

# WHEN HEAVEN HEARD: “THE PROPHET WHO HAD NOTHING LEFT”

**Text:** 1 Kings 19:1–18

**Series:** *When Heaven Heard*

**Theme:** When heaven heard Elijah’s exhaustion and unspoken cry—God did not answer with fire, but with a whisper.

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## RECAP SERIES

We are now several weeks into our series **When Heaven Heard**, and we’ve been looking at moments in Scripture where God answered powerful, bold, history-shaping prayers.

We’ve looked at:

### 1. The Prayer of Jabez

A bold prayer that asks God to reverse the pain of his beginning

### 2. A King in Crisis — Jehoshaphat

A national emergency, enemies on every side,  
and a king praying,

**“We don’t know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”**

And heaven intervened.

### 3. The Prophet’s Plea — Daniel

A prayer of national confession and personal repentance.

Daniel stands in the gap for a broken nation —

and heaven sends an answer before he even finishes speaking.

### 4. Hannah’s Prayer

A prayer of deep longing, surrender, and worship—

crying out in her barrenness,

and then walking faithfully when the blessing finally arrived.

Sometimes you don't pray bold prayers.  
You pray *broken* ones.

# INTRO: A QUICK SUMMARY OF 1 KINGS 18 — THE SHOWDOWN ON MT. CARMEL

**Israel Is Spiritually Collapsing**

**Enter Ahab**

**Enter Jezebel**

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## THE MOUNT CARMEL SHOWDOWN

God sends Elijah to confront the spiritual wickedness.

**Elijah Challenges 450 Prophets of Baal**

**Elijah Prays for Rain**

**Elijah Outruns Ahab's Chariot**

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## 1 KINGS 19 — THE PROPHET WHO HAD NOTHING LEFT

### POINT 1 — ELIJAH'S HUMANITY (19:1–4)

**Heaven Heard Elijah's Exhaustion**

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## 1 Kings 19:1–4 (NIV)

**1** Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

**2** So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, *“May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”*

**3** *Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.* When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there,

**4** while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. *He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die.*

*“I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”*

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This is shocking.

The prophet who just called down fire from heaven...  
runs because of a threat from Jezebel.

Why? Because:

- he's physically drained
- emotionally depleted
- spiritually exhausted
- disillusioned
- battle-worn
- disappointed that revival didn't happen the way he expected

I've heard it said: “Even the best men, are men at best”

Elijah is showing his humanity here.

## UNANSWERED PRAYERS

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# POINT 2 — GOD SENDS WHAT WE NEED NOT WHAT WE WANT (19:5–8)

## Heaven Heard Elijah's Body Cry for Help

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### 1 Kings 19:5–8 (NIV)

**5** Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, *“Get up and eat.”*

**6** He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals and a jar of water.

He ate and drank and then lay down again.

**7** The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said,

*“Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”*

**8** So he got up and ate and drank.

Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

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Notice, God doesn't meet Elijah with:

- a sermon
- a rebuke
- a leadership podcast
- a three-point plan
- a worship set

He gets:

**a nap, a meal, and space to breathe. – Every parent in the room said “amen”**

## Why Horeb?

(Practice of asking questions while reading scripture, because you never know what you'll find)

# Why Elijah Goes to Horeb: He's Repeating Moses's Story

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1. Horeb/Sinai is the mountain of encounters
2. Elijah's situation is almost identical to Moses's
3. He's basically saying: "God, do what you did for Moses."

## POINT 3 — THE CAVE OF HONESTY (19:9–10)

### Heaven Heard Elijah's Confusion

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#### 1 Kings 19:9–10 (NIV)

**9** There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the LORD came to him:

*"What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

**10** He replied,

*"I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty.*

*The Israelites have rejected your covenant,*

*torn down your altars,*

*and put your prophets to death with the sword.*

*I am the only one left,*

*and now they are trying to kill me too."*

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Elijah finally says out loud what he's been carrying:

- "God, I'm disappointed."
- "I'm confused."
- "I feel alone."
- "Nothing changed."

- “I’m the only one left trying.”
- I’ve done everything you’ve asked of me and now here I am running for my life!

This is not rebellion.

This is honesty.

And heaven welcomes honesty.

## POINT 4 — WIND, EARTHQUAKE, FIRE... AND THE WHISPER (19:11–12)

### Heaven Whispered Because God Was Close

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#### 1 Kings 19:11–12 (NIV)

**11** The LORD said,

*“Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”*

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD,

*but the LORD was not in the wind.*

After the wind there was an earthquake,  
*but the LORD was not in the earthquake.*

**12** After the earthquake came a fire,  
*but the LORD was not in the fire.*

And after the fire came **a gentle whisper**.

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God recreates Moses’s encounter.

#### Exodus 18:18–19 (NIV)

**18** Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled

violently. **19** As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

In Exodus, God answered Moses from the midst of all the noise in power.

But this time—

He isn't in the wind.

He isn't in the earthquake.

He isn't in the fire.

He's in the **whisper**.

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## POINT 5 — THE WHISPER THAT RESTORES PURPOSE (19:13–18)

### Heaven Heard Elijah's Fear... and Responded With Clarity

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#### **1 Kings 19:13–18 (NIV)**

**13** When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him,

*"What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

**14** He replied,

*"I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty.*

*The Israelites have rejected your covenant,*

*torn down your altars,*

*and put your prophets to death with the sword.*

***I am the only one left,***

*and now they are trying to kill me too."*

**15** The LORD said to him,

*"Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus.*

*When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.\**

**16** *Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel,*

*and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.*

*17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael,  
and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.*

*18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—  
all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal  
and whose mouths have not kissed him.”*

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God answers Elijah with three powerful truths:

**A. “You’re not alone.”**

There are 7,000 faithful believers Elijah doesn’t know about.

**B. “Your calling isn’t over.”**

Elijah thought this cave was the end.  
God gives him new assignments.

**C. “My plan is bigger than your pain.”**

The story is not collapsing—God is still in control.

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## LISTEN FOR GOD’S WHISPER

**Church... in this moment, I want to invite every person in the room to take a minute to breathe and listen.**