

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. After God had revealed to Elijah that He was with him, why did Elijah flee?
2. God's angel ministered to Elijah even while he was fleeing. What lesson can we take from this?
3. Do we today ever face discouragements after making "mountain top" experiences? Why do these things happen?

### SUMMARY:

This lesson is a good example of the lives of many Christians today. Let us think of these things as we compare ourselves to Elijah. God had just revealed His great power over the forces of evil. He proved that He was with His prophet. Yet threats were made and fear, loneliness and discouragement set in. Elijah fled from all these, but still God was with him and provided for his needs. Then as Elijah came to the end of his running he sought the Lord. God was not found in a spectacular way such as fire. He was not found with a great fanfare of noise such as the wind, but he was found as a still small voice. This is how we will find Him too, and only then can He reassure us, as He did Elijah, for further service.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

May 13, 2018

Second Quarter

## ELIJAH FACES DISCOURAGEMENT

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**LESSON TEXT:** *1 Kings 19:1-18*

**LESSON SETTING:** Elijah's flight from Israel into Judah; then to Mount Horeb.

**TIME:** Approximately 906 B.C.

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- I. A PROPHET'S FLIGHT.** 1 Kings 19:1-4
  - A. Persecution (vs. 2) 1 Kings 22:27 Hebrews 11:36
  - B. Fear of Man (vs. 3) Proverbs 29:25; John 12:42; Galatians 2:12
- II. AN ANGEL'S MINISTRY.** 1 Kings 19:5-7
  - A. Ministering Angels (vs. 5, 7) Psalm 91:11; Daniel 6:22; Hebrews 1:14
  - B. God's Provision (vs. 6-7) Psalm 57:1; Matthew 6:32; Luke 12:7; Philippians 4:19
- III. THE LORD'S REASSURANCE.** 1 Kings 19:8-18
  - A. God's Voice Heard (vs. 12) Isaiah 30:30; John 10:4; 12:28-29
  - B. God Directs (vs. 15-16) Psalm 25:9; Isaiah 30:21; John 16:13
  - C. Reassurance - A Remnant Remains (vs. 18) Isaiah 1:9; Jeremiah 23:3; Romans 9:27

**GOLDEN TEXT: . . . THE LORD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE:  
OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?**

Psalm 27:1

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** 1 Kings 21:1-29  
**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Jeremiah 22:1-19

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Kings and Prophets of Israel

**TOPIC:** ELIJAH REBUKES AHAB'S COVETOUSNESS

**INTRODUCTION:**

Ahab, a very wicked king, goaded on his evil ways by his wife Jezebel, an even more wicked queen, now came to a place of specific covetousness. It is doubtful if this is the first thing that Ahab coveted, and obtained, but the story is centered around his attitude and the method used.

Ahab acted like a spoiled child as he went to his room and cast himself on his bed and pouted and refused to eat. What a wicked method was used to obtain the prize.

Praise and honor preceded false accusations, and then followed murder. It seems strange that so many townspeople should allow themselves to be used for such an evil purpose, and yet the evil work was done.

Ahab took possession of the vineyard. The guilt of the murder was not on Ahab, but because he took possession he made himself an accessory to the murder as well as being responsible for taking the vineyard.

God brought a word of judgment on Ahab and Jezebel, but when Ahab repented and humbled himself, God spared him for a time. Likewise it is true for us today. No matter how sinful men may be, a repentant heart and a humble spirit is recognized by God and he will abundantly pardon. Just as He did for Ahab and also for the Ninevites so also will He do for us. We must continually walk in these ways or like Ahab who went back into sin; God will then bring His judgment.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** The servant of Christ has a responsibility to stand between a holy God and a sinful world and fulfill his duty to both.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *INCLINE MY HEART UNTO THY TESTIMONIES, AND NOT TO COVETOUSNESS.*

Psalm 119:36

The Psalmist had a concern on his heart that he might be pure in heart and mind and his prayer was that God should keep him from this mental sin. He knew how covetousness would lead to other sins too. In God's commandments this matter of covetousness is so contemptible because it defiles the thoughts and intents of human beings. In the case of Ahab, his covetousness led to four other sins. First, a false acclaim of Naboth; second, false accusations; third, murder; and fourth, taking possession of other people's property. How like a record is this story played repeatedly in the lives of mankind today.

Covetousness affects men's lives by causing them to have evil thoughts, misuse time and talents, and go to all lengths to obtain things that do not rightfully belong to them. Nearly always covetousness leads to a possession of things at the expense of others.

May our prayer also be that our hearts can be turned to the testimonies of God's word and filling our hearts and minds with His pureness and uprightness, leaving no room for covetous thoughts.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 14 – 20**

- M. \*Ahab Covets Naboth's Vineyard. 1 Kings 21:1-7
- T. \*Jezebel Plots Naboth's Death. 1 Kings 21:8-16
- W. \*Elijah Denounces Ahab. 1 Kings 21:17-29
- T. False Prophets Promise Victory. 1 Kings 22:1-12
- F. Micaiah Promises Defeat. 1 Kings 22:14-23
- S. Micaiah Imprisoned. 1 Kings 22:24-37
- S. Jeremiah Calls to Repentance. Jeremiah 22:1-16

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