

# Elijah's Encounter with the LORD: Encouraged, Challenged

## 1 Kings 19:09–18

### 1. *The Lord confronted Elijah*

- a. God's question:  
What was he doing there  
at Mt. Sinai?
- b. Elijah's response:  
He had faithfully served  
the Lord, but the people  
had not responded
- They had rejected God's  
covenant, destroyed  
His worship centres  
and killed the prophets
- He alone was left

### 2. *The LORD invited Elijah to come out of the cave and to stand in His presence*

- a. Suddenly, several spectacular  
events occurred:  
But God was not present,  
did not meet Elijah's need  
through them
- A ferocious wind  
split the mountains  
and shattered the rocks
- An earthquake struck
- A fire erupted
- b. Some time later,  
there was a quiet,  
gentle whisper

9 And the word of the LORD came to him:  
“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

10 He replied,  
“I have been very zealous  
for the LORD God Almighty.  
The Israelites have rejected your covenant,  
torn down your altars,  
and put your prophets to death with the sword.  
I am the only one left,  
and now they are trying to kill me too.”

11 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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elijah heard the whisper</li> <li>• Elijah — ashamed, humbled, broken — pulled his cloak over his face</li> </ul> <p>3. <i>The Lord repeated His question</i></p> <p>a. The question:<br/>What was Elijah doing there?</p> <p>b. Elijah's response:<br/>Was the same as before</p> <p>4. <i>The Lord met Elijah's need:<br/>Gave him a new task<br/>and encouraged him</i></p> <p>a. The task</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To anoint Hazael as king of Aram or Syria</li> <li>• To anoint Jehu as king of Israel</li> <li>• To anoint Elisha as his own successor</li> </ul> <p>b. The reason:<br/>These three leaders would complete the task that Elijah had begun</p> <p>5. <i>The Lord corrected and encouraged Elijah even more:<br/>Revealed that He had preserved 7000 faithful followers</i></p> | <p>13 When Elijah heard it,<br/>he pulled his cloak over his face<br/>and went out and stood<br/>at the mouth of the cave.<br/>Then a voice said to him,<br/>“What are you doing here, Elijah?”</p> <p>14 He replied, “I have been very zealous<br/>for the LORD God Almighty.<br/>The Israelites have rejected your covenant,<br/>torn down your altars,<br/>and put your prophets to death with the sword.<br/>I am the only one left,<br/>and now they are trying to kill me too.”</p> <p>15 The LORD said to him,<br/>“Go back the way you came,<br/>and go to the Desert of Damascus.<br/>When you get there,<br/>anoint Hazael king over Aram.</p> <p>16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi<br/>king over Israel,<br/>and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat<br/>from Abel Meholah<br/>to succeed you as prophet.</p> <p>17 Jehu will put to death<br/>any who escape the sword of Hazael,<br/>and Elisha will put to death<br/>any who escape the sword of Jehu.</p> <p>18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel —<br/>all whose knees have not bowed down<br/>to Baal and whose mouths<br/>have not kissed him.”</p> |
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