

ELIJAH'S FLIGHT FROM JEZEBEL

BIBLE TEXT : I Kings 19:1-18.

LESSON 298 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:9).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 Kings 19:1-18

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

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.

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.

⁴ 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 away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

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

⁶ And he looked, and, behold, *there was* a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Jezebel's Attitude Toward God

1. The miracles of the past made no improvement in Jezebel, proving that miracles alone will not turn the ungodly to God, I Kings 19:1-3;

1 Kings 18:21-46

²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

²² Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men.

²³ Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*:

²⁴ And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

²⁵ And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress *it* first; for ye *are* many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire *under*.

²⁶ And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

²⁷ And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he *is* a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

²⁸ And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

²⁹ And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

³⁰ And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

³⁴ And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time.

³⁵ And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And it came to pass at the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and that I *am* thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

³⁹ And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said,

he did eat and drink,
and laid him down
again.

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.

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.

⁹ And he came thither
unto a cave, and lodged
there; and, behold, the
word of the LORD *came*
to him, and he said
unto him, What doest
thou here, Elijah?

¹⁰ And he said, I have
been very jealous for
the LORD God of hosts:
for 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.

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
broke 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

The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

⁴⁰ And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of
them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the
brook Kishon, and slew them there.

⁴¹ And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a
sound of abundance of rain.

⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of
Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face
between his knees,

⁴³ And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went
up, and looked, and said, *There is* nothing. And he said, Go again seven
times.

⁴⁴ And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there
arise a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go
up, say unto Ahab, Prepare *thy* chariot, and get thee down, that the rain
stop thee not.

⁴⁵ And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with
clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to
Jezreel.

⁴⁶ And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins,
and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Psalm 78:12-61

¹² Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of
Egypt, *in* the field of Zoan.

¹³ He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the
waters to stand as an heap.

¹⁴ In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a
light of fire.

¹⁵ He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave *them* drink as *out of* the
great depths.

¹⁶ He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run
down like rivers.

¹⁷ And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in
the wilderness.

¹⁸ And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

¹⁹ Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the
wilderness?

²⁰ Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams
overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

²¹ Therefore the LORD heard *this*, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled
against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel;

²² Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

²³ Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the
doors of heaven,

²⁴ And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of
the corn of heaven.

²⁵ Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

²⁶ He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he
brought in the south wind.

²⁷ He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the
sand of the sea:

²⁸ And he let *it* fall in the midst of their camp, round about their
habitations.

²⁹ So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;

³⁰ They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat *was* yet
in their mouths,

³¹ The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and
smote down the chosen *men* of Israel.

³² For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

³³ Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in
trouble.

³⁴ When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and
enquired early after God.

³⁵ And they remembered that God *was* their rock, and the high God their
redeemer.

³⁶ Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto
him with their tongues.

³⁷ For their heart was not right with him, neither were they steadfast in his

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 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?

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.

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

covenant.

³⁸ But he, *being* full of compassion, forgave *their* iniquity, and destroyed *them* not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

³⁹ For he remembered that they *were* *but* flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

⁴⁰ How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert!

⁴¹ Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

⁴² They remembered not his hand, *nor* the day when he delivered them from the enemy.

⁴³ How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

⁴⁴ And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

⁴⁵ He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

⁴⁶ He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust.

⁴⁷ He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycomore trees with frost.

⁴⁸ He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts.

⁴⁹ He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels *among them*.

⁵⁰ He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

⁵¹ And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of *their* strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

⁵² But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

⁵³ And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

⁵⁴ And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, *even to this* mountain, *which* his right hand had purchased.

⁵⁵ He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

⁵⁶ Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

⁵⁷ But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

⁵⁸ For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

⁵⁹ When God heard *this*, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

⁶⁰ So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent *which* he placed among men;

⁶¹ And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

Matthew 14:3-11

³ For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put *him* in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

⁴ For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

⁵ And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

⁶ But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

⁷ Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

⁸ And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

⁹ And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded *it* to be given *her*.

¹⁰ And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

¹¹ And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought *it* to her mother.

Matthew 3:1-17

¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

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.

² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

¹² Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

¹³ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 11:7-14

⁷ And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

⁸ But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

⁹ But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰ For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

¹¹ Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

¹⁴ And if ye will receive *it*, this is Elias, which was for to come.

1 Samuel 24:1-22

¹ And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David *is* in the wilderness of Engedi.

² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

³ And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where *was* a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

⁴ And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

⁵ And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

⁶ And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he *is* the anointed of the LORD.

⁷ So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on *his* way.

⁸ David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

⁹ And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

¹⁰ Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and *some* bade *me* kill thee: but *mine eye* spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he *is* the LORD'S anointed.

¹¹ Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that *there is* neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

¹² The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

¹³ As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

¹⁴ After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea.

¹⁵ The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

¹⁶ And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

¹⁷ And he said to David, Thou *art* more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

¹⁸ And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

¹⁹ For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

²⁰ And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

²¹ Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.

²² And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold.

1 Samuel 26:1-25

¹ And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon?

² Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

³ And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

⁴ David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

⁵ And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

⁶ Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

⁷ So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

⁸ Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not *smite* him the second time.

⁹ And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth

his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

¹⁰ David said furthermore, *As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.*

¹¹ The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

¹² So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw *it*, nor knew *it*, neither awaked: for they *were* all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

¹³ Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space *being* between them:

¹⁴ And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who *art* thou that criest to the king?

¹⁵ And David said to Abner, *Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.*

¹⁶ This thing *is* not good that thou hast done. *As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.*

¹⁷ And Saul knew David's voice, and said, *Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.*

¹⁸ And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil *is* in mine hand?

¹⁹ Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if *they be* the children of men, cursed *be* they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

²⁰ Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

²¹ Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

²² And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

²³ The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into *my* hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

²⁴ And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, Blessed *be* thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

1 Samuel 27:1

¹ And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

2. An enemy of God and godliness, Jezebel used every available means to accomplish her purpose, I Kings 19:1, 2;

1 Kings 18:13

¹³ Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

1 Kings 21:7-16

⁷ And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

⁹ And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:

¹⁰ And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And *then* carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

¹¹ And the men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, *and* as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them.

¹² They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.

¹³ And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, *even* against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

¹⁴ Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

¹⁶ And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

1 Kings 21:25

²⁵ But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

3. Jezebel's death was untimely because of her sins, II Kings 9:30-37.

II Elijah and His Attitude Toward God

1. Great trials and mental or physical depression will come, at times, to godly men, often following great spiritual victories,

1 Kings 18:1

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

1 Kings 18:17-46

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

¹⁸ And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

¹⁹ Now therefore send, *and* gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

²⁰ So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

²² Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men.

²³ Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*:

²⁴ And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

²⁵ And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress *it* first; for ye *are* many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire *under*.

²⁶ And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

²⁷ And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he *is* a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, *or* peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

²⁸ And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

²⁹ And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

³⁰ And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

³⁴ And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time.

³⁵ And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And it came to pass at the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that I am* thy servant, and *that I have* done all these things at thy word.

³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

³⁹ And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

⁴⁰ And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

⁴¹ And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a sound of abundance of rain.

⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

⁴³ And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, *There is* nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

⁴⁴ And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare *thy* chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

⁴⁵ And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

⁴⁶ And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Numbers 11:1-15

¹ And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp.

² And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

³ And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

⁴ And the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

⁵ We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

⁶ But now our soul *is* dried away: *there is* nothing at all, beside this manna, *before* our eyes.

⁷ And the manna *was* as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the

colour of bdellium.

⁸ And the people went about, and gathered *it*, and ground *it* in mills, or beat *it* in a mortar, and baked *it* in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

⁹ And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

¹¹ And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

¹² Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

¹³ Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

¹⁴ I am not able to bear all this people alone, because *it is* too heavy for me.

¹⁵ And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

Joshua 7:6-9

⁶ And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

⁷ And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!

⁸ O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!

⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear *of it*, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

Job 3:1-26

¹ After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

² And Job spake, and said,

³ Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night *in which* it was said, There is a man child conceived.

⁴ Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.

⁵ Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶ As *for* that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷ Lo, let that night be solitary, let no joyful voice come therein.

⁸ Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.

⁹ Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but *have* none; neither let it see the dawning of the day:

¹⁰ Because it shut not up the doors of my *mother's* womb, nor hid sorrow from mine eyes.

¹¹ Why died I not from the womb? *why* did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

¹² Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck?

¹³ For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest,

¹⁴ With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves;

¹⁵ Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver:

¹⁶ Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants *which* never saw light.

¹⁷ There the wicked cease *from* troubling; and there the weary be at rest.

¹⁸ There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.

¹⁹ The small and great are there; and the servant *is* free from his master.

²⁰ Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter

in soul;

²¹ Which long for death, but it *cometh* not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;

²² Which rejoice exceedingly, *and* are glad, when they can find the grave?

²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?

²⁴ For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters.

²⁵ For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

²⁶ I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

Job 10:1

¹ My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.

Psalm 31:1-24

¹ In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

² Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.

³ For thou *art* my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

⁴ Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou *art* my strength.

⁵ Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

⁶ I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.

⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

⁸ And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room.

⁹ Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, *yea*, my soul and my belly.

¹⁰ For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹ I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.

¹² I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.

¹³ For I have heard the slander of many: fear *was* on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

¹⁴ But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou *art* my God.

¹⁵ My times *are* in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.

¹⁶ Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake.

¹⁷ Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, *and* let them be silent in the grave.

¹⁸ Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

¹⁹ Oh how great *is* thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; *which* thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

²⁰ Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

²¹ Blessed *be* the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

²² For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

²³ O love the LORD, all ye his saints: *for* the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

²⁴ Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Micah 7:1-7

¹ Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: *there is* no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

² The good *man* is perished out of the earth: and *there is* none upright

among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

³ That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge *asketh* for a reward; and the great *man*, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up.

⁴ The best of them *is* as a brier: the most upright *is sharper* than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen *and* thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

⁵ Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

⁶ For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies *are* the men of his own house.

⁷ Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

2. God commanded Elijah to hide during an earlier persecution,

1 Kings 17:1-16

¹ And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, *As* the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

² And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

³ Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

⁴ And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

⁵ So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.

⁶ And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

⁷ And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

⁸ And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

⁹ Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongeth* to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman *was* there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

¹¹ And as she was going to fetch *it*, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

¹² And she said, *As* the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

¹³ And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go *and* do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring *it* unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

¹⁴ For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that* the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

¹⁵ And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many* days.

¹⁶ *And* the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

3. Elijah's flight at this time could have been his impression of God's will because of the previous incident, I Kings 19:4.

III God's Consideration for His Prophet

1. God was not angry or impatient with Elijah but sent encouragement and food to him, I Kings 19:5-8;

Psalms 103:13-14

¹³ Like as a father pitieth *his* children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

Psalms 103:17-18

¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

¹⁸ To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Matthew 4:11

¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Luke 22:43

⁴³ And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2. Elijah continued his journey to Mount Sinai, I Kings 19:8.

3. At Sinai, God proved His existence as a Divine Person and not merely as a force of nature, I Kings 19:9-14;

Exodus 20:1

¹ And God spake all these words, saying,

Exodus 33:11

¹¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Exodus 33:18-23

¹⁸ And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

¹⁹ And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

²⁰ And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

²¹ And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

²² And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

²³ And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Exodus 34:1-8

¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon *these* tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

² And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount.

³ And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

⁴ And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.

⁵ And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

⁸ And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

4. Elijah was given a commission, which proves that he was still God's Prophet, I Kings 19:15-17.

5. God has had, at all times, a faithful remnant, I Kings 19:18;

Romans 11:2-5

² God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

³ Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁴ But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of Baal*.

⁵ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Luke 12:32

³² Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Isaiah 1:9

⁹ Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, *and* we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Isaiah 40:11

¹¹ He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.

Revelation 3:4-12

⁴ Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

NOTES:

A great spiritual victory had been won. The prophets of Baal had been destroyed and the nation of Israel shown that the God of their father Abraham was the true God and the only God. This had been brought about by Elijah's meeting with Obadiah, and the subsequent meeting with Ahab, who accused Elijah of bringing the years of famine, drought, and trouble upon Israel. Elijah withstood the king, however, and pointed to him as the real cause of the trouble, in that he had turned from the worship of God to that of Baal.

A test was arranged in which it would be known who was the true God. The prophets of Baal were given their opportunity, on their own ground and in the one thing that Baal, the sun-god, would be able to do the best – if he were an actual god with life and power. But the worship of Baal failed to produce the required results, and the nation's attention was turned to Elijah, who prayed to

the God of Israel and saw an immediate answer to his prayer. Following Israel's apparent repentance and acknowledgement of the true God, Elijah prayed that God would send rain, and this prayer also was fully answered, after which Elijah ran down the mountain to Jezreel, a distance, we are told, of about 15 miles.

Miracles and Their Uses

During Jesus' ministry on earth He was asked, on different occasions, for signs to prove His Deity and His authority. When He saw that a sign or miracle would be of value in convincing men of righteousness or of the authority that was His, He never hesitated to perform that miracle or give that sign. But, as has been written many times previously in this course, God does not perform miracles or give signs to satisfy the idle curiosity of men, or to amuse them, or intrigue them with a demonstration of that which is beyond their power or understanding. Whenever a sign is given, or a miracle performed, it is done that God might be glorified, that the name of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, might be honoured, that men might be brought to repentance, and that comfort or encouragement might be given. As we study the life and ministry of Jesus we see that He performed miracles for these reasons.

But in the case of Jezebel and many others in the Bible, we can see that miracles alone will not lead men to God and godliness. Unless there is in the heart of the ungodly a desire for righteousness, no number of miracles or signs will turn them to the true God. One of the first requirements in seeking a blessing from God is a belief that there is a God, that He is the true God, and that He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him. A miracle could be used by God to convince an honest doubter, or one who is not willingly ignorant of the power or existence of God.

Jesus referred those who asked Him for a sign to the signs that were already given in the Word of God. He said that if they did not receive those signs they would not receive a sign He could give them. They were willingly given over to evil. He added that they would be judged and condemned by the signs that had been given them.

Jezebel had seen God work miraculously, in response to the prayers of His servant. Rain had been withheld, and then given. The fire had fallen on the altar of God in spite of all the obstacles against it, while all the combined priests of Baal, in fanatical zeal, had failed to secure even the smallest suggestion that Baal was a god who heard, let alone one who answered their prayers. The 15-mile run of the prophet was a miracle in itself that could have convinced Jezebel that God was with His prophet, if she had wanted to be convinced. But she wanted her sin and ignored every proof of the folly of her doings. Because she continuously rebelled against the mercy of God and chose her own sinful ways, her doom was sealed.

Men of today also refuse to profit by the demonstrations of God's power, love, and mercy that are manifest all around them, because they prefer sin instead of sinlessness, degeneracy rather than righteousness, the servitude of Satan rather than the sonship of God, and the blackness of despair instead of the hope that is "incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away" (I Peter 1:3, 4). A multitude of signs is given for the benefit of all, but only a few people are convinced by them of the goodness of Almighty God.

Each new-born child of God is a miracle. Yes, every day of his life as a Christian is a miracle. The fact of deliverance from sin in the life of one person is a sign that is sufficient to condemn every one who witnesses that godly life and who rejects the Gospel call sent through it. One restoration to health, by the power of God, is sufficient to prove that there is a God and that Christ's Atonement is operative for the needs of mankind. God has given ample signs and miracles to convince every person of His mercy, His power, and His existence.

Spiritual and Physical Depressions of the Godly

There are no "blue Mondays," in the popular sense, for the Christian. He has no more days of remorse and regret because of past sins and wantonness. A Christian lives for God's glory and strives to please God in all that he does. His energy is expended for those righteous purposes. But there is no denying the

fact that both spiritual and physical energy are exacted for the work and service of God and that when these resources are expended the servant of God is sometimes depressed and exhausted.

One cannot help noticing the tenderness with which God dealt with Elijah. The tremendous events of the past hours, followed by Jezebel's open rebellion against God, naturally would bring a certain depression to Elijah or any other man of God. From all appearances, at that time, the revival in Israel was only nominal. Elijah knew that unless the rulers of Israel turned to God, the nation as a whole would not do so. The Temple worship would not be carried on unless the king allowed it to be resumed. Elijah knew Israel would lapse into idolatry again if the worship of the true God was not earnestly and spiritually carried out. It looked as if all his efforts had ended in failure, from his human and natural viewpoint.

However, we can see that, even though the waves of trial roll high around us and there is little apparent good accomplished by us, and we know we are obeying God, we must not despair of life or draw back from the commission God has given us. God will carry us through to the end if we but keep our trust in Him. He is not through with us on earth until He calls us home to Heaven. We have a work to do for Him as long as life is given us. That work may change in character through the years, with our changing abilities and strength, but it will always be the work of God, and it is our privilege to carry on until He takes us to our eternal reward.

Elijah may have thought that his actions in fleeing from Jezebel at this time were according to the will of God, since on a previous occasion he had been told to hide from the persecutor's wrath. But God does not always work by precedent. Because He has commanded us to do one thing at one time does not mean that He always will want us to do the same thing at subsequent times. His will is sure to be made known to us, but we may not know today what that will is going to be for tomorrow.

An angel from the Lord fed Elijah and he fled to Mount Sinai, and there the Lord was revealed to him. When we are depressed, or exhausted, it is best to go to the presence of God, for there we can be filled and strengthened for the battles and problems that are confronting us. There is no strength to be gained from worldly sources. The Divine Fount is the only place where our thirsty souls can be satisfied. At Mount Sinai, or Mount Horeb, God revealed some sublime truths to Elijah and at the same time gave him a commission to carry out for the future welfare of the Old Testament Church.

The parallels between this account and that of Moses on the same mountain are truly remarkable. Both these men of God saw the forces of nature manifest in their fury and power, but both looked beyond these natural forces to the God of Heaven who is more than a force, an influence, an intangible spirit, or a mere idea. They saw God as more than thunder, more than lightning, more than wind, more than earthquakes, and more than supernatural fire. These men of God all men of God, see God as He is – a Divine Person, a member of the infinite and eternal Godhead.

Both Elijah and Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. Both were there, in that vicinity, because they were fugitives from the persecutors who had determined to destroy them. Moses represented the Law; and Elijah, the prophets; and both were revealed in the Transfiguration of Christ. Both men heard the voice of God. Both were Prophets. Both were defenders of God's name and cause in the midst of idolaters.

The Faithful Remnant

Further proof that even though God reproved Elijah but was not angry with him is given in the fact that a further commission was given at this time. Hazael was to be anointed king over Syria. Hazael was not an Israelite and the kingdom over which he was to rule was not that of Israel. We see by this that "the powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1) and that God is interested in the affairs of this world. Nevertheless, under our present form of government in these United States of America (Africa), the people are responsible for the elected officers, and the child of God should exercise his civil

QUESTIONS

1. Enumerate some of the miracles, which should have convinced Jezebel of her sin and folly.
2. Did Jezebel profit from the miracles? State the reasons for your answer.
3. What besides miracles is necessary to save people from their sins?
4. Compare the incidents in Elijah's life that have parallels in the life of Moses.
5. How long was Elijah's recorded ministry?
6. Who was to be the successor to Elijah?
7. Was God displeased or angry with Elijah because he fled from Jezebel?
8. Why didn't Elijah show the same reverence after seeing the manifestations of nature that he showed after hearing the still small Voice?
9. What does the still small Voice prove to us about God?
10. How can an ungodly ruler of a nation be considered the servant of God?

rights and responsibilities in voting for the best possible candidates and measures, regardless of political party affiliations.

In Scripture, a ruler is considered a servant of God, be he pagan or godly. Cyrus was mentioned by Isaiah about 150 years prior to that king's birth, as being a servant of God. Nebuchadnezzar, also, was considered a servant of God. These men were servants in that they were used by God to fulfil His purposes, often to discipline His chosen nation. A study of the life of Hazael shows that he was used by God for this very purpose.

Jehu was to be anointed king over Israel to follow one of the successors of Ahab. He, too, was to be used by God to bring about God's will concerning Israel. But greater than the anointing of these was the anointing of Elisha as a successor to Elijah. Elisha was to be the spiritual leader of Israel, and as such he served faithfully for many years.

Elijah's recorded ministry up to this time was about three and a half years, approximately the same time as our Lord's. But in that time he was able to do many wonderful things through God that have remained as examples to the godly of all ages. Elijah felt that he was very much alone at this time and that his work for God has not been very effective in producing results for the Kingdom, but God assured him that there was still a faithful remnant that had not bowed to the worship of Baal.

Seven thousand may seem like a great number, but when compared with the whole of Israel — the nation that had covenanted with God to be His own peculiar people — we see that less than one percent of the entire people of Israel was represented in that group. Jesus said that those who followed Him would be but a "little flock." He gave us no assurance of world-wide revivals that would take place in the end of time in which a great percentage of the world's peoples would be saved. On the contrary, He has told us that there would be only a few who would be ready to meet Him.

"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). This question should be asked by each of us as we look out over the world of unbelievers. It should cause us to double and redouble our efforts to see that spread over as much of the world as possible. But the question must be asked in a more personal manner than this, too. We must ask it concerning ourselves.

It was to His disciples that Jesus spoke when He told of the suddenness of His coming and the separations that would occur at that time. It was to those who had taken His Name and His reproach, and who had given up all for Him, that Peter spoke the words of warning: "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (I Peter 4:18). If it is to those who have left all, who have dared to stand for the precious Name above every name who have been willing to defend His teachings with their very blood, if need be, who have willingly taken up His cross to follow Him, bearing His reproach — if it is to these that this question regarding the existence of faith was given, what about those who have done less than they?

There will be a faithful remnant, but it will be only a remnant. A remnant is something that is left from the whole. A remnant is a very small part of the whole. Remnants are considered of little value in the world markets. They are sold for a fraction of their actual worth. How true a picture the Holy Spirit has chosen to portray the Church who will be raptured as the Bride of Christ. They are a faithful remnant thought little of by the world but beloved of God!

But what of the whole? If in order to be a member of the whole it is necessary that we do all the things that are called sacrifices by worldly men, what is necessary to make us one of the remnant? The answer to these questions can be found in the Word of God. The faith that Christ said would be lacking in so many at the end of the age is one of the indispensable things. God grant that all who read these lines will "contend for the faith" and be one of the faithful remnant!

