
Sound of Sheer Silence

I Kings 19:1-18



When you hear the biblical name –
“Elijah” what comes to mind?

1 Background to 1 Kings 19

2 Narrative of 1 Kings 19

3 Lessons from 1 Kings 19

1 Background

- Public & political dissolution
 - Powerful spiritual opposition
 - Prophetic mission & depression
-
- Run away from God's call
-
- Encounter the LORD God Almighty
 - Going back the way we came
 - Remember that we are not alone
-



Kerith Ravine

Elijah the Tishbite

1 Kings 19:1-18

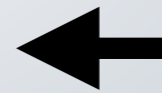
“Yah is my God”

Noun:

תושב (toshab)
“sojourner”



תֹּשֵׁבִי



Verb:

ישב (yashab)
“to dwell”

19:1	Elijah killed all the prophets of Baal		18:4, 40	“Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets
19:3a	Elijah was afraid		18:27	Elijah began to taunt them
19:3b	Elijah...ran for his life		18:46	Elijah...ran ahead of Ahab
19:4	he went a day’s journey into the desert		17:3	hid in the Kerith Ravine
19:5b	an angel touched him...		17:4b	I have ordered the ravens to feed you
19:6	a cake of bread	→	17:6, 13 Ex 16:11-12	bread and meat (morning and evening) at twilight...eat meat; morning...filled with bread
19:6b	a jar of water	cf.	17:4a	drink from the brook
19:8a	40 days and 40 nights journey	→	Ex 24:18; 35:28 Num 13:16, 25 Num 14:32-35	Moses 40 days & nights on mountain 40 days exploring land of Canaan Israel 40 years in desert
19:8b	Horeb, the mountain of God		Ex 3:1	Horeb, the mountain of God
19:9;13b	“the” cave		18:13 Ex 33:22	Obadiah hid 100 prophets in two caves God placed Moses in “a cleft in the rock”
19:11a	“the LORD is about to pass by”		Ex 33:22	“When my glory passes by”
19:11b-13	wind...earthquake...fire...gentle whisper		18:38, 45 Ex 3:2 Ex 19:16-19	“the fire of the LORD fell...the wind rose” “angel of the LORD...flames of fire” thunder...lightning...thick cloud...trumpet blast... smoke...fire...whole mountain trembled violently

ELIJAH

1 Kings 17-19

3 Zarephath ●

Mt. Carmel —

Great Sea

Jezreel ●

Samaria ★

Jerusalem ●

7 JUDAH

Beer-sheba ●

Kishon River

Brook Kerith

Tishbe ●

ISRAEL



40 days & 40 nights

Sinai Peninsula

a long hike

Mt. Horeb (Mt. Sinai)

Gulf of Akaba

Red Sea

9

Scale of Miles

0 100

Zarephath ●

PHOENICIA

Accho ●

Beth-shemesh ●

Hazor ●

Merom ●

Kadeshn

Lake Hula

Chinnereth ●

Sea of Chinnereth

Aphek ●

Aphek ●

Gath-hepher ●

Iphtahel River

Kishon River

5

Mt. Carmel

En-dor ●

Moreh ●

Jezreel ●

Megiddo ●

Harod River

Jordan River

Tabor River

GILEAD

Brook Kerith

Tishbe ●

2

Ibleam ●

Dothan ●

Gilboa

6

4

Samaria ★

1

Scale of Miles

0 20

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2.1 Story...on the run

Jezebel's threat

LXX ... As surely as you are Elijah - 'My God is Yah' - and I am Jezebel - 'Where is the Baal?'

MT ... "May the gods deal with me, be it every so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

2.2 Story...on the run

- Elijah runs for his life
- Falls asleep under a tree
- Elijah begs to die
- Provisioned by God
- “to **the** mountain of God – into **the** cave”
- Spends the night...



2.3 structured narrative

the LORD questions Elijah - “What are you doing here?”

Elijah replies

LORD: “go out”

wind - earthquake - fire - gentle whisper

Elijah went out

a voice questions Elijah - “What are you doing here?”

Elijah replies

“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Elijah's reply

I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty

The Israelites have rejected **your** covenant

broken down **your** altars

put **your** prophets to death with the sword

I am the only one left

they are trying to kill **me** too

The LORD said to him,

“Go back the way you came...”

“Go back...”

1. anoint Hazael king over Aram
 2. anoint Jehu king over Israel
 3. anoint Elisha to take your place
-

“I reserve 7,000 in Israel

– those –

- who have not bowed down to Baal
 - whose mouths have not kissed him
-

3.1 time for encouragement

- Honest self-awareness
 - same question from the LORD – 19:9 & 13
 - same answer from Elijah – 19:10 & 14
 - it is the LORD God Almighty with whom we are speaking
 - Importance of integrity before God – not half-truths
 - self-righteousness - “I have been very zealous”
 - self-pity - “I am the only one left, now **they** – not **she** – want to kill me too”
 - self-importance - “I am the only one left”
-

3.2 time for encouragement

- Review our history with God
 - God fed him before - Kerith Ravine; widow's home (twice)
 - God feeds him now - twice by an angel (19:5b, 7)
 - Reflect on our ministry before God
 - Jezebel's threat was intended to end Elijah's work – he left his servant at Beersheba and ran on alone (19:3-4)
 - God still had work for Elijah to do – three-fold anointing (19:15-16); pronounce God's judgment on Ahab (21:17-19) & Jezebel (21:23) as well as Ahab's household (21:24)
 - God's work continues. So must we in God's service.
 - Encouragement comes not in the dramatic or in the quiet, but from doing the work that God has called us to do.
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3.3 time for encouragement

- God's faithfulness needs to be met by our obedience..
 - recounts the past: Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God - Elijah went into **the** cave; "in effect, Elijah became a second Moses"
 - in the present: NIV - "a gentle whisper"; KJV - "a still, small voice", like that of Jesus? (Matthew 11:28-29)
 - in the future: God is in control: politically among the nations (Syria as well as Israel); spiritually among his people ("anoint Elisha" - God is both a covenant-maker and a covenant-keeper; there are still 7,000 in Israel)
 - The power of God is best demonstrated in our weakness
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Q & A

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