

**Elijah and Elisha Class 8**  
**1 Kings 19**

**Homework 1 Kings 20...Learn what you can about BenHadad and Syria and see if you can find a biblical reason for Ahab's condemnation in 1 Kings 20:42.**

**1 Kings 19 represents a remarkable turn around from the extraordinary victory of 1 Kings 18. Yahweh's total triumph over Baal and his prophets is now turned into a rout by Baal's servant and devotee over Yahweh and his servant. How could this be?**

**Vv. 1-8 Queen Jezebel swears an oath of malediction or the pronouncement of a curse upon herself if she does not kill or have Elijah killed in 24 hours or thereabouts. Elijah meets the one person as committed to Baal as he is to Yahweh. Elijah knows that she has already tried to kill all of Yahweh's prophets 1 Kings 18:4,13. She has the fierceness Ahab lacks, the civil authority the prophets of Baal lacked, and a freshness for battle that Elijah no longer has. Who or what can defeat her? What does Elijah do?**

*Where is Beersheba? What significant happened there before? What do you think is the significance of Elijah's dismissing of his servant?*

*Why should the broom tree remind us of something that happened before? See Gen 21.*

*How will Yahweh prove to be God now?*

*Play on words in verses two and five and six involving the word malak or messenger or angel.*

*Notice that the Lord does for Elijah what he has done for him before, twice he feeds the prophet miraculously. He rescues, leads, and recommissions.*

**Vv.9-18 God reassures Elijah**

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**Besides feeding Elijah, God speaks to Elijah...and assures him that God's Word is trustworthy and true. The first "word" of the Lord...asks Elijah a question... "What are you doing here?" Elijah responds that Israel has become completely apostate, killing the prophets and he alone is left as one who stands for the covenant faith. Elijah sees no reason to continue...he had thought that God's triumph at Mount Carmel should have ended the conflict but it clearly did not.**

**V.11f A second word invites Elijah to stand on the mountain in the presence of Yahweh like Moses did recalling Ex 33:18-22 where Moses was placed in the cleft of the Rock and allowed to see the back side of God's glory.**

**God shows up in ways Elijah cannot miss but it is not the signs and wonders that move Elijah but the word...what God says. Debate about the 'still small voice' or the Qol of the Lord or 'voice of the Lord' but we will not go too deeply into it tonight. Scholars disagree as to whether it was 'small' or the big voice but what is important is less how God spoke but that Yahweh spoke and the content of what Yahweh said.**

**Vv.13b-18 The voice asks Elijah why he has come to Horeb? The emphasis falls on Elijah's feelings but his precise reiteration suggests that Elijah has become inflexible and self centered. God has not abandoned him...he has fed him as before...God has spoken to him as in the past...Why has he run away? Elijah's answer is v.10 suggests that Israel has rejected the covenant, Israel has become idolatrous, he is the only prophet left and Jezebel is plotting to kill him...implied is that Elijah doubts that Yahweh is either willing or able to save him and or the nation. Only a restatement and renewal of Elijah's theology can rescue him from depression and fear.**

**The Lord's word reaffirms God's uniqueness, sovereignty over all nations, and the importance of the prophetic word. God commands him to return and resume active service. He is commanded to anoint Hazael, king of Syria, as Yahweh asserts his sovereignty over the nations. He must anoint Jehu, king over Israel reestablishing Yahweh as the ruler over the northern kingdom. Finally, Elijah must anoint Elisha to be prophet in his**

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***place...which along with the 7000 demonstrates that Yahweh never leaves himself without a witness.***

### **Vv19-21 Elisha's Call**

***Now we are left to wonder has Elijah come out of his depression and discouragement? Some scholars suggest he has, citing his going back...while other scholars suggest he is still discouraged and depressed because we have no record of Elijah traveling to Syria to anoint Hazael or Jehu.***

***The throwing of his cloak or mantle is a sign of transferring prophetic authority and power from one man to the next. Elisha enthusiastically responds immediately making a sacrifice and burning the bridge behind him as he builds the fire of sacrifice with the wood of his plow. See Luke 9:62. Elisha does not really emerge into the narrative until 2 Kings 2:1 but this represents his call to ministry.***