

Elijah on Mount Horeb

1 Kings 19

by Don Falkos

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Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, sent a message to Elijah, "I'm going to kill you!"

Elijah ran for his life, going to the desert in the southern part of Judah. He prayed that he might die. Then he lay down and slept. Twice an angel brought him bread and water. After eating and drinking, he made the long journey to Mount Horeb (another name for Mount Sinai) and spent the night in a cave.

In the morning, the Lord said to Elijah, "Go out and stand on the mountain."

Suddenly, a powerful wind tore rocks from the mountains and shattered them, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. Elijah covered his face with his cloak and went to stand at the mouth of the cave.

The Lord asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah replied, "I have served you zealously. But the people of Israel have rejected you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I'm the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me."

The Lord said, "Go to Damascus and anoint Hazael king of Aram, anoint Jehu king of Israel, and anoint Elisha to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will kill any who escape Hazael, and Elisha will kill any who escape Jehu. Yet I will preserve seven thousand in Israel who have not bowed down to Baal."

Elijah found Elisha plowing with a pair of oxen. Elijah threw his cloak across Elisha's shoulders. Elisha sacrificed the oxen, said goodbye to his parents, and went with Elijah as his servant.