

Character Study: Elijah

Part 5 – Elijah Hears from the Lord

I Kings 18:41-19:18

What's happening?

- Elijah told King Ahab that rain was coming soon. Then he went to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed before the Lord. He asked his servant to look out over the sea. Not seeing anything, Elijah had him look again. After the seventh time, the servant saw a small cloud. The sky grew black with clouds and it began to rain very heavily. (18:41-46)
- Ahab told Jezebel all that had happened, including how Elijah had executed all the false prophets. Hearing that, Jezebel determined to have Elijah put to death. (19:1-2)
- Fearing Jezebel, Elijah fled back into the wilderness. He rested under a tree, where an angel brought him a meal. Then he journeyed forty days to Mount Horeb, where he hid in a cave. He became very depressed because he was a wanted man and because he believed himself to be the last remaining prophet of God. (19:3-10)
- A strong wind came on the mountain, then an earthquake, then a fire, and then a still small voice. The Lord had come to speak with Elijah. He instructed Elijah to appoint certain men in places of leadership and then informed him that He had reserved 7,000 Israelites who had not bowed down to Baal. Elijah was not alone! (19:11-18)

What's God doing?

- > God had fulfilled His promise by bringing the rain. The three and a half year drought was now over.
- > Though Elijah did not show much trust in God by running from Jezebel, the Lord still showed His faithfulness and compassion toward Elijah. At the right time, God revealed Himself to Elijah, giving him encouragement and showing him that He still had plans to use him.

What's to learn?

→ God bringing the storm was a big moment. But after the action was over, Elijah fell into a depression. After a “mountain top” experience is over, it can be tempting to allow discouraging thoughts to creep in. To prevent this, learn to find joy in the opportunities that God gave you and realize His work is not done!