

A STILL SMALL VOICE. 1 KN. 19:11-18. 3/26/23. #52.

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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." 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."  
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1. The voice of God

- a. Elijah is fleeing from Jezebel
 - a1. After God sent fire down from heaven, Elijah had the false prophets executed
 - a2. Queen Jezebel threatened Elijah's life
- b. The Angel of the Lord refreshed Elijah under a broom tree near Beersheba
- c. Elijah travels 40 days to Mt. Horeb
 - a1. God asks Elijah what he was doing here
 - a2. God had not called Elijah to Horeb
- d. Elijah had 3 complaints:
 - a1. Israel had broken the covenant of God
 - a2. Elijah is the only one left that served God, for Israel had killed all the prophets of God
 - a3. They are trying to kill him
- e. God has Elijah stand on the mountain
 - a1. A great wind tears the mountain, but God was not in the wind
 - a2. A great earthquake shook the mountain, but God was not in the earthquake
 - a3. God sent fire down on the mountain, but God was not in the fire
 - a4. Then God spoke in a still small voice

f. Elijah was used to God doing spectacular things (drought, fire from heaven, torrential rain...)

- a1. God often works in quiet, unassuming ways (a child who speaks to Namaan's wife, faithful Ruth, Philip meeting an Ethiopian treasurer, a boy's lunch...)
- a2. A walk of faith trusts God even when there is no obvious sign of him working

2. God instructs Elijah

- a. God does not comfort Elijah in his self-pitying
 - a1. God did not accept Moses's excuse, Jeremiah's complaint, or Paul's plea
 - a2. God did not answer Job's query, Jonah's objection, or Habakkuk's puzzlement
- b. God bypasses Elijah's despair
- c. God instructs Elijah in what to do:
 - a1. Go to Damascus & anoint Hazael to be king (God rules entire world; not just Israel)
 - a2. Anoint Jehu to be king over Israel (Jehu will supplant Ahab & Jezebel)
 - a3. Anoint Elisha to follow after you as prophet
 - a4. God will use Hazael, Jehu, & Elisha to chasten Israel

3. God is working everywhere all the time

- a. God then informs that he had reserved 7,000 other Israelites who have not worshipped Baal
 - a1. God always has a remnant serving him
 - a2. God is working in places we don't see
- b. Elijah felt alone, but he was not
 - a1. Not only was God with him, but God was working with others as well
 - a2. Faith sees beyond our immediate situation
 - a3. Mt. 28:20 God promises that he is always with us & will never leave us
- c. There is no room for self-pitying; only for serving
 - a1. God always wins in the end (Rev. 22)
 - a2. Mt. 24:4-8 we are not to despair over trials in a fallen world, for they must come
- d. 1 Sam. 30:6 in trials, refresh self in the Lord