

# Elijah – A Man Like Us?

Jas. 5:16-18



Jas. 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

17 **Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And **he prayed again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

We have a tendency to look at a person like Elijah as though he is in a different spiritual class than we are, yet the Bible indicates that he was like you and me. The Greek word used here is as follows:

**Original Word:** ὁμοιοπαθής

**Transliteration:** homoiopathés

**Definition:** of like feelings or affections

**Usage:** of like feelings, having similar passions and feelings, of like infirmities. **(like passions)** <https://biblehub.com/greek/3663.htm>

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? **We also are men of like passions with you**, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Jas. 5:17 “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”

I. ELIJAH’S EXPERIENCE IN THE CONFRONTATION, 1 Kings 17:1-2

II. ELIJAH’S EXPERIENCE IN CHERITH, 17:3-7 (Cherith = "cutting")

III. ELIJAH’S EXPERIENCE IN THE CRUCIBLE, 1 Kings 17:8-24 (Zarephath = "refinery" cf. Lu. 4:25)

IV. ELIJAH’S EXPERIENCE IN THE CONFLICT, 1 Kings 18:1-46 (Mt. Carmel – cf. Lu. 9:54)

Remember....Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

We pick up the narrative in 1 Kings 19:1:

V. ELIJAH’S EXPERIENCE IN THE CAVE, 1 Kings 19:1-16

We will pick up the narrative from that point in 1 Kings 19:1:

- In spiritual warfare, when the battle’s over...we fight again!  
The battles take different forms.

A. THE RETALIATION, 19:1-2

## 1. The Report, v. 1

1 Kings 19:1 And **Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done**, and withal how **he had slain all the prophets** with the sword.

- Ahab made no mention of Elijah's God, nor of His power.
- Elijah gets the blame!

## 2. The Retaliation, v. 2

1 Kings 19:2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, **if I make not thy life as the life of one of them** by to morrow about this time.

- Jezebel planned to retaliate upon her perceived enemy – Elijah.

## B. THE RESPONSE, 19:3-4

### 1. Elijah Learns of the Threat, v. 3

1 Kings 19:3 And **when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life**, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

- The great man of prayer...did NOT PRAY!

Remember....Jas. 5:17 **“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**

- The great prophet, Elijah, like you and I, was vulnerable.

1 Cor. 10:12 Wherefore **let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

- Elijah, just after the great victory on Mt. Carmel, was now fleeing for his life.

Mt. 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.**

Heb. 2:1 Therefore **we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip.**



- We must constantly beware of our own vulnerability.

Heb. 3:12 **Take heed**, brethren, **lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.**

Remember....Jas. 5:17 **“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...”**

- Elijah headed for Israel’s border – Beersheba.

Beer-sheba = "well of the sevenfold oath"

“...from Dan even to Beersheba...” = found nine times in Old Testament

2. Elijah Leaves the Territory, v. 4a “But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness...”

3. Elijah Longs for Termination, v. 4b “...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.

- God did NOT answer that request!
- Elijah was tired, discouraged, and alone. He had had enough – “...It is enough...”
- No prayer + no fellowship = out of the will of God + discouragement and depression.

Remember....Jas. 5:17 “**Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are...**”

## C. THE REFUELING, 19:5-8

### 1. The Interruption, v. 5

1 Kings 19:5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

- The Lord made provision while Elijah was in the “permissive will” of God.
- The Lord made no mention of rebuke for Elijah’s fear.

## 2. The Indulging, v. 6

1 Kings 19:6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. **And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.**

## 3. The Interruption, v. 7

1 Kings 19:7 And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; **because the journey is too great for thee.**

- Running the race of life, we must be strengthened for the journey.

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which **strengtheneth me.**

#### 4. Invigoration, v. 8

1 Kings 19:8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and **went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.**



[http://jimmyakin.com/wp-content/uploads/dan\\_beersheba\\_overview.jpg](http://jimmyakin.com/wp-content/uploads/dan_beersheba_overview.jpg)

According to Google, the distance from Be'er-Sheba to Mt. Sinai is 260 miles.



<http://jimmyakin.com/2015/08/elijahs-journey-40-days-and-40-nights.html>

## D. THE REVELATION, 19:9-13

1. The Revelation of Location, v. 9 “...What doest thou here, Elijah?”
2. The Revelation of Loneliness, v. 10 “...I, only I only am left...”
3. The Revelation of the LORD, vs. 11-12

1 Kings 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, **the LORD passed by**, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake 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:

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



- Elijah had seen sensational answers to great prayers – no rain for 3½ years, then plenty of rain, and especially, fire from heaven at Mt. Carmel.
- The Lord revealed that He was not only the God of sensational events – “... the Lord was not in the wind...not in the earthquake...not in the fire...”
- The LORD was in “...a still small voice.”

#### 4. The Revelation of Lordship, v. 13

1 Kings 19:13 And it was so, **when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle**, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, **What doest thou here, Elijah?**

- The lesson for Elijah was learned – he needed to listen to the still small voice.

Psa. 46:10 **Be still, and know that I am God**: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

- Elijah needed to evaluate where he was and what he was doing...or not doing! – “...And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, **What doest thou here, Elijah?**”

## E. THE RETURN

### 1. The Pity-Party, v. 14

1 Kings 19:14 And he said, **I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts**: because 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.

## 2. The Plan, vs. 15-17

1 Kings 19:15 And **the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way** to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, **anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:**

16 And Jehu the son of **Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel:** and **Elisha** the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah **shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.**

17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

### 3. The Pointedness, v. 18

1 Kings 19:18 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.

- Twice, in verses 10 and 14, Elijah states that he is the only one left to honor God.
- Though not corrected immediately, Elijah finally gets rebuke by God.

## Conclusion

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

**2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**3 For consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**