

## 1 Kings 19:1-18 (New International Version, ©2011)

<sup>1</sup> Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So 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.”

<sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid<sup>[a]</sup> and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. 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; I am no better than my ancestors.” <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” <sup>6</sup> He 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.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night.

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

<sup>10</sup> 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.”

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup> 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.”

<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup> Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

a. [1 Kings 19:3](#) Or *Elijah saw*



**Oasis: A Kingdom Divided**  
**1 Kings 19:1-18**

*Preface: Welcome to our 6th LC Bible study in our sermon series “Living God’s Story.” This year we are working our way through the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. So fasten your seat belt—it is quite a ride! These LC studies will complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading.*

*Study’s BIG idea: Even when we feel utterly abandoned or alone as Christ-followers in our skeptical and secular society, you can expect God to “keep showing up” (God is near and ready, and so are His people).*

**Possible starter question:** Any recent circumstances or life situations when you felt quite abandoned or alone as a Christian? In one or two sentences, give a quick description of your experience.

**Transitional comment:** Today’s passage immediately follows the confrontation between the devoted prophet Elijah and the spiritually antagonistic King Ahab (when the power of the LORD was vividly demonstrated on Mt. Carmel. But that wasn’t the end of Elijah’s story. In the wake of that great triumph, Elijah feels dejected. God was in the dramatic confrontation, but where is God in the lonely aftermath?

*(Ask someone to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study, opening ours eyes and hearts.)*

**Let’s listen as our passage is read:** Who would like to read one of the four different parts? A narrator? Jezebel (sorry, only one line)? Elijah? and then the angel-word-voice of the LORD?

**Personal time to re-read and ponder:** Take several minutes to read this story again on your own. Note the different scenes, the progression within the chapter, as well as Elijah’s concerns and the LORD’s activity and affirmations.

**Study Discussion Section I, I Kings 19:1-9a:**

O What do you learn about Ahab and Jezebel in vs. 1-2?

O In vs. 3-5a, in what ways, including emotional and perhaps even spiritual, does Elijah respond?

I Which of these responses seem normal or understandable to you?

A Recall those situations when you felt alone (from opening questions). Which of Elijah’s feelings or reactions did you experience?

O Compare the two visits by the angel of the LORD (vs. 5b-6 with 7-9a). In what ways are the two visits similar? In what ways are they different?

I What do you think the significance of the journey is?

**Section II, I Kings 19:9b-14:**

O In vs. 9-10, the LORD asks Elijah a question, to which Elijah responds. What do you observe about his answer? What aspects of Elijah’s response seem accurate? ...what seems distorted?

I Given that God is all-knowing, for what reasons might God have asked Elijah this probing question?

O How does the LORD respond in vs. 10-12? In what ways is the LORD present? What is surprising?

I What insight(s) do you think the LORD wanted to impress upon Elijah?

*(n.b. Verse 11 indicates that the LORD is about "to pass by." Elijah's experience is quite similar to the experience Moses had in Exodus 33:18-23, when the Lord makes him stand in the cleft in a rock and allows his glory to pass by.)*

I Given that the LORD had spoken to Elijah numerous times in this passage (via an angel and even more directly) what would you imagine that the LORD communicated in a gentle whisper?

*(n.b. The "gentle whisper" is a Hebrew expression difficult to translate. An alternative is silence.)*

O What is Elijah's response (v. 13)?

I How is Elijah's response in v. 14 similar to v. 10? Do you think his attitude or tone might have been any different? If so, in what way(s)?

### Section III, I Kings 19:15-18:

O What are the key aspects of the LORD's instructions to Elijah?

O What is the pivotal clarification that the LORD provides for Elijah?

I Why is it so important that Elijah understand this?

A In what important ways is this clarification a crucial point of application for you? For us?

### Summary:

O In what various ways has God revealed Himself to Elijah in this passage?

I What seem to be the major points of insight that flow from this story? What is one that strikes you?

A Is there a situation or context in which you need to be reminded that God is there for you? And that there are others equally committed to the LORD, even if they are not right at hand?

A Prayer together: Pray for one another – thanking God for His presence and His people!

Text notes (you can access biblical texts via [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com))

- Key verse: I Kings 19:11: *The LORD said: "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."*
- KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge)
- Special thanks to Steve Hamilton for his super model, in leading our LC thru this passage 2 weeks ago.

Advice to study leaders:

- Complement OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- Determine the core questions you'll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- Always reword questions in words that are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.) You want to "own" each question.
- When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- Application: Pace the study to conclude with "difference making" application.
- Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- I recommend the 1 vol. New Bible Commentary, Revised (21<sup>st</sup> Century ed, IVP). Well worth \$35.