

# LESSONS FROM ELIJAH

1Ki. 19: 9-18

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is, I think, some good lessons contained in the story of Elijah and how he handled his responsibilities to God
- B. This must have been a very sobering experience for Elijah, hidden in a cave, to have God ask, "What doest thou here"?
- C. Notes on Jezebel: "A Sidonian princess, an imperious, unscrupulous, vindictive, determined, devilish Woman, a demon incarnate"(Halley's Bible handbook). She built a temple to Baal in Samaria. maintained 850 prophets of Baal & Ashtoreth, slew the prophets of Jehovah & abolished the worship God had ordained.
- D. Ahab, the king of Israel was almost as wicked as his wife Jezebel.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. ELIJAH'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROBLEMS

- A. Elijah came on the scene of Israel during the reign of the wicked king Ahab - prayed that rain and dew would cease till he gave the word 1Ki 17:1
- B. Was sustained by God through the drought of over three years
  1. Fed by ravens 17:6; by widow of Sarepta 17:9
  2. Raised widows son from the dead 17:22
- C. He engaged in the great contest with the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel 1Ki 18:19-40
- D. Queen Jezebel vowed to kill him and fearing for his life he fled.
- E. Took refuge in this cave close to Mt. Horeb {Sinai} far to the south of Israel (between 200 and 300 miles from Mt Carmel)
- F. Elijah begins to feel sorry for himself
  1. Proclaimed drought & rain but didn't bring Israel to senses.
  2. Raised one from the dead with no effect on Israel
  3. Vividly demonstrated God's power over Baal at Mt. Carmel - still Israel sinned
  4. He felt he alone was left who even tried to serve God and it was only a matter of time before they found him & killed him
  5. Elijah felt despair - what's the use of trying to continue

### II. GOD'S RESPONSE TO ELIJAH'S DESPONDENCY

- A. God shows his awesome power - wind, earthquake, fire; but showed he did not have to work through such devastation, when he actually came in the still small voice 1Ki 19:11,12
- B. God gave Elijah work to do

1. Regardless of what others do or fail to do - you do what I want you to do
  2. Go to Damascus, anoint Hazael king of Syria, Jehu king of Israel and Elisha as prophet in your place
- C. You are not alone either: "I still have 7,000 who have not bowed to Baal. 1Ki 19:18

### III. SOME LESSONS FROM THIS ACCOUNT

- A. God's great and wonderful power
  1. Demonstrated in drought, rain, sacrifices at Carmel wind, earthquake and fire
  2. Same God is with us today
  3. There is power in God's word Heb 4:12
    - a. Power to save Rom 1:16
    - b. Power to preserve the world for judgement 2Pet 3:4-7
- B. Life is not just one big effort then quit
  1. Elijah apparently thought that one or two great works should be enough - we apparently think the same way.
  2. Life is an every day business, consisting of many small as well as some large challenges, problems, and opportunities - keep pressing on through all of them 1Cor 15:58
  3. It could take more faith to deal with every day problems than one isolated major one
- C. Open our eyes and look Jhn 4:35; Gen 42:1
  1. Despair usually results from limiting our vision and becoming self-centered
  2. All is not difficulties and heartache
  3. God is present and will help
  4. Many are tired of sin and seeking righteousness, we need to find them and help. "the fields are white unto harvest"
- D. God's cause will triumph
  1. You may not accomplish great things but others will come to complete the work 1Cor 3:6
  2. We can't afford to quit what is certain to be a winning cause for what is certain to be a losing cause 1Jhn 2:17

## CONCLUSION:

- A. How about you? What are you doing? Are you hiding?
- B. Have you given up and quit trying like Elijah?
- C. The same God who blessed Elijah has work and blessings for you.