

5. TIMES OF TROUBLE

1 Kings 19

Elijah faced a very difficult time in his life. Jezebel had promised to kill him because he had killed the prophets of Baal. God helped Elijah and sent him on his way to Mount Horeb. Elijah was feeling very sorry for himself, but God knew what Elijah needed, as we will see in a moment.

First, let's think about our own lives. If we live long enough, we will also have times of trouble. It probably won't be like Elijah -- having someone wanting to kill us. Examples of times of trouble we could face in the future are:

1. If we live long enough, someone we love very much will die. It might be a grandparent or someone even closer to us.
2. We could have money problems. A parent might lose a job.
3. Our best friend could move. We might feel that we don't have any good friends living close to us any more.



No matter what happens, we need to realize that God will be with us **if** we do what He tells us to do in the Bible. God won't speak to us like He did to Elijah, but God **does** speak to us every time we read His Word, the Bible. The more we study, the more we know about what God wants us to do with our lives.

When Elijah was living in a cave on Mount Horeb, God asked him what he was doing. Elijah replied, "I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only am left, and they seek my life, to take it away" (1 Kings 19:10).

God told Elijah to stand on the mount. God sent a very strong wind, then an earthquake and finally fire. But God did not speak to Elijah in these powerful ways. Instead, God chose to speak to Elijah in a very quiet voice. Elijah put his cloak around his face. God again asked him what he was doing there. Elijah repeated his complaint and said again that he was the only one left to serve God.

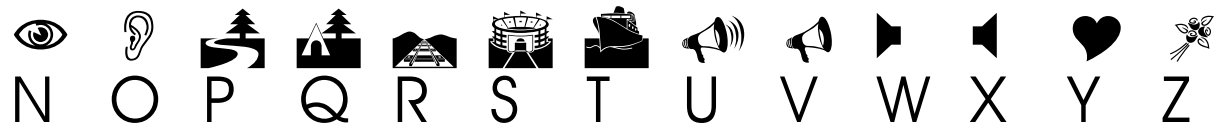
God gave Elijah three jobs to do: (1) Anoint Hazael to be the king of Syria; (2) Anoint Jehu to be the king of Israel; and (3) Anoint Elisha to be the prophet who would some day take Elijah's place.

Then God told Elijah, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal and every mouth which hath not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18).

When we think there are not very many people who are trying to do what God wants, we need to remember the 7,000 in Elijah's time. There are many today who love God and want to obey Him. God will help Christians in our times of trouble if we ask Him when we pray. He won't do a miracle, but He will be with us and help us. Sometimes we may need to talk to a parent, Bible teacher, elder or another Christian who can help us with our problems.

There are times when we can be much happier if we just look for things we can do to serve God. It might be something as simple as obeying our parents and cleaning our rooms. Maybe we can cheer our mothers by helping set the table, cook a meal or fold some clothes. There could be a new student in Bible class who needs us to be friendly and ask him or her to come back again. Perhaps an older person in the congregation is sick and could use some cheering up with a card or phone call. Mom might even let us make some cookies to take to the Nursing Home or to the home of a sick or elderly person.





Use the code to read this verse from the Psalms:



Match each word at the top with a description below.

_____ 1. Jezebel

_____ 2. Horeb

_____ 3. Bible

_____ 4. Earthquake

_____ 5. Cloak

_____ 6. Elisha

_____ 7. Prophets

_____ 8. Elijah

A. What were Elijah and Elisha?

B. God speaks to us through this today.

C. He thought he was the only one left serving God.

D. God showed Elijah fire, wind and what else?

E. This person wanted to kill Elijah.

F. God had Elijah go to this mountain.

G. The person who would take Elijah's place.

H. When God spoke to Elijah in a very quiet voice, Elijah wrapped this around his face.

Unscramble the words on the left, then match them to the correct description below.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| _____ 1. e e e l j b z | _____ |
| _____ 2. b o h e r | _____ |
| _____ 3. b b e l i | _____ |
| _____ 4. k a q e e h r t u a | _____ |
| _____ 5. k c a l o | _____ |
| _____ 6. l h a s e i | _____ |
| _____ 7. p s p o h t e r | _____ |
| _____ 8. h j e i a l | _____ |

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What do you think you could do this week to make someone happy?