 Ahab doesn't say "prophets of Baal", because he is in Jezebel's presence. He also says "all that Elijah had done". Why not "that Yahweh had done"? Because he was fearful of his wife!

v2 This was shattering for Elijah. From an incredible high, he now reaches the depths of despair.

v3-8 Elijah flees into the desert

v3 The one time in Elijah's life that he was not directed by God's Word. He could have sought refuge in Gilead, and would have been safe there within 24hrs. But he was determined to go to Sinai because he knew its significance.

v4 Job was in a similar situation: **Job 30v1-4**. David also: **Psa 120**. Jesus was also in despair, but he was at one with his Father at all times. Jesus was also given an angel to help: **Lk 22v43-44**.

away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, *Arise and eat*.

6 And he looked, and, behold, *there was* a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his ²head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

7 And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, *Arise and eat*; because the journey is too great for thee.

8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat ⁴forty days and forty nights unto ^oHoreb the mount of God.

9 ¶ And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, *What doest thou here, Elijah?*

10 And he said, I have been very ⁴jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, ⁴thrown down thine altars, and ⁴slain thy prophets with the sword; and ⁴I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

11 And he said, Go forth, and stand ²upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and ^oa great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake 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 ¹still small voice.

13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that ⁴he wrapped his

Being better than his fathers was not the point. It is not a matter of being better than anyone else.

v5 The angel **touched** him. Jesus touched people when he healed them to enter into their feelings. The angel was here to show love, care and to strengthen Elijah. Elijah needed to be like this.

v7 Angels rarely appeared during the "ministry of the prophets". The angel knew where Elijah was going. God knows all our plans and motives. He is waiting for us.

v8 40 days/nights represents our time of probation. **Yahweh's angel** came to "strengthen the things that remain that are ready to die": **Rev 3v2**. That's what Elijah should have been doing for the ecclesia.

v9-14 God questions Elijah

v9 Heb. "THE cave" - this was a specific cave, most likely where **Moses** had been when he made intercession for Israel: **Ex 34v8-9**. Elijah went there to make intercession **against** Israel: **Rom 11v2-5**. The emphasis is on the word "HERE" ie. "What are you doing in this place?" Elijah knew of Yahweh's awe-inspiring power at the time the law was given. He wanted to get into that cave and bring about judgment on Israel. He missed the point.

v10 The first time anyone in the Bible says the covenant name of God, **Yahweh Elohim of Armies**. This revealed Elijah's problem. God doesn't want to force people to love Him. God will not force Jewry to respond, but will write it in their hearts, in their inward parts: **Jer 31v31-34**. Elijah thought he was the only one left. He was badly mistaken. We need to be careful not to fall into this self-centred way of thinking.

v13 The mantle was a symbol of being a prophet, **2 Kings 2v 13,15; Zech 13v4**. It was **God's voice** that allured him out of the cave. That's what Elijah will do in the future, **Mal 4v4-6**. God repeats what He said in **v9**, in effect asking Elijah what he is doing in this place, when the spirit of Moses was so different.

v14 Elijah again uses God's militant title, repeating **v10**.

v15-18 God commands Elijah

v15-17 This would have been a real shock for Elijah. He thinks he is the only one left, yet God wants another man to take over. God's work was finished with Elijah for now.

v18 There is so much work for Elijah to do in the ecclesia. So too for ourselves.

v11 Moses asked God to show him **His ways**, **Ex 33v13**. God's character was revealed to Moses in **Ex 34v5-9**. As a type of Christ, Moses prayed for God to forgive "**our** iniquity and **our** sin". He identified with those he came to save, like Christ: **Matt 3v15**.

Psalms 103v7,13 tells us that Moses understood what Israel didn't - that **God is a Father**: "He made known **His ways** unto **Moses**, **his acts** unto the children of Israel...Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him." Israel saw God's acts, such as fire from heaven on Mt Carmel. Moses however knew **God's character**, expressed in the still small voice. Moses made intercession **FOR** Israel and He understood **God's ways**. This is what Elijah had to learn.

v12 Roth: "the voice of a gentle whisper". **Zech 4v6**: "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." **Jms 3v16-18**: "easy to be entreated" ie. "winning its way by persuasiveness". See also **Rom 2v4; 2 Cor 5v14; 10v1-2**.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2008.

Much of this summary was prepared from notes and talks by Bro John Martin. For PDF copy, email Andrew Dangerfield at acdangerfield@webshield.net.au

face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. ^bAnd, behold, *there came* a voice unto him, and said, *What doest thou here, Elijah?*

14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of ^oDamascus: and when thou comest, ^hanoint Hazael to be king over Syria:

16 And ^hJehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and ^hElisha the son of Shaphat of ^hAbel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

17 And it shall come to pass, *that* him that escapeth the sword of ^hHazael shall ^hJehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu ^oshall Elisha slay.

18 Yet ²I have left *me* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and ⁴every mouth which hath not kissed him.