



1



2

<sup>1</sup> Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." <sup>3</sup> And he saw and arose and went for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. <sup>4</sup> But he himself 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 my life, for I am not better than my fathers." <sup>5</sup> He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat."

3

<sup>6</sup> Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake *baked on* hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you." <sup>8</sup> So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

(1 Kings 19:1-8)

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## Elijah Recommissioned

### ➤ Overview

- he "saw" – in spite of what happened on Mt. Carmel nothing was going to change in Israel
- he is given a new, somewhat different vision of his ongoing ministry

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## Elijah Recommissioned

### 1. Elijah's Journey

- he is broken – he proves no more effective than his fathers in calling Israel to faithfulness
- like previously, the Lord supernaturally sustains and directs his journey
- in Moses-fashion he is directed to Horeb, the mountain of God

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## Elijah Recommissioned

➤ Principle:

*Spiritual blindness and idolatry is not overcome merely by displays of power and evidence*

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<sup>9</sup> Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup> He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." <sup>11</sup> So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD. And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking 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. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

8

<sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup> Then he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

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## Elijah Recommissioned

### 2. Elijah at Horeb

- his purpose at Horeb was to bring accusation against Israel for covenant-breaking
- he is shown that the Lord is associated with His word more than any other phenomena

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## Elijah Recommissioned

➤ Principle:

*The Lord's "unseen" work of judgment and grace continues through His word*

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<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; <sup>16</sup> and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup> It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. <sup>18</sup> Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

12

<sup>19</sup> So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him. <sup>20</sup> He left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" <sup>21</sup> So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

(1 Kings 19:15-21)

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## Elijah Recommissioned

### 3. Elijah's Commission

- the Lord commissions him to set apart three instruments of His covenant judgment
- in the midst of judgment, the Lord promises to preserve a remnant who will not "bow the knee to Baal"

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I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in *the passage about Elijah*, how he pleads with God against Israel? <sup>3</sup> "Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE." <sup>4</sup> But what is the divine response to him? "I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL." <sup>5</sup> In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to the election of grace. <sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

(Romans 11:1-6)

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## Elijah Recommissioned

### ➤ Principle:

*God saves through judgment as an act of His grace and mercy alone*

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