

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETREAT

9-10 January 2026

Theme: "Strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man" Ephesians 3:16

Text: 1 Kings 19

REVIEW OF 1 KINGS 17-18

1. Raised to be a servant (prophet) of God

1 King 17

- a) Confronting King Ahab
- b) Confined to Solitude
- c) Confidence in the Lord and His leading developed

2. Readied for Greater Works

1 Kings 18

- a) Obadiah risked his life to care for 100 prophets
- b) Elijah executed hundreds of Baal prophets
- c) He had to be prepared for his significant prophetic ministry

3. Revival and Revitalisation

1 Kings 19

- a) Revival was needed
- b) Revitalisation process
- c) Renewal of heart, mind and spirit must be found

REVENGE OF JEZEBEL THREATENED

¹And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

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

³And when he saw *that*, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.

1 Kings 19:1-3

1. Jezebel informed

Ahab informed Jezebel that Elijah had executed the Baal prophets 1 Kings 19:1

2. Fury of Jezebel

Jezebel was furious and sent a messenger to warn Elijah that she would kill him

3. Elijah's reaction:

- a) This was unexpected
- b) He was overwhelmed by fear
- c) He fled to Beersheba, Judah
- d) He left his servant there
 - i) He did not want to endanger his servant's life
 - ii) He withdrew from his ministry in Israel
 - iii) He had to fight the deep fears that threatened to overcome him

4. How could Elijah have reacted so badly?

- a) Being strong does not mean being invulnerable
- b) Success in ministry does not mean there are no personal weaknesses
- c) Success in ministry often comes with a high price:
 - i) Physical neglect
 - ii) Emotional stress
 - iii) Spiritual exhaustion
- d) The greatest problem would be powerful spiritual enemies

Cf Ephesians 6:10-18

A DEEPER GLIMPSE OF ELIJAH'S REACTION

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!"

1 Kings 19:4

1. Elijah did not stay in Beersheba
2. He went deep into the wilderness
3. His prayer to God
 - a) He prayed that he might die

b) His words:

i) "It is enough!"

ii) "Now, LORD, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!"

c) These are the words of:

i) A man struggling with deep fears of death (Cf Psalm 116)

ii) An exhausted person

iii) A person who is spiritually parched and weakened

REVIVAL WAS NEEDED

⁵Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise *and* eat."

⁶Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

⁷And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you."

⁸So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:5-8

1. Revival in the spiritual realm

a) Ministry of an angel

b) It would take someone greater than Elijah to help him be restored spiritually

c) An angel was sent by God to care for Elijah tenderly

2. Revival in the physical realm

a) A cake baked on coals

b) A jar of water

c) Elijah ate, drank and lay down to sleep

3. Repeat process

a) Angelic ministry

b) Physical provision

4. Strength returned

- a) He regained strength
- b) He journeyed to Horeb
- c) This was the mountain of God where Moses received his calling

REVITALISATION WAS NEEDED

⁹And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

1 Kings 19:9-10

1. Revival was needed

- a) Revival is often a specific thing
- b) It is for the moment but not unimportant

2. Review was important

- a) The word of the Lord came to Elijah
- b) God asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- c) Elijah's ministry reviewed
 - i) "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts"
 - ii) "For the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant"
 - iii) "Torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword."
 - iv) "I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." 1 Kings 19:10

3. Revitalisation was needed

- a) Elijah needed to be encouraged to speak to the Lord
 - i) He had withdrawn himself (But not to pray)
 - ii) He had asked to die
- b) Elijah's emotional state
 - i) He was dejected and felt defeated

- ii) He was forlorn and felt that he had failed
- c) Elijah's spiritual state
 - i) He felt he was too weak for the task God had given him
 - ii) Thus, he had fled from his place of ministry in Israel
 - iii) He had fled to Judah in the hope of finding safety
 - iv) He was unable to stay in the land of Israel to fulfil his calling

RENEWAL MUST BE FOUND

¹¹ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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;

¹² and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life"

1 Kings 19:11-14

1. God instructs Elijah

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." 1 Kings 19:11

2. God inspires Elijah

- a) His presence experienced
- b) Three manifestations
 - i) A great and strong wind
 - ii) An earthquake
 - iii) A fire

3. The fourth manifestation

"A still small voice" 1 Kings 19:12

- a) This was unexpected

- b) But Elijah heard the gentle voice of God
- c) His spiritual senses were being revived gently

4. Elijah heard the quiet voice of God

So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:13

- a) He sensed the presence of God
- b) God was speaking to him
- c) This was the needed experience to restore Elijah fully

5. Elijah expressed how he had felt

And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life"

1 Kings 19:14

- a) He had been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts
- b) Because the children of Israel had forsaken God's covenant
- c) The people had torn down His altars
- d) They had killed the prophets of God with the sword (Cf 1 Kings 19:10)
- e) Elijah felt that he was the only one left
- f) He knew that Jezebel had given orders to assassinate him
- g) He was overwhelmed by the fear of death

AN EXAMPLE OF STRUGGLING WITH DEATH

³ The pains of death surrounded me,
And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;
I found trouble and sorrow.

⁴ Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!"

⁵ Gracious *is* the LORD, and righteous;
Yes, our God *is* merciful.

⁶ The LORD preserves the simple;
I was brought low, and He saved me.

⁷ Return to your rest, O my soul,
For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸ For You have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears,
And my feet from falling.

⁹ I will walk before the LORD
In the land of the living.

¹⁰ I believed, therefore I spoke,
"I am greatly afflicted."

Psalm 116:3-10

1. Overwhelming feelings
2. Trouble and sorrow
3. Crying out to God in prayer
4. Exercising full trust in God

RETURNING TO MINISTRY

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael *as* king over Syria.

¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi *as* king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint *as* prophet in your place.

¹⁷ It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

¹⁸ Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

1 Kings 19:15-18

1. Elijah must find renewal

- a) In the Lord
- b) In the word given to him
- c) In the short retreat that he had at Mount Horeb

2. He must also be corrected

- a) He was not the only faithful servant of God left
- b) There were 7000 faithful people who had not bowed the knee to Baal

3. The complex ministry was explained and given

- a) Ministry in Syria
He was to anoint Hazael as the king of Syria
- b) Ministry in Israel
He was to anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as the next king of Israel
- c) Special ministry to groom a successor
 - i) Elisha was named
 - ii) He would succeed Elijah as the next prophet of God in Israel

4. A complex ministry

- a) The sword of Hazael
"It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael"
- b) The sword of Jehu
"Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu"
- c) "Elisha will kill"
Elisha would also be able to execute false prophets

5. The Menace of the false prophets in Israel

- a) They were supported by the King and Queen
- b) They must be stopped or the land would become even more corrupted
- c) Divine authority would be given to Hazael, Jehu and Elisha
- d) They would have God's approval to execute false prophets as Elijah did

RESTORATION OF ELIJAH

1. Elijah had Faltered but had not Failed

- a) But he was not a Failure
- b) He would not be cast aside
- c) Such was the grace and compassion of the Lord

2. Elijah's very human prayer

- a) To end his ministry
- b) To end his life
- c) They were not answered
- d) God did not even allude to them

3. Elijah was fully restored

- a) Physically
- b) Mentally
- c) Spiritually
- d) God saw to his full restoration

RETURNING TO MINISTRY

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So *Elisha* turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

1 Kings 19:19-21

1. Three tasks were given

2. Choosing the right task to fulfil

- a) Elijah singled out what he believed to be of greatest importance
- b) This was to train Elisha to be his successor as the next prophet of Israel

A GLIMPSE OF THE FAMILY OF ELISHA

1. Family of Elisha

- a) He came from a fairly wealthy family
- b) The family owned at least 12 oxen

2. Elisha was tilling the land with his men

- a) He was humble
- b) He was hardworking
- c) He was diligent
- d) He had good foundational and potential material

THE CALL OF ELISHA

1. Elijah passed by Elisha
2. He threw his mantle on Elisha
3. He did not say a word to Elisha
4. Would Elisha comprehend this action of Elijah?
5. Or would Elisha be clueless as to what it means to have Elijah's mantle thrown onto his shoulders?

THE RESPONSE OF ELISHA

And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" 1 Kings 19:20

- 1. He stopped working**
- 2. He figured out what Elijah had done**
- 3. He was being called to follow Elijah**
- 4. He had understood without Elijah saying a word**

- a) He was being tested
- b) He would not fail to respond correctly

5. He asked for permission to bid farewell to his parents

- a) Elisha was well-brought up
- b) He must do the right thing
- c) He must bid his parents farewell before following Elijah
- d) There would be no turning back from this call Elijah had given to him
- e) He must first ask for permission from Elijah, his new master

6. Elijah's gruff response

- a) He did not forbid Elisha
- b) Elisha may choose to do what he felt he must
- c) Elijah would be a challenging master-teacher to have as Elisha's mentor

BIDDING FAREWELL

So *Elisha* turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

1 Kings 19:21

1. A strong decision taken

- a) Elisha took his yoke of oxen (probably 2 oxen)
- b) The oxen's equipment was destroyed
- c) The team of oxen was killed
- d) The flesh was given to his people

2. A fond but firm farewell

- a) He had made a clear and definite choice
- b) He would become a disciple of Elijah

3. Elisha "became his servant"

- a) A wealthy and promising young man had turned from his place in society
- b) His family had servants with him yet he served in the field
- c) The young master had become a servant of Elijah
- d) God had called him to become the successor of Elijah

VITAL LESSONS FOR US TO PONDER OVER

1. How are we able to balance our life?

- a) Work
- b) Family
- c) Serving the Lord

2. Noting early signs of Distress

- a) Withdrawal
- b) Loss of spiritual interest and commitment
- c) Feelings of tiredness and despondency

3. Seek the Lord urgently

- a) Revival
- b) Revitalisation
- c) Renewal
- d) Restoration

4. The Restoration Process

- a) God is not limited to one process
- b) But all processes would take the following:
 - i) Waiting upon the Lord
 - ii) Word of God
 - iii) Will of man yielded to the Lord
 - iv) Wisdom of God to discern how He would restore us