

DRAMA BEFORE A CAVE

I KINGS 19:9-13

Introduction

We would first want to set the stage, get all the properties ready for the drama begins and before the curtain is drawn. We get Elijah housed in a cave at Mount Horeb, which is called the Mount of God, because on it God formally manifested His glory. Perhaps this was the cave, or cleft of rock in which Moses was hidden when the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed his name. Exodus 33:22. We remember reading in Jeremiah 9:2-"Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men." This is exactly what happened to Elijah in setting the stage, getting ready for this drama. The prophets efforts to restore Israel to the faith of their fathers had apparently failed. The mighty miracle on Carmel did not produce the fruits desired. Jezebel wanted to murder the prophet, so he left fleeing for his own life. He thought himself forsaken of God and he closed himself in a cave on Mount Horeb. As it

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has been shaken out of his sinful security for the rest of his life, like the prodigal son when he heard a voice within his heart speaking to him, he comes to himself and returns to his father's house and finds a welcome. But alas, how many among us are there of whom they bear the name of a Christian. It is to be feared that they are wandering in the wilderness out of the way of God. Oh that today this question, might be their question. "What doest thou here?"

Here doubtful whether or not this was a voice that was loud, but perhaps God spoke through the conscience, through the Holy Spirit. Have we never heard this question in our secret souls? Perhaps when we stood in the way of sinners, or we sat in the seat of the scornful, we heard this question in the quietness of our souls. The question suggests that Elijah perhaps should have been employed somewhere else, that he should have been carrying on some great work for God in the kingdom where he was prophet. This is God's visit to the prophet. This first