

S. W. Ep. 27, 75 P. M. WXRI  
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## ELIJAH'S NIGHT IN THE DESERT

I Kings 19:4-5

In our night scenes from the Bible we follow Elijah who 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 away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him. "

It is night time in the desert of Arabia. He's gone a day's journey across the sand ridges, and here lies a living man all alone on the bare earth under the shelter of a low tree.

The prologue to this story is one of solitude. If it were daytime and the distant shore and the green fields of grazing flocks, and human homes could be seen. It would have been different. But the aspect in this desert spot is that of loneliness. It is made more oppressive and painful by the presence of this weary prostrate man.

The stars are all coming out upon and across the Heavens. And it is a clear night. The whole circuit seems to be crossing the entire earth, the stone ridges, and it is very much like being on a ship out on the deck in mid-ocean. There is no breeze, no sound, no voice, no footsteps in the air. It is so silent that the man can hear even the beating of his own heart. And he seems to be without spiritual resources and help.

Now Ahab was the king in the North. He had married Jezebel. She was a devoted Baal worshipper. She was determined to destroy the worship of

Jehovah. And she had taken measures to persecute the followers of the Lord. And Elijah had appeared on the scene. And now coming directly from this experience that he had with her, (she) has 450 prophets of Baal. She had 400 prophets Astarte - all were supported by the government. By the royal family.

Now this man finds himself on the desert.

I will divide this study tonight under three heads. First we have the prophets prediction. Second, the prophets proposition. And Third, the prophets panic.

## I. THE PROPHET'S PREDICTION

The prophet Elijah is to make a great prophesy and make his first appearance in Chapter 17 - Verse (1).

When we come to look at this prophet he is now on the ground in utter despair (wishing) that he might sleep in the solitude and that he might never wake up again. He is (far) from the home of men and domestic life. And he would gladly give up his body to the drifting sands that they might cover his bones.

He has (had) enough of life and with all of its bitter disappointments, and the world is going to give up to the wrong he says, and the falsehood and misery about him.

He would rather die in darkness, than ever to face and hear another

voice of a fellow man. It was a dreadful thing for the human heart to sink into such depth. And such wretchedness and such despair. And as we think of his great problem in life, and we think of his reasoning and his mind, and his sensitive heart - we cannot but survey the great ocean of human guilt and misery and listen to the moans of the distant ages as they roll along.

Whoever stood face to face with the dark realities as this prophet, without shrinking for a moment. It was an awful thing, in life - it was not a little thing. But here he is a great generous, sensitive soul. And there comes an hour of affliction, and darkness - and he says, let the day perish wherein I was born.

Who was this weary, broken-spirited man?

Making this dreadful prayer in the desert. It is Elijah. The greatest and the mightiest of all the prophets of Israel. After Moses, he was one man who was stamped as being a great man, with great hope for the Hebrew nation.

Up to the time of his strange flight in the desert, he seems the very incarnation of courage and of fire. There is no threat of peril that puts him to fear. No temptation could turn him aside from his duty. But now he is giving himself up to complaint. Now this is why we review his remarkable history tonight to discover how to deal with our own despondency. Our own discouragements that we have.

17:1 Chapter 17 - V. 1 - His first appearance as he shows himself suddenly at Samaria, in the palace of Ahab, the king. He stands in the presence of the monarch. Lifts his hand, and he solemnly swears by the living God that

there shall be neither rain nor dew in the land of Israel for years to come except according to his word.

17:2-6

The prophet's prediction is there will be a drought that will come. It was a time of rebuke and blasphemy. To reprove the nation's sins. And he seems like divine anger as he bursts on the scene. And he delivers his word of doom. And then Elijah disappears. The message which he brings is as abrupt and awful as the appearance of the messenger.

Everything seems to be mysterious. He steps on the scene and makes his prediction. And the historians and those who wrote the Bible, tell us nothing about the parents of Elijah. His name is announced without a father or a mother. Without the beginning of days or the end of days. It has now been 2800 years that he has disappeared without dying. And the downt in Israel to this day still expect his return. They still place a seat for him in the solemn feast. They set the door open for the prophet to come in.

Just a word about Tishbite which has often been applied to his name. Gives us no information, and no body knows what it means. One thing only can we be certain, in respect to his origin - he came from the wild and mountainous land of Gilead. And the whole region there was tossed with such fantastic things as peaks and ridges, and the stormy sea.

It was the strong-hold of robbers. It was a place of wandering shepherds who pitched their tents. The natives who lived there were herdsmen who kept their flocks with sphere and bow by day and night. They roamed the valley and the pastures and kept watch over their flocks.

It was in this land that Jacob wrestled all night, with the mysterious stranger. And the Spirit of the Lord, in this same place came upon Jephthah.

- to offer strokes with battle axes. Whatever the want of any age, God is sure to find men to meet it's demands.

He needs somebody that is fresh and fearless from the mountains of Gilead. And Elijah is that man. And he comes, just like Moses, to deliver the children of Israel. With a guiding pillar of cloud and fire. And he brings the message and Elijah knew all of these great leaders of God. Now the priest of Baal has set up worship under every green tree and of course the people were taught to respect these pagan ways. But Elijah still believed that the sun and the clouds, the hills and the valleys, were in the hands of Jehovah God of Israel. He still remembered how Moses smoked the rock in the wilderness and the living waters gushed out. How Joshua commanded the sun to stay still from going down. And how Samuel prayed and the Lord sent thunder and rain in the time of harvest.

But here is a wicked king. He deceived people. And he must be brought to judgement. And Elijah suddenly presents himself. He comes before him dressed in a shabby sheepskin, and this is his covering day and night, from storm and sunshine.

17:1 Chapter 17 - Verse 1 - The word and whoe of God's truth. It shall not rain these years but according to my word. The suddenness and the declaration of it, startled the monarch. And of course, he did not recover from that surprise. And from the appearance of this prophet, who came with this prediction.

*Went in with up camp in a dust storm west of Jordan - ch. 17:1-2 - had clouds -*  
Having delivered his message, he has passed on unchallenged. And Elijah has locked up the treasures of the heavens and has carried off the key.  
*Bronght Struck area west of Jordan - A. Riddle (me) told me situation so Bad Baby cry without shelling tear / Haven't had rain so long Baptism or sprinkling, individuals may come cloth. Protection against Rain checks!*

Dust Bowl 1930's erosion

wind tossed the dry top soil

area - Texas to north Dakota, land mostly flat - few trees.

Rich soil at one time.

abandoned farm, too much plowing broke up the top soil - leaving it free to be carried off by the wind.

light sandy soils are easiest to cultivate - water, & air penetrate. Rotation of crops soil management.

Nebraska Homestead act - system 1862 man could buy 160 Acres of land for \$1.25 per acre provide live a farm 6 months if lived there 5 yrs he could have it for small fee \$20 to \$34.00.

Next 20 yrs - several million settlers east & immigrants from Europe.

II. THE PROPHET'S PROPOSITION

Now we come to the pagan Jezebel as she makes full proof of the power of their gods. They have altars and they have priests. And they go through their sacrifices. And they worship the sun and the moon. And the hosts of Heaven.

Now against all of these, the prophet is going to make a proposition. He has already predicted the drought and it has taken place. But now in this proposition, Elijah is going to stand alone.

If they can make the Heavens give rain, or if the ordinary course of nature goes one, of itself - and the Word of the Lord has not come by Elijah. If Baal can clothe the wheels with a rich harvest, then God is not God.

Elijah must have been a man of great faith. To be willing to stake his very life on the truthfulness of what he spoke.

*17:17*  
Chapter 17 - Verse 7 - Coming over from Gilead to Samaria, he passed Enon with gushing fountains of water. He crosses the fertile brooks. And the marshy plains of Bethshan. And he looks to the palace of Ahab and he could survey there the hills of Samaria. The woods of Carmel. And the plains of Jezreel. And he could look for every winding brook and every green hill had been, and every grove. And all of these would say to his doubting heart, not this land, it cannot be burned. Drought nor wasted with famine. No word of thine can forbid the Heavens to give showers or the earth to bring forth fruit. It cannot be the word of the Lord which puts the rain and the dew in your power.

So would Elijah's doubting heart say to him - all the way as he came down

because his mind was beholding the sovereignty of God.

17:9

17:9 - When he went to the widow of Zarephath. The long journey barefoot and alone in the burning desert. In every place he felt himself to be the servant of the most high.

We need to cultivate this feeling that every place we stand before the Lord, in every plan and work, we are doing the will of the most high. In every trial we are comforted by his word.

17:12

*handfull of meal v.15 sustained many days*  
Everything is just as honorable which God commands to be done. Every service and every sacrifice which he requires has it's own rewards.

You remember the first murderer went out ~~from~~ the presence of the Lord - all the wrong doing in this world tonight is (departure from God). The rebellious wayward child leaves the father's house. In the midst of temptations, the gay and thoughtless people forsake God's church. The fool says in his heart there is no God. And he is left to believe these falsehoods. So all evil in life and character tells us that only the pure in heart shall see God and are safe. And so they go out in God's presence.

18:2

But Elijah said, lo, God is here. The king of kings. And he came at the beginning of the drought, remember, and in Chapter 18:2, and the famine. He has uttered the words to the presence of the king and gone.

Now there is (sore famine) in the land, in Samaria. And Ahab tells his pagan queen that she only wishes that she had heard him too. And Jezebel says if she had heard him, he never would have uttered such a threat against Samaria. By and by the shepherds find that the brooks are getting lower among the hills. The plowman is startled to see the earth dry in the bottom



of the furrow. The vineyards are turning to pulp. The sky is increasing. And there is anxiety every morning. A whole ~~year~~ passes and another year begins. No rain. A second year passes, and still there is no rain. A third year completed, day and night, and there is nothing but dust and dry haze. The bright stars fill the sky at night. And the flame of sacrifice burns red. And now the cries, the parched earth that was once fruitful in the fields, now like ashes - and the hot wind drains the moisture from the leaves, of everything - each living tree. The grass withers. Harvest turns to stubble. The groves give up and give no shade. And the trees of the forest stand like skeletons. The heart-broken shepherds lead their panting herds from valley to valley in search of water.

The famine enters the homes of men. The feeble and the friendless die, first. And the living, in their despair have neither heart nor strength to bury the dead. The travelers drag by fainting. The mother turns in horror. There are shrunken faces. And they were once beautiful babies. There is no food. And they will cry and cry. And the drought dries up all the fountains.

The terrible calamity that was brought upon them to save them from the worst evil of denying and forsaking their father's God.

Healthful seasons and abundant harvests can do little for individuals or nations. Once they have lost faith in truth. Whatever it may cost them to recover that faith, they had better suffer it all than live without God and prosper for a time in wickedness and unbelief.

There is something worse for individuals and nations than a drought. It is a worse thing to lose faith in God in truth, and in duty.

It is a worse thing to give up to the love of money, or to the ease of life and pleasure. And to give over to these treasures - if only our consciences are clean - our hearts right before God. Earthly calamity will prove a blessing. Trial and suffering will make us strong.

The favor of God is the best thing to enjoy.

Elijah believed and was strong in his faith. And this was terrible years.

18:1 18:1- And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

18:5-2 Ahab & Obadiah searching for water  
And there was the word of the Lord that he must obey. He had been out-lawed, hated, and hunted down by all the power of the king for three years. The whole nation had been put under oath, and yet the prophet could be no where found. And it was without explanation or apology that Elijah now comes forth.

18:14 18:14 - The messenger says, behold, Elijah is here. If Ahab wants to see him, he can come. The prophet will not go to him. The king makes haste to come, Elijah demands a solemn confrontation. And the prophet makes a great proposition.

For three years Ahab had been sending spies to hunt him out. But now he is going to meet him face to face.

18:20 v. 20 - Chapter 18 - He says we will have a great assembly. He makes a proposition to them. The place of gathering is going to be on Mt. Carmel.

And we are going to have out there on that great high plain above Jezreel, and he invites Jezebel's 850 prophets of Baal to come. And to march out and we'll have one great assembly.

And so they are there by the going down of the sun. On the slope of the mountain.

18:21 V. 21 - And he says we are going to make a great and (an awful decision) that must be made on tomorrow. And when the day was fully come, and the morning sun struggled, before that multitude, for here is Elijah - the awful look of that man with a mantel - the (one man) who was able to come in and be defenseless alone in the whole kingdom.

On the high ridge of a mountain the altar of Jehovah had once stood. But it had been thrown down in full view and a great temple to Baal at Jezreel had been built. And the idol worship around Samaria - and the prophet comes. And takes his place here, and the first word that comes to the lips of this man as he gets near them, in the open light of the day.

V. 21 - He says, as they are eager to lister, "how long ye halt thee between two opinions." If Jehovah be God, follow him. Baal, then follow him.

No (one) in the crowd dared to utter a word of disapproval. And soon there were some altars being built. And the word was good and people accepted it.

18:25 V. 25 - The priest of (Baal) cannot escape the trial. And the proposition. Their (altar) has a victim on it. And they began to pray, oh Baal, hear us. And of course, they leave up and down, tossing and tarrying. And in their many colored fantastic robes, they were furious. They were (frantic) in their cries. And now the noon comes on and no voice or no answer is heard.

And there is tear-stained faces and blood on their garments. And fantastic excitement.

All the while, Elijah stands alone waiting - and knowing full well that when this deceit and cunning has run out, that he will - or they will tear him to pieces on the spot. If he did not give them a chance. He encourages them to call a little louder and to wake their Gods up. But their vain repetitions did not succeed.

18:30 V. 30 - Elijah takes his turn, lifts his voice, and with the calm solemn prayer on his heart, he rebuilds the altar with twelve stones.

18:31 + 35-36-37 V. 31 - The hour of the evening sacrifice. The calm and the simplicity of his prayer in contrast to the cries of the priests of Baal.

18:38 V. 38 - No sooner had he spoken than the rushing flames descended and they came from Heaven like lightning. The people from afar watching it from Jezreel and Samaria could see the startle at the sight. The pillar of fire that led the children of Israel in the wilderness - had descended upon Mt. Carmel. The multitude of the mountain, people fell on their face to the ground. Saying, Jehovah is God. Jehovah is God.

18:40 V. 40 - In excitement, they rush upon the false prophets. Carry them down, and Elijah himself slays them with his own hand. So the proposition has been carried out and met.

18:41 V. 41 - The people have confessed their God and the false gods prophets have been slain. Now it is time for rain to come upon the parched earth. The revival met the return of life. And Elijah goes up on top of the mountain. V. 42 He was still in prayer. And of course, his servant looked six times over

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the sea. And finally he sees the cloudless sky. And the sun has gone down. And the seventh time he looks, he sees a (little hand full of mist) on the horizon like a sea bird, shaking his wings. And Elijah gives the sign and he says, this is it.

18:46

V. 46 - The prophet warns Ahab to hasten to the plain and mount his chariot and drive swiftly.

Less the (blinding storm) and the swollen stream make it impossible for him to reach Jezree that night and to get back to Samaria.

The terrible excitement of the exhausting day, Elijah girt his mantel about him, and it was about 15 miles across the plain. Darkness and the wind, the mire, and the deluge of rain. And the flying horses of the king. Went to the gates of the city.

Now Elijah would not go in but stayed outside the wall. In the midst of the storm, for his night's rest.

III. THE PROPHET'S PANIC

Job, 3:1 - Never Born  
and Before Birth

19:2

Now we have had the prophet predicting the drought. And then the prophet making a proposition. And now we have the prophet's panic. Outside the city walls, he is going to spend the night. And he has already out-distanced the king and put him to shame. By beating him, as he ran before his chariot. And after having faced the king and the false prophets and the people, that very night the darkness and the storm, a messenger came out from the city.

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-15-  
one hundred Percent down, Nothing due to Pay!

19:2 Chapter 19:2 and roused the old prophet from his slumber and said,  
Jezebel has said that she is going to make you as the prophets of Baal.

19:3 In V. 3 - He rises like one terrified and in panic. With an awful dream. He is cold from the rain and the mud and he is tired from the day - and he flees for his life over the hills of Samaria.

He does not dare to rest until he is in the farthest town in the kingdom of Judah. Without a guide or provisions, he goes on his way. There is no living thing that moves about him. The horrible wilderness.

19:4 V. 4 - He comes into the desert and it is all silent and the sun goes down. The stars come out at night and he is in a solitary place by a ragged old tree. And beneath it, he stretches out weary and hungry. And there he says, in prostration I would rather die.

Peter drew the sword against the multitude, to defend his Master. But in the next hour, he was frightened out of all faith and courage. And at the finger of a little maid.

Paul was caught up in the third Heaven in a vision. But then soon thereafter he was praying in supplication for the deliverance of some thorn in the flesh.

✓ The Christian pilgrim in Bunyan's Progress lodged in the Palace Beautiful that was called Peace. And in the morning he was in Immanuel's land, and from the housetop he started forth on his journey. With armour as his proof that he had gone a little way before he said, he began to be afraid and he did not know whether he should go back or press on.

John

3:11#6-

F.B. Myers

How to stay out of the desert - Rules  
1. Daily - Absolute consecration of yourself to God  
alone - "I will give myself over"

imagined next 25 yrs. -  
of your life -

It is our business in life to show ourselves true men. Righteousness, hating evil, willing to

- 2. Tell God that you are willing to be made willing to do what He wants you to do
- 3. Trust X to do His part perfectly in your life.
- 4. Confess sin Instantly -
- 5. Submit to Christ Every Temptation AND Every Care.

There is uncomprisable strength - which begins with the confession of our weakness. There is a pure and a sacred joy which springs from the deepest sorrow and suffering.

- 6. Kept in touch with X. Read the Word & good Books
- 7. Expect the Holy Spirit to work with, and for you!

The greatest loss which we have most need, to deplore us - is the loss of earnestness to be right. It is the loss of strength to resist temptation. The loss of faith in the everlasting principles. This is the great loss, that we need to worry about.

The poorest man in this world has something to live and something to die for. So long as he preserves his integrity, and his conscience.

Young man

in loyal man - girl killed by tar road - named on road -  
man suicide - Hotel - Real Paper - J. Hutton & Bros. - should go -  
The most successful man in the world is the man who gives himself

earnestly to the cause of God and never delays to meet with obedience. Never say it is enough, this is a great lesson to be learned and taught. As long as God says he will never forsake the soul that trusts in him.

After John Hutton preached a sermon once entitled "The Breaking Point - What Next?" It had two points. First, it is always possible to hold on a little longer. And second, you never know what God has waiting for you around the corner. This is the word that brings grim purpose into the

heart and the life of individuals. Yes, God ministered, even to Elijah in this time. With food and rest, a change of scenery, a meeting with God

and communion with God. And so this prophet who went to the palace and made a proposition, and then made a reposition, and panicked in the end, brings instruction to us to toil on, pray on, hope on, and always believe that while life lasts, there is something to do to prepare yourself.

19:5

19:15-16

19:18

and children  
that busy

around Havel King Syria; John David; Elisha West Prophet

from Mt. Gilead. Into the gorge of Jordan and then climbed the western hills. And across the valley of Jezreel. To speak his word to Ahab. But he is resisting his doubt and he obeyed the divine voice. Which sent him forth at the peril of life to stand before Ahab. If it cost him his life, he would show the people that Jehovah was God, in Israel.

We must defer our obedience to every shadow of uncertainty. And every possibility of mistake is removed. If we wait for all the doubts of our faith, to be moved, then we will never accomplish anything. We must obey the duty and the voice as it speaks. And so he speaks for God out of that impulse.

17:2  
17:2 - The word of the Lord comes to us all. And it is the message of light and salvation. If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities - the light may be withdrawn and the path may be left in darkness to us. No man can tell us how much he may lose by neglecting to comply with God's grace and God's spirit.

Many would give everything they have in the world only to be put back to a moment to hear again the call which they once heard and neglected.

If rejected, many have less force tomorrow to listen or to have a better opportunity or to have a more willing heart.

Nothing will help us in the discharge of duty than the feelings that Elijah always speaks of himself as standing before the Lord of hosts. Whether he is among the mountains of Gilead or the heights of Carmel, in the palace of Ahab. He is equally in the presence of Jehovah. And this is the thing that disturbed the king. He had no fear for a human monarch



I have heard the sick, the weary, the worn-out, the aged, the disappointment and those that give over to their feelings and these experiences like Elijah - who are depressed and have come to the point of being over-thrown. As you think tonight of the revolutionizing of nations. And men have found themselves as fugitives and they are ready to die in the desert. Failure and with bitterness.

We must make up our minds to this world. That the world can go on without us. God's work will prosper even when we are gone and it is in some body else's hands. The little vacancy that we may leave in our departure will be felt but it will be filled. As long as God keeps us in the world, it is for a great and a good purpose. And He will always give us something to do.

We have never done enough so long as there remains anything to be done. God has worked, worked for the aged, the afflicted, the suffering, helpless, poor.

The greatest work sometimes ever done is done by people - as the man of sorrows had not where to lay his head. The greatest success ever gained in the world was called a failure and yet it was a great victory.

When we are weary and discouraged, and the world seems like a desert, God's angels may come to minister to us.

Did you ever feel that in your own life that you could fling yourself down in despair and say, "it is enough". Elijah's night of despair in the desert after the long contest with the king and the back-sliding people made this man into a man that was able to go to Heaven in a chariot of fire.

*W. H. H. 12 you would of [unclear] touch him*  
 The chief end of a man is not success by the world's measurement.

The young disciple of Jesus today rejoices in the freshness of his first love. When he first finds the Master, he is ready to speak of his over-flowing joy. And he only wonders why all of the other people do not feel like he does. By the time he meets a repulse from some unexpected quarter, he feels a change and he distrusts his best conviction. Despondency becomes extreme and his joy leaves.

Here is a happy, healthy, prosperous (Christian in his business.) He gives his money and his time, and his efforts to Christ's cause. He is full of sunshine and hope. In every thing he under takes. By and by, he loses his health. Then his property changes. And soon, he is despondent and gloomy. And everything he judges with severity. And blames it on this or that. And he has fallen in the habit of saying, there is nothing to live for.

Here is a radiant youth with tireless energy, enlists as a soldier of the cross. But then he storms the strong-holds of sin. He had been blessed of God. But he finds the forces of the enemy too strong for him. By and by he loses his courage. And through distrust and suspicion, he finally settles down to (inactivity and complaint)

Here is an (aged Christian) labored for the Gospel many years. While the mind was active, the feelings warm, by and by his steps begin to falter. His eyes grow dim. The wheels of life move heavily. The voice does not ring clear. And he loses the magnetic power of drawing people to him. And he must stand aside and someone else must be put in his place. Someone else must fill his place. He must submit to see others increase and himself decrease. And infirmity in the closing years, there is darkness, he says with Elijah. It is enough, I have caused - I have ceased to be any use in the world. It is better that I should die than live.

And made him the deliverer of Israel in the days of the judges.  
In this wild region exiles and outlaws like David took refuge from his rebellious son Absalon.

Now whether Elijah lived in an exile way, we do not know. But he shared their homes and learned their habits of living. And he had no doubt met these bands of robbers. And he had watched all of this from the lonely hilltops and he had slept whether deadly serpents may have had their (dens). He had climbed these (rocky heights). He could (run) before the chariots without resting. And he could lead the way for horsemen on foot until horse and rider were weary of the race.

~~18170~~ Chapter 18 - V. 40 - (on the evening of a day of exhausting toil and terrible excitement, we discover that he - the prophet is remembered for building the (altar of God) and offering up the evening sacrifice. And then there slaying the 850 prophets of Baal with his own hands.

And yet the (deep loneliness) of such a life, Elijah looked upon himself as standing in the presence of the Lord of hosts. And the perils and hardships which he was exposed too. He never forgot his sacred commission.

He was kept apart and yet he was beaten down by the storms of life. And he had delivered the word of the Lord to the proud and the pagan queen and to the weak and wicked king. And his mission demanded stern speech. And in Elijah the message found the man.

(God) always (raises up a man) to fit the work that he has to be done. But he needs somebody to prepare ye the way of the Lord, he goes out and he finds that person who is willing. And sometimes there is need of men with the courage of heroes and the faith of martyrs to hold down thrones and temples