

Days of Elijah

Part 3

8-2-20

1 Kings 19:1-2 (NIV)

¹Now **Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done** and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

In 1 Kings 17:1 and 18:1, we have Elijah, the great man of God, confronting Ahab the most evil king of Israel with great success. **In 1 Kings 19:1-2, we see Ahab tell his evil wife Jezebel all that Elijah has done. Jezebel is not the least bit intimidated by Elijah.** You could say, “Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned!”

Elijah Lesson #13 Evil will always react violently after our spiritual success.

The greater the success the greater Satan’s reaction. It is extremely important to understand this lesson, or we will become discouraged! Also, we must beware of our human frailty that overcame Elijah.

1 Kings 19:3 (NIV)

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and **prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life.”**

Elijah Lesson #14 We are at our weakest after our spiritual successes.

Elijah has just called fire from heaven, but fearing Jezebel's wrath, the powerful Elijah flees to the southernmost tip of Judah. **Discouraged he prays, "I have had enough, LORD. I want to die!"** Before we are too hard on Elijah, we need to examine our own frailties. Elijah is physically and spiritually drained. **Fatigue makes cowards of us all.** Elijah he needed some rest!

1 Kings 19:5-7 (NIV)

Elijah lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "**Get up and eat, for the journey is too great for you.**"

Jesus understood this:

Mark 6:30–31 (ESV)

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while."

Personally, I can relate to this. The weakest I feel is after I preach each Sunday! I never take naps, except after church.

God knew that before HE could give Elijah his next assignment, he needed to rest. **Likewise, we cannot hear God clearly and receive clear guidance if we are exhausted.** We need to take our mind off the physical, the chaos, and worldly distractions so that we can hear God's voice clearly.

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV)

The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, **but the LORD was not in the wind.** After the wind there was an earthquake, **but the LORD was not in the earthquake.**¹² After the earthquake came a fire, **but the LORD was not in the fire.** And after the fire came "**a gentle whisper**" – or as some versions, "**a still small voice!**"

Elijah Lesson #15 Get alone; Listen to God's still small voice.

When Elijah hear the still small voice he went out and stood before the LORD. God is not speaking to us through the chaos, but through HIS still small voice.

Rested alone with God, Elijah receives his next assignment.

1 Kings 19:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶Also, anoint Jehu king over Israel, and anoint Elisha to succeed you as prophet.

God gives Elijah a message for the Gentiles (unbelievers), for Israel (the corrupt church), and for a successor (the believing church).

We do a lot of stuff, but to hear God and receive clear guidance, we have to get alone with God and listen. **However, we can be absolutely sure of our first assignment which will open the doors for every other assignment God will give us!**
DECLARE:

2Cor.5:21

HE who knew no sin “became sin” that we might become the righteousness of God.