

A Follow Up Bible Study

Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Warm Up

Have you heard people make claims like these?

If only I could see Jesus perform a miracle, I'd believe.

Surely if Jesus had come down from the cross that would have impressed a lot of people and led them to have a change of heart.

What are people assuming who speak like this?

1. Sermon for August 23, 2020

Text: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Theme: Why are you here?

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

2. 1 Kings 19:4 is critical to understanding Elijah's state of mind and why he was at *Horeb, the Mountain of God*. In verse 4 Elijah *prayed that he would die*. He said, *"I've had enough, Lord. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."*

After this prayer Elijah took (was led on?) a 40 day journey (200 miles) to Horeb. Yahweh gave Elijah more than a month to grieve and mourn over his ministry and the spiritual state of Israel. Compare Elijah's initial prayer with his response to Yahweh at Horeb. *"I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."*

How did the 40 day journey (time to reflect) impact Elijah's state of mind and perspective?

The text doesn't tell us, but what might have Elijah expected was going to happen at Horeb?

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40 days! That keeps coming up in the Bible. (Moses' time on the Mountain, a time of mourning, 40 days of rain of the flood, Jesus' 40 days of temptation) The Bible doesn't spell out why. What's your sense of the significance of 40 days?

Did you notice the name for God Elijah used: *the LORD, the God of Armies*? Most translations say *God of Armies* or *God of hosts*. The NIV and NLT translate *God Almighty*. The Hebrew is literally *host*, as in large number of people, usually referring to an *Army*. The question is: What host/army? What's involved in that concept that would lead some to translate *Almighty*.

3. Yahweh seems to have broken the 40 days of silence when he *suddenly came to him, saying*, "Why are you here, Elijah?" What impact does this question have on you?
4. Yahweh told Elijah, "*Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is passing by.*" Later we read, *When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.* I get the sense that the wind, earthquake, and fire happened right away before Elijah could go out and stand on the mountain. Is that your sense?

Recall what Yahweh told Moses when Moses asked to see Yahweh: "*You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live.*" (Exodus 33:20) Now Elijah witnesses rock shattering wind, mountain shaking earthquake, and scorching fire. How inclined would you be to step out of the cave?

What led Elijah to wrap *his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave*?

What's the significance of Elijah wrapping his face in his cloak?

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5. Ezekiel said, *I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies...*

What does it mean to be zealous for the LORD? Compare your image of zealous with what we know about Elijah's ministry before this.

6. Yahweh had more work for Elijah to do. He gives him an assignment - a purpose. *"Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.*

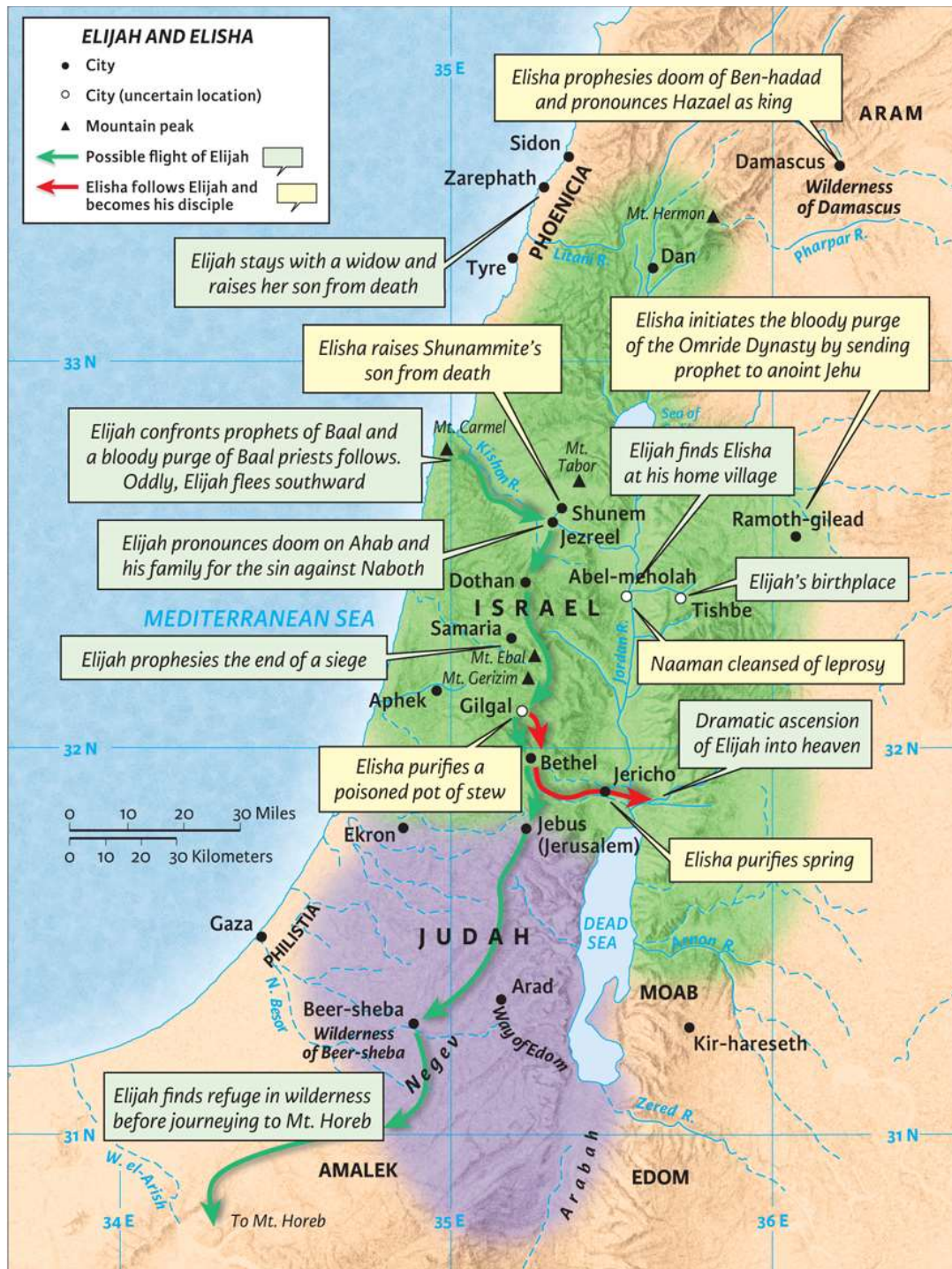
Aram is the land we call Syria. List the implications of these instructions.

The job description for Elisha startles me every time I read it. ... *whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.* How does it impact you? What do you sense Yahweh is referring to? What doesn't it mean?

7. Yahweh doesn't just send Elijah on a mission. He shares the news of the impact of Elijah's ministry in Israel. *I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him.* Yahweh encouraged Elijah and God's people of every generation with these words. How?

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