

STUDY NUMBER FIVE
I Kings 19:1-21

TEXT:

- v. 1 Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.
- v. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."
- v. 3 And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.
- v. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."
- v. 5 And he lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat."
- v. 6 Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.
- v. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you."
- v. 8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- v. 9 Then he came there to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- v.10 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."
- v.11 So He said, "Go forth, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.
- v.12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.
- v.13 And it came about when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- v.14 Then he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."
- v.15 And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Syria;
- v.16 and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.
- v.17 "And it shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death.
- v.18 "Yet I will leave 7000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed

Part 4: Cowboy Poetry—I love the stories they tell . . .

#5✓

From Bad to Worse

Skinny Rowland

Now my wife just left and the well went dry,
and my horse is sick and about to die.

Then my still blew up and the barn burned down,
and the road washed out on the way to town.

Then my dog got rabies and bit the cat,
and they both died soon after that.

Now I lost my specs and my pipe stem broke,
so I can't even sit and read and smoke.

Then a tree fell on the chicken shed,
and most of the hens got smashed plumb dead.

Then a chimney fire took half of a wall,
and this old shack is about to fall.

Then I caught my heel on an old dead vine,
and sat smack dab on a porcupine.

Then a beaver dam broke an' my bridge washed out,
and my watch stopped working and I've got the gout.

And the bank foreclosed so I've lost my place,
and my cow disappeared without a trace.

They cut off my credit at the grocery store,
and I lost my job and a whole lot more.

I must have been hexed by a triple curse,
as things keep going from bad to worse.

And now fate has hit me a last dirty crack:
to top off the worst—my wife's coming back.

(From Humorous Cowboy Poetry: A Knee-Slappin' Gathering edited by Gibbs Smith staff members) Salt Lake City, Utah: Gibbs Smith. Copyright - Gibbs Smith, 1995, pp. 140-41.

Part 4: Cowboy Poetry—I love the stories they tell . . .

#6✓

Too Much Bull

by Skinny Rowland

Now this here is a story, with a moral good and true,
and it might be this story, was written just for you.

One time there was a fly, near starved to death he was,
all worn out and skinny, almost too darn weak to buzz.

He came gliding past this barnyard, guided by his nose,
and there behind that bullpen, this giant stack arose.

So he circled for a landing, a heart clear full of glee,
this was the meal of all meals, as he could plainly see.

Then he lights atop this pile, and at once began indulging,
and not stopping even once, until his sides were bulging.

Now the sun was getting mighty low, soon it would be night,
so this old fly decided now, to go on with his flight.

Well he aimed off to the west, with a mighty running bound,
he gave the takeoff all it had, but didn't leave the ground.

Then he saw this pitchfork handle, rising high into the air,
and figured he'd be airborne, if he started out from there.

So hand over hand he went, until he reached the very top,
and as he jumped he buzzed his wings, but done a belly flop.

Now that fly he split wide open, and died there on the spot,
so it's best now you remember, what that poor old fly forgot.

For the moral of this story is, unless this stunt you'd pull,
is don't fly off the handle, when you are plumb full of bull.

(From Poetry: Complete Works to 1993 by Skinny Rowland) Helena, MT: Skinny Publishing Co. Copyright - Skinny Rowland, 1993, p. 2.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Depression

044-14

Dumpy Paper Dress—March 31, 1977

Do you know what depression is?

It's sitting in your doctor's examination room.

In a paper dress.

On a cold table.

And it's the high spot of your week.

Your eyes rove around the room and come to rest on the doctor's diploma. The year he graduated. I've got shoes older than that.

~~Darn. Forgot to crease my cracked heels. I wonder if anyone else goes in without hose in the wintertime. You have to make a choice in this world. Wear white socks and alienate your children or go sockless and live with cracked heels.~~

This dress is not to be believed. I look like a Christmas package that arrived in February. I wonder who their fashion coordinator is. Mr. Hefty? All I need is a twist tie around my neck and someone would put me at the curb.

The nurse is coming.

"Are you decent?"

"No."

"I mean are you in your gown?"

"That's not the same thing."

~~"Care for a magazine while you're waiting? Here's *Esquire*. There's a great article in it on Mary Tyler Moore."~~

~~"I can't handle Mary Tyler Moore today. I'm depressed, and that could put me over the brink."~~

~~"Would you rather read *The Cysts Digest*?"~~

~~"I'll take Mary."~~

~~"It says Robert Redford saw her walking along the beach and wanted to introduce himself, but he was awed by her and respected her privacy."~~

~~"I have that problem," I said. "Thirty million men out there respect my privacy. And the more they respect it, the more I seem to have. Give me *The Cysts Digest*."~~

~~"Now, what seems to be your problem?" she asked, clicking her ballpoint pen and leaning over my card.~~

"I'm depressed. I'm not happy with my life. All my appliances are going. My goldfish died. I need a root canal. I'm talking back to bumper stickers. My hair is greasy. My menus are boring. I feel apart last week when I opened the refrigerator and discovered the date on my yeast had expired. I pray every day for patience . . . but I can't wait around for the answer."

The doctor came in. "What seems to be the trouble?"

"I'm depressed," I said simply.

"You should be," he said. "That's a rotten-looking dress."

February 5
Thursday

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

READ:

Philippians 4:4-12

The peace of God,
which surpasses all
understanding, will
guard your hearts
and minds.

—Philippians 4:7

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ Exodus 36-38

■ Matthew 23:1-22

At the height of their popularity, creativity, and wealth, the Beatles produced a controversial project called "The White Album." It signaled the breakup of the band by featuring pieces that were primarily individual in nature instead of collaborative.

It also revealed a growing disenchantment with all that their fame had produced. In his song "I'm So Tired," John Lennon expressed the emptiness of his "successful" and wealthy life with these profound words: "I'd give you everything I've got for a little peace of mind." All that he had, all that he had accomplished, and all that he had become could not meet this simple, yet deep, personal need.

The world we live in cannot offer peace. It offers only poor options. Pleasure, power, and possessions are no substitute for peace of heart and mind.

Paul reminded the believers at Philippi, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). This is the peace God brings to those who have been reconciled to God by faith in His Son Jesus (Eph. 2:14-16). It is a peace we are to share with a world that is desperate for it.

Peace—real peace—is found only in a relationship with Jesus. Have you received His peace? —Bill Crowder

FINDING REAL PEACE

Accept the reconciliation God offers by asking Him to forgive you. Believe that His Son Jesus died on the cross for your sins and was raised from the dead.

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. —Jesus

The Beatles - I'm so tired
(Lennon/McCartney)
Album: Beatles (White Album)

I'm so tired, i haven't slept a wink
I'm so tired, my mind is on the blink
I wonder should i get up and fix myself a drink
No, no, no.

I'm so tired i don't know what to do
I'm so tired my mind is set on you
I wonder should i call you but i know what you'd do

You'd say i'm putting you on
But it's no joke, it's doing me harm
You know i can't sleep, i can't stop my brain
You know it's three weeks, i'm going insane
You know i'd give you everything i've got
For a little peace of mind

I'm so tired, i'm feeling so upset
Although i'm so tired i'll have another cigarette
And curse sir walter raleigh
He was such a stupid git.

<http://www.stlyrics.com/songs/t/thebeatles450/imsotiredlennonmccartney1127788.html>

Proverbs 30:1-3

"I am weary, O God; I am weary and worn out, O God. I am too ignorant to be human, and I lack common sense. I have not mastered human wisdom, nor do I know the Holy One."

The teacher paints a pessimistic picture of old age in Ecclesiastes. For example, he writes of limbs that "tremble with age," teeth that "will be too few to do their eyes that "will be blind." Despite his negative view, old age has some benefits—like life experience and wisdom.

CHAPTER 7

A good reputation is more valuable than the most expensive perfume. In the same way, the day you die is better than the day you are born.

²It is better to spend your time at funerals than at festivals. For you are going to die, and you should think about it while there is still time.

³Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us.

⁴A wise person thinks much about death, while the fool thinks only about having a good time now.

⁵It is better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool! ⁶Indeed, a fool's laughter is quickly gone, like thorns crackling in a fire. This also is meaningless.

⁷Extortion turns wise people into fools, and bribes corrupt the heart.

⁸Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride.

⁹Don't be quick-tempered, for anger is the friend of fools.

¹⁰Don't long for "the good old days," for you don't know whether they were any better than today.

¹¹Being wise is as good as being rich; in fact, it is better. ¹²Wisdom or money can get you almost anything, but it's important to know that only wisdom can save your life.

¹³Notice the way God does things; then fall into line. Don't fight the ways of God, for who can straighten out what he has made crooked?

¹⁴Enjoy prosperity while you can. But when hard times strike, realize that both come from God. That way you will realize that nothing is certain in this life.

¹⁵In this meaningless life, I have seen everything, including the fact that some good people die young and some wicked people live on and on. ¹⁶So don't be too good or too wise! Why destroy yourself? ¹⁷On the other hand, don't be too wicked either—don't be a fool! Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸So try to walk a middle course—but those who fear God will succeed either way.

¹⁹A wise person is stronger than leading citizens of a town!

²⁰There is not a single person on earth who is always good and never sins.

²¹Don't eavesdrop on others. You may hear your servant laughing at you, but you know how often you have laughed at others.

²³All along I have tried to let wisdom guide my thoughts and actions. I said to myself, "I am determined to be wise." But it didn't really work. I was always distant and very difficult to get along with. I searched everywhere, determined to find wisdom and to understand things. I was determined to prove myself that wickedness is stupid and foolishness is madness.

²⁶I discovered that a seductive woman is more bitter than death. Her power is in her words, and her soft hands will trap you. Those who please God will escape her, but sinners will be caught in her.

²⁷"This is my conclusion," I said. "I came to this result after I had looked into the matter from every possible angle. Just one out of every thousand people interviewed can be said to be upright and righteous. ²⁹I discovered that all the people who are upright, but who do not follow their own desires, will find a path."

CHAPTER 8

How wonderful to be wise to be able to analyze and interpret things. I can read up a person's face, softening his features.

²Obey the king because you have a duty before God to do this. ³Don't try to do your duty, and don't take sides with those who plot evil. For the king will punish those who disobey him. ⁴The king's command is backed by great power, and one can resist or question it. ⁵Those who obey him will not be punished. Those who are wise will find a time and a way to do what is right. ⁶Yes, there is a time and

ECC. 7:14

Yesterday Morning

April 25
Wednesday

EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL

READ:
Joel 2:18-27

I will restore to you
the years that the
swarming locust has
eaten. —Joel 2:25

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
■ 2 Chronicles 7-9

The beauty of the black lacy design against the pastel purple and orange background grabbed my attention. The intricacy of the fragile pattern led me to assume that it had been created by a skilled artist. As I looked more closely at the photo, however, I saw the artist admiring his work from a corner of the photo. The “artist” was a worm, and its work of art was a partially eaten leaf.

What made the image beautiful was not the destruction of the leaf but the light glowing through the holes. As I gazed at the photo, I began thinking about lives that have been eaten by the “worms” of sin. The effects are ravaging. Sin eats away at us as we suffer the consequences of our own bad choices or those of others. We are all its victims.

But the photo also reminded me of the hope we have in God. Through the prophet Joel, God said to Israel, “I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten” (Joel 2:25). And from Isaiah we learn that the Lord appointed him to “console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes” (Isa. 61:3).

Satan does everything he can to make us ugly, but the Light of the World can make us beautiful—despite Satan’s best efforts. —Julie Ackerman Link

*Sin ravages a fruitful life
When it is not addressed;
But God restores and makes us right
Once sin has been confessed. —Sper*

God doesn’t remove all of our imperfections,
but He makes us beautiful by shining through them.

the Kenites, ³⁰Hormah, Bor-ashan, Athach, ³¹Hebron, and all the other places they had visited.

① Saul - Power

The Death of Saul

31 Now the Philistines attacked Israel, forcing the Israelites to flee. Many were slaughtered on the slopes of Mount Gilboa. ²The Philistines closed in on Saul and his sons, and they killed three of his sons—Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malkishua. ³The fighting grew very fierce around Saul, and the Philistine archers caught up with him and wounded him severely. ⁴Saul groaned to his armor bearer, "Take your sword and kill me before these pagan Philistines run me through and humiliate me." But his armor bearer was afraid and would not do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it. ⁵When his armor bearer realized that Saul was dead, he fell on his own sword and died beside the king. ⁶So Saul, three of his sons, his armor bearer, and his troops all died together that same day.

⁷When the Israelites on the other side of the Jezreel Valley

and beyond the Jordan saw that their army had been routed and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their towns and fled. So the Philistines moved in and occupied their towns.

⁸The next day, when the Philistines went out to strip the dead, they found the bodies of Saul and his three sons on Mount Gilboa. ⁹So they cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armor. Then they proclaimed the news of Saul's death in their pagan temple and to the people throughout the land of Philistia. ¹⁰They placed his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of the city of Beth-shan.

¹¹But when the people of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹²their warriors traveled all night to Beth-shan and took the bodies of Saul and his sons down from the wall. They brought them to Jabesh, where they burned the bodies. ¹³Then they took their remains and buried them beneath the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted for seven days.

Tanna You And Your Sons will be here with me "
 Thief on the Cross: Remember Me!
 Today you will be with me in paradise!
 — LUKE 23:42, 43

ISA. 30:21

Jer. 6:16
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that what I have said will come true, I will cause your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, to die on the same day!

³⁵"Then I will raise up a faithful priest who will serve me and do what I tell him to do. I will bless his descendants, and his family will be priests to my anointed kings forever. ³⁶Then all of your descendants will bow before his descendants, begging for money and food. 'Please,' they will say, 'give us jobs among the priests so we will have enough to eat.'"

The LORD Speaks to Samuel

3 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel was serving the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

²One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had just gone to bed. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle* near the Ark of God. ⁴Suddenly, the LORD called out, "Samuel! Samuel!"

"Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" ⁵He jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. What do you need?"

^{3:3} Hebrew the Temple of the LORD.

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go on back to bed." So he did.

⁶Then the LORD called out again, "Samuel!"

Again Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you need?"

"I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go on back to bed."

⁷Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. ⁸So now the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel jumped up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "What do you need?"

Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. ⁹So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Yes, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

¹⁰And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Yes, your servant is listening."

¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. ¹²I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family. ¹³I have warned him continually that judgment is

② Ahithophel - Pride

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day, so they rested when they reached the Jordan River.*

Ahithophel Advises Absalom

Meanwhile, Absalom and his men arrived at Jerusalem, accompanied by Ahithophel. ¹⁶When David's friend Hushai the Arkite arrived, he went immediately to see Absalom. "Long live the king!" he exclaimed. "Long live the king!"

¹⁷"Is this the way you treat your friend David?" Absalom asked him. "Why aren't you with him?"

¹⁸"I'm here because I work for the man who is chosen by the LORD and by Israel," Hushai replied. ¹⁹"And anyway, why shouldn't I serve you? I helped your father, and now I will help you!"

²⁰Then Absalom turned to Ahithophel and asked him, "What should I do next?"

²¹Ahithophel told him, "Go and sleep with your father's concubines, for he has left them here to keep the house. Then all Israel will know that you have insulted him beyond hope of reconciliation, and they will give you their support." ²²So they set up a tent

on the palace roof where everyone could see it, and Absalom went into the tent to sleep with his father's concubines.

²³Absalom followed Ahithophel's advice, just as David had done. For every word Ahithophel spoke seemed as wise as though it had come directly from the mouth of God.

17 Now Ahithophel urged Absalom, "Let me choose twelve thousand men to start out after David tonight. ²I will catch up to him while he is weary and discouraged. He and his troops will panic, and everyone will run away. Then I will kill only the king, ³and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride returns to her husband. After all, it is only this man's life that you seek.* Then all the people will remain unharmed and peaceful."

⁴This plan seemed good to Absalom and to all the other leaders of Israel.

Hushai Counters

Ahithophel's Advice

⁵But then Absalom said, "Bring in Hushai the Arkite. Let's see what he thinks about this."

16:14 As in Greek version (see also 17:16); Hebrew reads *when they reached their destination*.
Greek version; Hebrew reads *like the return of all is the man whom you seek*.

6When Hushai arrived, Absalom told him what Ahithophel had said. Then he asked, "What is your opinion? Should we follow Ahithophel's advice? If not, speak up."

7 "Well," Hushai replied, "this time I think Ahithophel has made a mistake. 8 You know your father and his men; they are mighty warriors. Right now they are probably as enraged as a mother bear who has been robbed of her cubs. And remember that your father is an experienced soldier. He won't be spending the night among the troops. 9 He has probably already hidden in some pit or cave. And when he comes out and attacks and a few of your men fall, there will be panic among your troops, and everyone will start shouting that your men are being slaughtered. 10 Then even the bravest of them, though they have the heart of a lion, will be paralyzed with fear. For all Israel knows what a mighty man your father is and how courageous his warriors are.

¹¹“I suggest that you mobilize the entire army of Israel, bringing them from as far away as Dan and Beersheba. That way you will have an army as numerous as the

sand on the seashore. And I think that you should personally lead the troops. ¹²When we find David, we can descend on him like the dew that falls to the ground, so that not one of his men is left alive. ¹³And if David has escaped into some city, you will have the entire army of Israel there at your command. Then we can take ropes and drag the wall of the city into the nearest valley until every stone is torn down."

14 Then Absalom and all the leaders of Israel said, "Hushai's advice is better than Ahithophel's." For the LORD had arranged to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel, which really was the better plan, so that he could bring disaster upon Absalom!

Hushai Warns David to Escape

15 Then Hushai reported to Zado and Abiathar, the priests, what Ahithophel had said and what he himself had suggested instead.

16 "Quick!" he told them. "Fin David and urge him not to stay. the shallows of the Jordan River tonight. He must go across once into the wilderness beyond. Otherwise he will die and his er tire army with him."

¹⁷Jonathan and Ahimaaz ha

been staying at En-rogel so as not to be seen entering and leaving the city. Arrangements had been made for a servant girl to bring them the message they were to take to King David. ¹⁸But a boy saw them leaving En-rogel to go to David, and he told Absalom about it. Meanwhile, they escaped to Bahurim, where a man hid them inside a well in his courtyard. ¹⁹The man's wife put a cloth over the top of the well with g. on it to dry in the sun; so no one suspected they were there.

²⁰When Absalom's men arrived, they asked her, "Have you seen Ahimaaz and Jonathan?"

She replied, "They were here, but they crossed the brook." Absalom's men looked for them without success and returned to Jerusalem.

²¹Then the two men crawled out of the well and hurried on to King David. "Quick!" they told him, "cross the Jordan tonight!" And they told him how Ahithophel had advised that he be captured and killed. ²²So David and all the people with him went across the Jordan River during the night, and they were all on the other bank before dawn.

²³Meanwhile, Ahithophel was publicly disgraced when Absalom refused his advice. So he saddled his donkey, went to his hometown, set his affairs in order, and hanged himself. He died there and was buried beside his father.

²⁴David soon arrived at Mahanaim. By now, Absalom had mobilized the entire army of Israel and was leading his troops across the Jordan River. ²⁵Absalom had appointed Amasa as commander of his army, replacing Joab, who had been commander under David. (Amasa was Joab's cousin. His father was Jether,* an Ishmaelite.* His mother, Abigail daughter of Nahash, was the sister of Joab's mother, Zeruiah.) ²⁶Absalom and the Israelite army set up camp in the land of Gilead.

²⁷When David arrived at Mahanaim, he was warmly greeted by Shobi son of Nahash of Rabbah, an Ammonite, and by Makir son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and by Barzillai of Gilead from Rogelim. ²⁸They brought sleeping mats, cooking pots, serving bowls, wheat and barley flour, roasted grain, bear ²⁹honey, butter, cheese for David

17:25a Hebrew *Ithra*, a variant name for Jether. 17:25b As in some Greek mss. (2:17); Hebrew reads *an Israelite*.

Prov. 14:12

The Florida Boys
The Road to hell is paved in Texas

③ Judas - Priorities

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taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine." ⁴⁰Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you stay awake and watch with me even one hour? ⁴¹Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough, the body is weak!"

⁴²Again he left them and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away until I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³He returned to them again and found them sleeping, for they just couldn't keep their eyes open.

⁴⁴So he went back to pray a third time, saying the same things again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said, "Still sleeping? Still resting? Look, the time has come. I, the Son of Man, am betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Up, let's be going. See, my betrayer is here!"

Jesus Is Arrested

⁴⁷And even as he said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a mob that was armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent out by the leading priests and other leaders of the people. ⁴⁸Judas had given them a prearranged signal: "You will

know which one to arrest when I go over and give him the kiss of greeting." ⁴⁹So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Teacher!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.

⁵⁰Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

⁵¹One of the men with Jesus pulled out a sword and slashed off an ear of the high priest's servant.

⁵²"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will be killed by the sword. ⁵³Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands* of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? ⁵⁴But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

⁵⁵Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous criminal, that you have come armed with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. ⁵⁶But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures." At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

26:45 Or Sleep on, take your rest. 26:53 Greek 12 legions.

ne with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said.

⁷³A little later some other bystanders came over to him and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent."

⁷⁴Peter said, "I swear by God, I don't know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went away, crying bitterly.

Judas Hangs Himself

27 Very early in the morning, the leading priests and other leaders met again to discuss how to persuade the Roman government to sentence Jesus to death. ²Then they bound him and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

³When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and other leaders.

⁴"I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man."

"What do we care?" they re-

torted. "That's your problem."

⁵Then Judas threw the money onto the floor of the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

⁶The leading priests picked up the money. "We can't put it in the Temple treasury," they said, "since it's against the law to accept money paid for murder."

⁷After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter's field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners. ⁸That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood. ⁹This fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah that says,

MATT. 6:33

"They took* the thirty pieces of silver—
the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel—

¹⁰ and purchased the potter's field,
as the Lord directed.*"

Jesus' Trial before Pilate

¹¹Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. "Are you the King of the Jews?" the governor asked him.

Jesus replied, "Yes, it is as you say."

¹²But when the leading priests

^{27:9} Or I took. ^{27:9-10} Greek as the Lord directed me. Zech 11:12-13; Jer 32:6-9.

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each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

24 And they began to argue among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom. 25 Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called 'friends of the people.' 26 But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. 27 Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant. 28 You have remained true to me in my time of trial. 29 And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right 30 to eat and drink at my table in that Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

to go to prison with you, and even to die with you."

34 But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. The rooster will not crow tomorrow morning until you have denied three times that you even know me."

35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you out to preach the Good News and you did not have money, a traveler's bag, or extra clothing, did you lack anything?"

"No," they replied.

36 "But now," he said, "take your money and a traveler's bag. And if you don't have a sword, sell your clothes and buy one! 37 For the time has come for this prophecy about me to be fulfilled: 'He was counted among those who were rebels.'* Yes, everything written about me by the prophets will come true."

38 "Lord," they replied, "we have two swords among us."

"That's enough," he said.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39 Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. 40 There he told them, "Pray that you will not be overcome by temptation."

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat. 32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up your brothers."

33 Peter said, "Lord, I am ready

Satan watches for weakness & vulnerability

page 633 ... 1 KINGS 19 ^{11 When the Devil had finished tempting Jesus, He left him until the next opportunity came.}

Baal. "So and e Ki- nere. special strength to Elijah. He tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab's chariot all the way to the entrance of Jezreel.

Elijah Flees to Sinai

19 When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel what Elijah had done and that he had slaughtered the prophets of Baal. ²So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: "May the gods also kill me if by this time tomorrow I have failed to take your life like those whom you killed."

³Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. ⁴Then he went on alone into the desert, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

⁵Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" ⁶He looked around and saw some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again.

⁷Then the angel of the LORD came again and touched him and

said, "Get up and eat some more, for there is a long journey ahead of you."

⁸So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai,* the mountain of God. ⁹There he came to a cave, where he spent the night.

The LORD Speaks to Elijah

But the LORD said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I alone am left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."

¹¹"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And

^{19:8} Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai.

- to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."
- v.19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.
- v.20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"
- v.21 So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. The he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

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INTRODUCTION

We have been tracing the biography of Elijah these many weeks through various circumstances and experiences in his walk with God. First, we noted him at the palace pronouncing the message of judgment; then, to the brook Cherith, and from there to Zarephath, to be protected and provided for by the Lord during the time of judgment. And then the assignment comes to go back to the palace and the confrontation with Ahab prepared us for the experience of last week when we looked together at the moment of great victory on Carmel when the fire of the Lord fell to consume the sacrifice and convince the people that Jehovah is God. And then our passage concluded with the refreshing rain which the Lord sent in response to the prophet's prayer.

From a human point of view, in looking at the biography of Elijah to this time, we would expect now a time of national repentance and revival, a time of great blessing and prosperity as the people are once again obedient to the Lord and the rain has come to refresh the land so that the blessing of the Lord might be upon his people.

At the Moment of Greatest opportunity comes the Greatest opposition.

How differently, though, things turn out and how quickly we go from the heights to the depths, from victory to defeat, from delight to depression, from joy to the juniper tree. Action to reaction. Every victory makes you vulnerable.

Verse 1: "Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword."

We left our prophet last week running ahead of Ahab's chariot and now we pick up Ahab's arrival at home. Here he comes in all wet and muddy, and he hopes that Jezebel has already gone to bed, but just like every curious wife, she has to hear every detail before she's satisfied. She's been hoping all day that the outcome of the confrontation on Carmel would be in her favor. She finds that Ahab is quite subdued in spirit and shaken in heart over what had taken place.

it was grotty to the max Honey we got whipped bad!! Totally Awesome!!

The record says that Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done. It is still impossible for Ahab and Jezebel to see that Elijah is only an instrument in the hands of the living God to bring the people back to Himself as well as their leadership.

Every detail! Get's The Blame!

Ahab not only relates to Jezebel all the details of the contest, but the con-

6 hours
Fire
People Telling

Nobody At the breakfast table in the morning..

Tell the cooks to forget Breakfast

in the morning!!
850 Empty Places!!

Hosea 10:12

Jogging To Jezreel

Jogging along singing
I've seen Fire + Rain

Total wipe out!!

Proverbs 21:9

"Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife."

-3-

850

V.1 Report

V.2 Reaction

You got them I'm getting you!! Same Ain't over yet honey!!

V.3 Response

Leaving the will of God.

Abraham
Moses
Joshua
Saul
David
Peter

sumation of the conflict in the killing of the prophets with the sword.

The report, then, in verse 1 is a report of Elijah's total victory.

She is A Feminist & she is in his Face!

Verse 2: "Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.'"

Proverbs: "Better to dwell in the corner... You Get A Woman Mad & You Flat Got A Hand Full"

Whereas we get the report in verse 1, we get the reaction in verse 2. "Then Jezebel..." Here she takes the leadership which has been yielded to her by Ahab so many times, and she sends a messenger to Elijah. She gets a telegram off to Elijah with the following message. "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." Sincerely Yours, Jezebel, The Queen Bee!!

Jezebel sends a threat, and her threat to Elijah is an oath that the gods can do to her more than had been done on Mount Carmel if she is not able to put Elijah through the same experience that the prophets had gone through in losing their lives at the conclusion of the conflict. Big bluff!!

I'll Huff & I'll Puff! -> Can't it's on the rock... Military! Secret Service! etc... Killed A lot of the prophets of God...

Verse 3: "And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there."

Here we have the tragic picture of our prophet acting contrary to his greatest strength. He was afraid.

When you fail to pray you limit God to your own abilities

Prov. 29:25 says, "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe." II Tim. 1:7: "God hath not given us the spirit of fear." Phil. 4:6: "Be anxious for nothing."

In verse 1 we get the report; verse 2, the reaction, and verse 3 the response.

Peter also was afraid of a maid; Elijah afraid of a Jezebel. Whereas the hand of the Lord was upon him in chapter 18, he was strong and courageous in confronting a nation; chapter 19, he's thinking only of himself, and so he goes for his life. How weak a servant is without God!!

II Chron. 20: "Jehoshaphat hears from the Lord when he is surrounded by enemies, 'Set yourself; stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord.' So it is with Moses as he is pursued by the hosts of Pharaoh and he's walled in by the Red Sea. Ex. 14:13 and 14, "But Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.'"

Isaiah 12:2: "Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation."

Abraham - Man of Faith Couldn't wait!
Moses - Meek -> Got Mad...
David - A Man After God's own heart, Gave his to Another Man's wife.
Joshua - Stay in the book...
Saul - No As E. Saul...

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Late in The Chase

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Anxiety

682-08

But in the wave of weariness, David hits the pause button on good thoughts and thinks:

Sooner or later, Saul's going to get me. The best thing I can do is escape to Philistine country. Saul will count me a lost cause and quit hunting me down in every nook and cranny of Israel. I'll be out of his reach for good. (27:1 MSG)

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1 Sam. 27:1 Message

Stayed in Philistine Territory in Ziklag!

Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusteth in Thee."

We see first that he was afraid, and secondly, he arose.

Because of the fear, the prophet is moved to action for the first time in our biography without a word from the Lord.

We have noted at each juncture the prophet has been trained to wait for a message from the Lord to go to the brook Cherith, to go to Zarephath, to go to the palace, and now in fear, it says, "He arose", or he moves to action. He should have learned that he could trust the same Lord who hid him at Cherith, or in the house at Zarephath right under the king's nose, that that same God could protect and provide for him now, even if it meant there was an Obadiah who had to hide him in a cave to protect him from Jezebel.

He was afraid and arose and he ran for his life.

When you're most eager to act is the time you'll make the most pitiful mistakes. How often do we look to circumstances rather than to the Lord of the circumstances, and we make a mistake by running out of the will of God. Walking by sight always magnifies the difficulties. We can see this in the experience of the 12 spies who went in to the land, 10 of whom felt that it was impossible to go in because they had their eyes on the difficulties and circumstances that surrounded their taking of the land rather than the God who had made the promise. We see this in the life of Philip and Andrew at a time when they only had 5 loaves and a couple of fish. What are these among so many when the Bread of Life stands before them available to sustain by making every provision necessary to meet the needs that are before them.

Heb. 11:27: "By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured it, seeing Him who is unseen."

I Cor. 10:12: "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

II Kings 6:15-17: "Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city, and his servant said to him, 'Alas, my master, what shall we do?' So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' The Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Isaiah 59:19: "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

"And he was afraid, and arose and ran for his life, and came to Beersheba."

About 75-80 miles!! All this After Running to Jezreel!!
He left the domain of the Northern kingdom and came even to the south and does not feel secure even here. It says, "And left his servant there."

Evidently Elijah wanted to be alone, and because of his feelings of compassion for the servant, he leaves him in Beersheba.

Options //

Cherith
Zarephath

Obadiah

didn't Try
Any Thing !!

Affection
Assumption
Anticipation

Elijah
taught
Elisha

★ ★

C. A. M.

C. Austin Miles

1. It may be in the val - ley, where countless dangers hide; It may be in the
 2. It may be I must car - ry the bless-ed word of life A - cross the burn-ing
 3. But if it be my por - tion to bear my cross at home, While others bear their
 4. It is not mine to ques-tion the judgments of my Lord, It is but mine to

sun - shine that I in peace a - bide; But this one thing I know, if
 des - erts to those in sin - ful strife; And tho' it be my lot to
 bur - dens bey - ond the bil - lows' foam, I'll prove my faith in Him, con-
 fol - low the lead-ings of His Word. But if to go or stay, or

it be dark or fair, if Je - sus is with me, I'll go an - y - where!
 bear my col - ors there, If Je - sus goes with me, I'll go an - y - where!
 fess His judg - ments fair, And, if He stays with me, I'll go an - y - where!
 wheth - er here or there, I'll be, with my Sav - iour, con - tent an - y - where!

Refrain
 If Je - sus goes with me, I'll go — an - y - where! 'Tis heav - en to me, Wher-
 I'll go

e'er I may be, if He is there! I count it a priv - i - lege here — His
 His cross, His

Verse 4: "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.'"

We notice three key phrases in this verse that help us trace the movement of Elijah out of the Lord's will. First, he went a day's journey into the wilderness; second, he came and sat down under a juniper tree; and third, he requested for himself that he might die.

Psalm 139 verses 7-10, "Where can I go from Thy Spirit, or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there. If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me."

Get Away From Jezebel but NOT From God...

Exhausted by his travels, he sits down under a juniper tree and makes a request for himself in prayer that he might die. We then have the record of his prayer. "It is enough now, O Lord. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." What a contrast this prayer is from the last prayer we heard Elijah pray on Mt. Carmel, first when he prayed for the fire, and then the rain. Now in a moment of deep depression, "It is enough now, O Lord", recognizing Him as Lord and one who has the power of granting life as well as taking it. His request is to take his life, and the reason for his request is, "...for I am not better than my fathers." Failed + Finicked out like All the rest...

Who can measure the impact that could have been made if Elijah had only been willing to remain where he was. The people desperately needed his presence. The tide had turned away from Baal toward God and yet, because of the threat of Jezebel, he leaves in the night with his servant in driving rain, and you would think that he would lay it before the Lord in quiet assurance that the Lord would hide him, even as He had done before. He's utterly demoralized and panic-stricken. Leaving his servant in Beer-sheba, he goes into the wild desert, plodding on in the burning heat. There are no ravens, no Cherith, and no Zarephath. What might have been if only Elijah had held his ground, dwelling in the secret place place of the most High, and hiding under the shadow of the Almighty. It could have been the very means of reformation in the nation Israel. Perhaps the 7000 secret disciples would have come to the light, and there would have been a major revival.

It is amazing how many of God's great men fail in the area of their strength. For Abraham, his faith, when he went into Egypt, lied; Moses, his meekness, in anger struck the rock; Elijah, his courage turns to fear through the threat of a wicked king.

It was John the Baptist, who while in prison, sent the depressing message, "Art thou He, or look we for another?"

Verse 5: "And he lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, 'Arise, eat.'"

There were two very definite needs that Elijah had at this point, and in the

Prayer:

- ① No Not Yet
- ② No I love you too much
- ③ Yes I thought you would never ask.
- ④ Yes where's Moses

midst of his physical exhaustion, he could not see to discern the directions of the Lord. First, he needed rest, and secondly, he needed food. The Lord gave him what he needed rather than what he wanted.

You may be out of God's will, but you're not out of His concern.

Verse 6: "Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again."

Provision in Cherith - Zarephath - Desert.

Just as the Lord had provided for him in Cherith and Zarephath, so now the Lord provides for him in the wilderness for his physical needs.

Lord Never Stops taking care of His own!!

Verse 7: "And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, 'Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.'"

The Lord comes back a second time and makes provision for him, and the reason he comes the second time is because the journey is too great for you.

wasn't intended by the Father

It is the voice of the Lord saying, "I know your needs, and I know your capacities."

Verse 8: "So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God."

The next forty days and nights are spent on the long way back to a meeting with God.

Verse 9: "Then he came there to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'"

Once again we have the recurrence of that great phrase that is an indication of further manifestations of the will of the Lord to Elijah, and that is, "The word of the Lord came to him." - Yeah! There it is!!!

This time the word of the Lord is in the form of a question: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

This is not what I had planned

No Arise + Go !! You already went!

Verse 10: "And he said, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.'"

Elijah immediately indulges in self-defense by speaking of his past track record, that he's been zealous and that the majority have forsaken the Lord. Then he speaks of his own loneliness, that he is alone, left, and they are seeking his life to take it away.

Verse 11: "So he said, 'Go forth, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord

I want to clear your vision by showing you who I am + what I can do.

No repentance

was not in the earthquake."

Now the Lord is preparing to reveal Himself to His servant.

Verse 12: "And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing."

Verse 13: "And it came about when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'"

Here we have again a repetition of the earlier question.

Verse 14: "Then he said, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.'"

Elijah's response is the same as to the earlier question, defense for his zeal and the fact that he is the only one left, and that there are those who want to take his life.

Verse 15: "And the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Syria.'"

Verse 16: "and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.'"

The Lord realizes that the solution to his depressed prophet is to reveal Himself to him and then to give him some new assignments. *Get on with the task*

We have noted together in our biography that the Lord's hand guided him to Jezreel, and now His voice spoke with these new assignments.

Verse 17: "And it shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death."

These are the three leaders who are going to carry out God's judgment upon the people for their departure, probably the assignments that He had in mind for Elijah.

Verse 18: "Yet I will leave 7000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

To help Elijah get the true picture, the Lord adds these words in the 18th verse, that there are still 7000 in Israel that are a part of his company, so Elijah does not have to feel alone. - *Nucleus For The Revival & intended*

Verse 19: "So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat,

Peter: Love Me More than These?

No repentance

Ps. 95:6,7

while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him."

This is the act of placing the responsibility upon the one who is going to take his place. In this ceremonial act of placing his mantle upon him, he's giving public witness to the fact that is Elisha who is now going to be the prophet of God.

Verse 20: "And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, 'Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you.' And he said to him, 'Go back again, for what have I done to you?'"

Verse 21: "So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him."

CONCLUSION

What lessons can we learn from this passage that has been under consideration in the life of Elijah. First we can learn that it's always wrong to make a move on the basis of an emotional threat or circumstances which are contrary. Secondly, getting out of God's will by emotions and circumstances is a very painful experience. We have learned the reason Elijah did this is because he had his eyes no longer on God but on a furious woman.

11 Lessons

3rd We also learned from this study some of the consequences of missing God's will, physically, emotionally, he's depressed and lonely, spiritually he is looking on circumstances instead of God.

4th We also learned that God's attitude is not affected by our failure.

5th We have also learned from this study how easy it is to miss God's will. Elijah did simply by walking by sight which magnifies difficulties and paralyzes spiritual activity. Difficulties are nothing to the soul who is occupied with God. We can see this in the Red Sea account, in the life of David, and with scores of others who are victorious as long as they keep their eyes upon the Lord.

6th I think there's a tremendous lesson for us in God's attitude toward His servant who is outside of His will. He did not love him any less while tracking him over the hills of Samaria like a shepherd tracking a wandering sheep. There's no upbraiding reproaches, no threats of dismissal. Instead He makes loving provision of sleep, food, and has kind thoughts toward His servant. We see this same thing true in the experience of the prodigal son, and in the life of Jonah. Unconditional love

7th We also learned that though we are forsaken by man, we are never forgotten by God.

8th When you think you have missed God's will, get alone with Him and hear afresh His voice.

9th The Lord will not speak in the dramatic, but in a still, small voice. Isaiah

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Depression	232-35	Martin Luther was experiencing a time in his life when he was suffering from deep despair and depression. He couldn't seem to come out of it. Frustrated by it all, his wife came to breakfast one morning wearing a black armband. "Who died?" Luther asked. His wife answered, "Well, with the way you've been carrying on around here, I thought God did." p. 122

February 3
Tuesday

A REFRESHER COURSE ON GOD'S MAJESTY

READ:
Exodus 33:1-11

You cannot see My
face; for no man shall
see Me, and live.
—Exodus 33:20

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
■ Exodus 31-33
■ Matthew 22:1-22

My book *Disappointment With God* explores three questions many Christians ask: Is God hidden? Is God silent? Is God unfair? It struck me that those questions did not trouble the Hebrews in the Sinai wilderness. They saw evidence of God every day, heard Him speak, and lived under a contract signed in His own hand. Out of this relationship emerged a great gift from the Jews to the world: monotheism—the belief in one sovereign, holy God.

Today many treat God like a cosmic good buddy. We could use a refresher course from the Old Testament on God's majesty.

Pastor Gordon MacDonald writes, "The most costly sins I have committed came at a time when I briefly suspended my reverence for God. . . . I quietly (and insanely) concluded that God didn't care and most likely wouldn't intervene were I to risk the violation of one of His commandments."

MacDonald says his own love for God has moved away from a sentimental model, which never satisfied him, to something closer to a father/son model. He is learning to reverence, obey, and thank God; to express appropriate sorrow for sin; to pursue a quietness in which he might hear God whisper. He seeks a relationship with God appropriate to the profound difference between the two parties.

As God's children, we may "come boldly to the throne of grace" (Heb. 4:16). But let us ever be mindful of our Father's inestimable majesty. —Philip Yancey

To worship is to recognize
the supreme worth of God.

5th
Second Anniversary OF Becky's
Death 1:30 A.M. 27th

December 26
Friday

HE CAN LEAD YOU OUT OF IT

READ:
1 Kings 19:1-12

After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. —1 Kings 19:12

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
■ Zechariah 13-14
■ Proverbs 30:10-20

He wanted to die! God helped Elijah deal with his despondency in several ways. The Lord did not rebuke him for his feelings but sent an angel to provide for his physical needs. Then, the Lord revealed Himself and reminded Elijah that He was quietly working among His people. Next, He renewed Elijah's mission by giving him new orders. Finally, God reminded Elijah that he wasn't alone.

In our times of discouragement, let us remember that God loves us and desires to lead us to a place of a renewed vision of Himself! —Marvin Williams

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;*

In every change He faithful will remain. —von Schlegel

**The weak, the helpless, and the discouraged
are in the Shepherd's special care.**

Almost everyone will at some time in their life be affected by depression, either their own or someone else's. Some common signs and symptoms of depression include feelings of hopelessness, pessimism, worthlessness, and helplessness. Although we cannot say for certain that characters in the Bible experienced depression, we can say that some did exhibit a deep sense of despondency, discouragement, and sadness that is linked to personal powerlessness and loss of meaning and enthusiasm for life.

Elijah is one biblical character who fits this description. After defeating the prophets of Baal, he received a death threat from Jezebel. His hope was shattered, and despondency set in.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Anxiety	019-14	Anxiety is clearly the theme of this text. It makes the root of anxiety explicit in verse 30: "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little <i>faith</i>?" In other words, Jesus says that the root of anxiety is inadequate faith in our Father's future grace. As unbelief gets the upper hand in our hearts, one of the effects is anxiety. The root cause of anxiety is a failure to trust all that God has promised to be for us in Jesus. p. 54
Anxiety	019-15	<i>Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.</i> (Matthew 6:34) God will see to it that you are not tested in any given day more than you can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). He will work for you, so that "as [your] days, so shall [your] strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25, KJV). Every day will have no more trouble than you can bear; and every day will have mercies sufficient for that day's stress (Lamentations 3:22-23). p. 59

SPIRITUAL DEJECTION

"We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened" (Luke 24:21).

Every fact that the disciples stated was right, but the conclusions they drew from those facts were wrong. Anything that has even a hint of dejection spiritually is always wrong. If I am depressed or burdened, I am to blame, not God or anyone else. Dejection stems from one of two sources—I have either satisfied a lust or I have not had it satisfied. In either case, dejection is the result. Lust means "I must have it at once." Spiritual lust causes me to demand an answer from God, instead of seeking God Himself who gives the answer. What have I been hoping or trusting God would do? Is today "the third day" and He has still not done what I expected? Am I therefore justified in being dejected and in blaming God? Whenever we insist that God should give us an answer to prayer we are off track. The purpose of prayer is that we get ahold of God, not of the answer. It is impossible to be well physically and to be dejected, because dejection is a sign of sickness. This is also true spiritually. Dejection spiritually is wrong, and we are always to blame for it.

We look for visions from heaven and for earth-shaking events to see God's power. Even the fact that we are dejected is proof that we do this. Yet we never realize that all the time God is at work in our everyday events and in the people around us. If we will only obey, and do the task that He has placed closest to us, we will see Him. One of the most amazing revelations of God comes to us when we learn that it is in the everyday things of life that we realize the magnificent deity of Jesus Christ.

Saturday Morning
Chambers: My UT Most For
His Highest

FEBRUARY 7

ON The Road
to EMMAEUS

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Depression	359-08	His question was the turning point, because Sheila realized the answer was a resounding "No!" She had affirmed that belief in a poem she had written the night before: <i>I never knew you lived so close to the floor, But every time I am bowed down, Crushed by this weight of grief, I feel your hand on my head, Your breath on my cheek, Your tears on my neck. You never tell me to pull myself together, To stem the flow of many years. You simply stay by my side For as long as it takes, So close to the floor.</i> p. 162

Sheila Walsh
In the pit of
depression wrote
these words.

Today is Becky's Birthday
She was born February 8th 1956,
our first year of Seminary.
She would have been 53 today.

I had a paper due the morning of the
8th for Howard Hendricks class. I turned
it in a day late with a note attached:
"The reason I am late with this paper is my
wife had a baby yesterday."
Got the paper back: "at least you can
only use that excuse once a semester!"
Congrats!

30:21.

10th

When the new assignments come, be obedient. Anoint Hazael in Syria, anoint Jehu in Israel, anoint Elisha in your place.

10th

It's a privilege to get to be used by God. We aren't indispensable, and aren't alone are just some of the lessons that we can learn from this passage that we have studied together today.

Ps. 75:6,7

God's Questions

Adam where are you?

Elijah why are you here?

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Anxiety

066-07

I've many a cross to take up now,
And many left behind;
But present troubles move me not,
Nor shake my quiet mind.
And what may be to-morrow's cross
I never seek to find;
My Father says, "Leave that to me,
And keep a quiet mind."

Anonymous

p. 52

Be Still My
Soul #97
all three verses

ISA. 14:24 page 1185 . . . ISAIAH 15

with a mass grave with those
in battle. You will descend
into the pit. ²⁰You will not be given
a proper burial, for you have de-
stroyed your nation and slaugh-
tered your people. Your son will
not succeed you as king. ²¹Kill the
children of this sinner! Do not let
them rise and conquer the land
to rebuild the cities of the world."
'I will ²²This is what the LORD Al-
mighty says: "I, myself, have risen
against him! I will destroy his chil-
dren and his children's children,
so they will never sit on his throne.
²³I will make Babylon into a deso-
late land, a place of porcupines,
filled with swamps and marshes. I
will sweep the land with the
broom of destruction. I, the LORD
Almighty, have spoken!"

A Message about Assyria

The LORD Almighty has sworn
this oath: "It will all happen as I
have planned. It will come about
according to my purposes. ²⁵I will
break the Assyrians when they are
in Israel; I will trample them on
my mountains. My people will no
longer be their slaves. ²⁶I have a
plan for the whole earth, for my
mighty power reaches throughout
the world. ²⁷The LORD Almighty
has spoken—who can change his

14:32 Hebrew Zion.

ISA. 14:26,27

plans? When his hand moves,
who can stop him?"

A Message about Philistia

²⁸This message came to me the
year King Ahaz died:

²⁹Do not rejoice, you Philis-
tines, that the king who attacked
you is dead. For even though that
whip is broken, his son will be
worse than his father ever was.
From that snake a poisonous
snake will be born, a fiery serpent
to destroy you! ³⁰I will feed the
poor in my pasture; the needy
will lie down in peace. But as for
you, I will wipe you out with fam-
ine. I will destroy the few who
remain.

³¹Weep, you Philistine cities,
for you are doomed! Melt in fear,
for everyone will be destroyed. A
powerful army is coming out of
the north. Each soldier rushes
forward ready to fight. ³²What
should we tell the enemy messen-
gers? Tell them that the LORD has
built Jerusalem,* and that the
poor of his people will find ref-
uge in its walls.

A Message about Moab

15 This message came to me
concerning Moab:
In one night your

19.

Romans 8:38-39

page 1887... ROMANS 9

raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us.

³⁵Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? ³⁶(Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. ³⁹Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's Selection of Israel

9 In the presence of Christ, I speak with utter truthfulness—I do not lie—and my conscience and the Holy Spirit

confirm that what I am saying is true. ²My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. ⁴They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's special children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave his law to them. They have the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. ⁵Their ancestors were great people of God, and Christ himself was a Jew as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.*

⁶Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to the Jews? No, for not everyone born into a Jewish family is truly a Jew! ⁷Just the fact that they are descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted,"* though Abraham had other children, too. ⁸This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. It is the children of the promise who are

8:36 Ps 44:22. 9:5 Or *May God, who rules over everything, be praised forever. Amen.* 9:7 Gen 21:12.

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demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God

²²It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah.* ²³He was at the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The Jewish leaders surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is what I do in the name of my Father. ²⁶But you don't believe me because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them away from me, ²⁹for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. So no one can take them from me. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

³¹Once again the Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill him. Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many things to help the people. For which one

of these good deeds are you killing me?"

³³They replied, "Not for any good work, but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, have made yourself God."

³⁴Jesus replied, "It is written in your own law that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!'"* ³⁵And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people, who received God's message, were called 'gods,' ³⁶why do you call it blasphemy when the Holy One who was sent into the world by the Father says, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. ³⁸But if I do his work, believe in what I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will realize that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

³⁹Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. ⁴⁰He went beyond the Jordan River to stay near the place where John was first baptizing. ⁴¹And many followed him. "John didn't do miracles," they remarked to one another, "but all his predictions about this man have come true." ⁴²And many believed in him there.

John 14:6

page 1589 . . . MATTHEW 7

How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

⁶"Don't give what is holy to unholy people.* Don't give pearls to swine! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

Effective Prayer

~~⁷"Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. ⁸For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. ⁹You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.~~

The Golden Rule

¹²"Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

John 3:7 Divine Imperative

The Narrow Gate

¹³"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell* is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it.

Math.
7:13
14

The Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really wolves that will tear you apart. ¹⁶You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You don't pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles. ¹⁷A healthy tree produces good fruit, and an unhealthy tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced.

7:6 Greek Don't give the sacred to dogs. 7:13 Greek The way that leads to destruction.

Kristin Armstrong

7 Time Winner of Tour de France

EX WIFE OF Lance Armstrong

4/24

DAY 115

Happily Ever AFTER

└ SEEK HIGHER GROUND

If sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

PROVERBS 1:10

22

#4
It's easy to be misled by people who know your weaknesses and to revert back to familiar patterns. People who knew the old you prefer to keep you defined by the old you. It makes them feel better about their own rationalization or lack of progress, and it eliminates the need to understand why and how you have changed. We cannot escape the temptations of the world, nor can we defeat them through our own strength.

Choosing to walk with God is a series of choices. It is submitting, every day, over and over, remaining in a holy state of dependence at all times. We don't have to fight the enemy of sin. We merely need to resist him and allow the Lord to fight on our behalf.

We will never be tempted beyond what we can handle; we will always be given an escape route. Watch for the exit signs and be ready to move.

in Moses' words, "to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you" (Deut. 8:16, NIV).

Luke tells us that Jesus healed ten lepers who requested it. "Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they?'" (Luke 17:15–17).

Gratitude is an attitude! Patriotism is a form of gratitude. I am reminded of what it cost in shed blood for me to live in a free country. If those who died were on parade, the line would circle the globe.

Gratitude is also the oil in the machinery of interpersonal relationships. At our spring couples' conferences this year, I had participants write a tribute after each of the four sessions.

In the first session they wrote a tribute to their mates.

In the second session they wrote a tribute to their children.

In the third session they wrote a tribute to their parents.

In the fourth session they wrote a tribute to God.

That exercise gave those attending a renewed appreciation for one another and for God.

Independence

Another roaming beast we want to fence out is a spirit of independence. If we do not learn dependence upon God, we may end up with a hip out of joint like Jacob. We will be making the rest of the trip leaning on the top of a staff. We can be so stubborn and bull-headed at times. God then must take us through the breaking process.

Scott and Janina Walker are hosts for one of my home Bible

studies. I was touched one evening as Scott shared his testimony: "At age thirty-eight my life was out of control. I was drinking heavily. My marriage and my employment were in jeopardy. Midlife transition was rapidly becoming midlife crisis. I never studied God's Word and seldom prayed. When I did pray, it was mostly the 911 type. I had abdicated my role as the spiritual leader of my family.

"I knew the Lord had been knocking on my heart's door for many years, but I stubbornly refused to respond. Instead, I attended church, occasionally dropped money in the offering plate, contributed to worthy community causes, and patted myself on the back for being a better husband and father than most other guys I knew.

"Outwardly, I was cruising along thinking I was a pretty neat guy because of my achievements. My athletic abilities had paid for my undergraduate and graduate education, and my business skills had landed some great employment opportunities. My wife, son, and daughter were in good health. Any onlooker would think I had it made.

"But inwardly my life had jumped the tracks. My marriage relationship with Janina was deteriorating. Soon I became restless and discontented with my job. Pride and selfishness were pushing me to the breaking point.

"Then six years ago, in my hour of deepest need, another couple invited Janina and me to attend Don Anderson's Bible study in a nearby home. Janina had already sensed a spiritual void in her life and she really wanted to go. After she kept prodding me, I finally but reluctantly said, "Well, I'll go with you just once."

"At first I thought, *Why should I go to a Bible study? I haven't done anything bad—like murder, rape, or robbery. I'm a good guy.* Although I agreed to attend just to placate my wife, little did I

know that God was planning a divine appointment with me.

"That night the Lord began showing me I was living in spiritual darkness. Again, I felt Him knocking at my heart's door. Right then with some fear and trepidation, I opened it. Through God's Word I began to see myself as a sinner in need of a Savior. What a difference Jesus Christ began to make in my life! By God's grace I am a new creation.

"My personal encounter with Christ has revolutionized my home and my work. All the energy I once expended in resisting Him is now focused on pursuing Him and His will by the reading of His Word."

Scott's story reminds me of David's words, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Ps. 51:17 NIV).

Hannah Hurnard, in her little book *Mountain of Spices*, puts it this way:

In acceptance lieth peace,
 O my heart be still;
 Let thy restless worries cease
 And accept his will.
 Though this test be not thy choice,
 It is his—therefore rejoice.

In his plan there cannot be
 Ought to make thee sad:
 If this is his choice for thee,
 Take it and be glad.
 Make from it some lovely thing
 To the glory of thy King.
 Cease from sighs and murmurings,
 Sing his loving grace,