

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

RLJ-1615

JOHN S. TORELL

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

PART 11: RECYCLED BY GOD

MOUNTAIN TO THE VALLEY

Elijah had the proverbial mountaintop experience on Mount Carmel. God had heard his prayer and answered with fire from heaven. The power of Baal had been broken, its false prophets were slain and good times were coming. This was the scenario when Elijah returned to the city of Jezreel and Queen Jezebel promised to kill him for the death of her prophets. She was an evil woman, a high priestess of Baal, filled with evil spirits and used by Satan to push back against God's victory. **1 Kings 19:1-2**

As soon as Elijah received the death threat from Jezebel, his faith in God abruptly vanished and he fled into the wilderness. He had been taken from the mountaintop to the valley of despair; feeling like there was no hope, he began to pray that God would kill him. **verses 3- 4**

Elijah didn't know that the Devil had unleashed powerful spirits of fear that attacked him and paralyzed his thinking. **1 Peter 5:8**

GOD SENT AN ANGEL

When the Devil ramps up his attacks, God always responds in turn by sending in his forces to destroy the works of the Devil. This particular angel came with refreshments for Elijah, telling him to eat the cake and drink the water.

Elijah was depressed and lay down. When the angel came back, he told Elijah to eat more of the cake since he was going on a long journey. **1 Kings 19:5-7**

This heavenly food was enhanced and full of energy because Elijah traveled for the next 40 days on its nourishment until he came to the mountain of Horeb. **verses 8**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?

God (Jesus) knew that Elijah had fled from Jezebel in fear and sent His angel to give Elijah the strength to travel to Horeb in the Sinai desert. Jesus wanted to confront Elijah and ask what he was doing at Horeb. This was the same mountain that Moses had also met with Jesus. **verse 9**

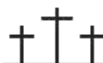
Elijah dejectedly told Jesus that all was lost in Israel; he was the only one who still worshiped the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **verse 10**

A POWER DISPLAY

Elijah needed to be reminded of God's greatness and power. Jesus put on a display of power while Elijah was safely standing in the cave. **verses 11-12**

Once all the noise was over, there was a still small voice from Jesus, asking for a second time what Elijah was doing at Horeb? **verse 13**

Elijah repeated his lamentation of being the last godly man in Israel. **verse 14**



NEW MARCHING ORDERS

Jesus did not say, "Poor little Elijah, I feel so sorry for you." Instead, he received marching orders to return through the wilderness and go to the city of Damascus, the capitol of the arch enemy of Israel, and anoint Hazael to be the next king of Syria. **verse 15**

Then he was to return to Israel and anoint Jehu as the next king of Israel and set apart Elisha to succeed him as the next prophet of Israel. **verse 16**

The house of Ahab would be jointly destroyed by Hazael and Jehu. **verse 17**

Jesus then informed Elijah that there were still 7,000 men left in Israel who had not bowed their knees to Baal. **verse 18**

THE CALLING OF ELISHA

Once Elijah was back in Israel, he found Elisha and called him into the ministry. **verses 19-21**

THE MURDER OF NABOTH

Ahab was the king of Israel, but he was a petty man with no morals. His sole purpose in life was to create pleasures for himself. So when he wanted a piece of property that was next to his palace in Samaria, he contacted Naboth and sought to purchase it. **1 Kings 21:1-3**

When Naboth refused to sell, Ahab went to the palace and had a pity party. **verses 4**

When Jezebel found her husband in this miserable condition, she wanted to know what had caused him to be melancholy. **verses 5-6**

Jezebel told her husband not to worry; she would take care of the problem. **verses 7**

Being full of religious spirits, she organized a religious event to look pious for the people in Samaria as she "defended God." **verses 8-10**

There are always greedy men who are willing to lie, cheat and steal in order to keep their lavish lifestyle and there were plenty of men like that in Samaria. **verses 11-14**

Jezebel was pleased with her diabolical plan and told Ahab that Naboth's land was his for the taking. **verses 15-16**

GOD WAS NOT PLEASED

God used Elijah to once again confront King Ahab but he did not hold the prophet of God in high regard. Ahab and Jezebel thought that the murder of Naboth was done in secret, but they had not counted on God's reaction. **verses 17-24**

There was no king as evil as Ahab. **verses 25-26**

Ahab realized that he was deeply in trouble with the Lord and repented of his sins. God heard him and the sentence was temporarily commuted. **verses 27-29**

THE WORD OF GOD DOESN'T CHANGE

Death eventually came to King Ahab and the dogs licked up his blood some three years after he took the vineyard from Naboth. **1 Kings 22:34-38**

Jezebel also met her fate when she was thrown out from a multistory window. She died from the impact and dogs ate her body. **2 Kings 9: 30-37**

Ahab's entire family was executed and none of them survived. **2 Kings 10:1-11**

For more than 2,700 years Ahab, Jezebel and their children have been tormented in hell day and night. The only thing they can look forward to the Great White Throne Judgment and the Lake of Fire.

Their future is behind them as their riches and the power they once wielded are now gone; the decisions they made effectively sentenced them to eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire. **Revelation 20:14-15**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?