

4/10/11

1Kings 19-20

The prophet Elijah has just triumphed over 450 prophets of Baal, but 400 prophets of Asherah were not present. He brought the drought to end, as he prayed to God and it rained.

Elijah told Ahab to hurry back to Jezreel on his chariot, before the rain storm, God then empowered Elijah to run super-naturally and he beat Ahab to the gate of the city, reaffirming to Ahab that Yahweh was God.

19:1-21 The prophet Elijah goes from triumph to defeat, to faithful service.

19:1-3 The prophet Elijah flees in fear of Jezebel.

- 1) Ahab informed Jezebel how Elijah had called down fire from heaven and slain the 450 prophets of Baal. vs. 1
- 2) Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, vowing by the gods of Baal could kill her if she did not do to him, as he had done to her prophets. vs. 2
* Perhaps Elijah thought Ahab was going to persuade Jezebel to capitulate.

- 3) Elijah immediately ran for his life to Beersheba, in Judah, and left his servant there. vs. 3
 - a) The prophet feared Jezebel, she was a very wicked person. 1Kings 16:31, Rev. 2:20
 - b) Fear will cripple a person, I don't care how strong or courageous you think you are.
 - c) The flight was about 90-100 miles, without the voice of God telling him to go, as to Cherith and Zeraphath.
 - d) Jezebel had not power or presence in Judah, the tribe of David.
 - e) Elijah's servant would be safe in Judah.

19:4-7 The prophet Elijah kept traveling to the wilderness of Judea.

- 1) Elijah continued traveling south. vs. 4
 - a) He went one day's journey into the wilderness, perhaps another 15-20 miles and sat down to rest under a broom tree. vs. 4a-b
* Being physically exhausted can cause us to not think properly and give in the fear much easier.
 - b) He prayed for his death, saying, "It is enough, and for God to take his life." vs. 4c-h

- 1) If he really wanted to die, he could of just stayed up in Camel and Jezebel would of killed him.
- 2) Elijah was feeling sorry for himself, having become prideful trusting himself, instead of God.
- c) He gave the reason, “for I am no better than my fathers!” vs. 4f-i
 - * God never called him because he was better, just that he was willing to be sent.
- 2) God sent an angel to minister to Elijah. vs. 5
 - a) As he laid sleeping under a broom tree an angel touched him, and told him to get up and eat. vs. 5
 - b) Elijah saw by his head a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water, provided by the angel and he ate and returned to sleep. vs. 6
 - c) The angel of the LORD returned touched Elijah and again told him to get up and eat for the journey would be long. vs. 7

19:8-18 The prophet Elijah is re-commissioned at Horeb.

- 1) The provision strengthened Elijah for 40 days, going as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. vs. 8

- a) The location of Horeb was in Median, in Arabia, not the Sinai Peninsula, about 170 miles or so, from the Judean wilderness. Gal. 4:25
 - * From Jezreel to Horeb was about 300 miles!
- b) The same place Moses met God and receive the Ten Commandments and the law by the hands of angel, in Arabia, not the Sinai Peninsula. Gal. 3:19
- 2) Elijah spent the night in a cave and the word of the LORD came to him saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” vs. 9
 - a) The article is present “the cave”, perhaps indicating the very cave Moses was at? Ex. 33:21-33
 - b) God had not sent him, nor was he doing the work of God, but running away from it.
- 3) Elijah evades the question and attempts to justify himself before God. vs. 10
 - a) He said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts.” vs. 9a-b
 - * This was an accusation against God indicating that he, Elijah had been defending God, while he the Captain of the armies of heaven was doing nothing.
 - b) He said, “the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down

Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword.” vs. 9c-e

* He attempted to justify he flight.

c) He said, “I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” vs. 9f-g

* He exposed his pride, thinking he was the only one doing the work of God, this is the “Elijah complex”.

4) Elijah was told to present himself before God. vs. 11-14

a) Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” vs. 11a-c

* Much of the natural phenomena is similar to the experience of Moses. Ex. 2:15-3:22, 24:11

b) The LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. vs. 11d-i

c) After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. vs. 12

d) Elijah responded to the “still small voice” and wrapping his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave and instantly a voice came to him, asking him the

same question, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” vs. 13

e) Elijah gives the same answer as before in verse ten, he does not get it. vs. 14

5) Elijah is instructed by God to get back to the work of God. vs. 15-18

a) The LORD said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. vs. 15

1)) When we are not involved in the work of God, we fall into fear, despondency and hopelessness, not to mention get into trouble.

2)) He would travel all the way up north, probably by the Kings Highway, on the east side of the Jordan.

3)) The King of Syrian was at war with Ahab, at this time.

b) Elijah was to anoint two people. vs. 16

1)) Jehu the son of Nimshi *as* king over Israel. vs. 16a

* This would be fulfilled by Elisha “God is salvation”. 2Kings 8:7-15, 9:1-13

2)) Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah, as the prophet to take his place. vs. 16b

- 3)) God would fulfill His judgment over the house of Ahab through three individuals, Hazael, Jehu and Elisha. vs. 17
- c) Elijah is rebuked by God, informing him that he was not the only one doing the work of God, He had 7,000, who had not bowed to Baal, nor kissed him. vs. 18

19:19-21 The prophet Elijah called his successor, Elisha.

- 1) Elijah departed and found Elisha plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and Elijah passed by threw his mantle on him. vs. 19
 - a) The place was Abel-meholah in Gilead, near the road northward from Horeb to Damascus. vs. 16
 - b) This was symbolic of calling him to disciple him.
 - c) And a call to be a prophet.
- 2) Elisha left the oxen, accepting the call and only bid farewell to his parents. vs. 20
 - a) The text seems that Elijah rebukes Elisha, but it does not.
 - b) The text in fact permits Elisha to bid his parent good-bye.

- 3) Elisha declared to all present of his acceptance by Elijah to be a prophet. vs. 21
 - a) Elisha gave a going away dinner for himself, symbolizing his complete commitment to never turn back from.
 - b) He slew the oxen, used the yoke for the fire and served his guest, this was his livelihood, he got rid of it.
 - c) Elisha followed Elijah and became his servant.

20:1-43 The king of Syria goes to war against king Ahab.

20:1-21 The first battle.

20:1-6 *The demands of the king of Syria.*

- 1) Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered his confederacy of 32 kings with horses and chariots, besieged and made war against Samaria. vs. 1
 - * Ben-Hadad means son of Hadad, the false god, meaning “mighty”.
- 2) Ben-Hadad sent messengers to Samaria, to Ahab king of Israel demanding all his gold, his most beautiful wives and children, to which he did not object, saying, “All I have is yours.” vs. 2-4
- 3) Ben-Hadad responded by saying he would send his servants the following

day and they also would also take what they wanted in his house or the houses of his servants. vs. 5-6

20:7-12 *The rejection of the demands of the king of Syria by Ahab.*

- 1) Ahab called the elders to show them how the king of Syria was only looking for trouble, since he had not denied him the first request. vs. 7
- 2) The elders advised Ahab not to listen to Ben-Hadad. vs. 8
- 3) Ahab sent a message back to Ben-Hadad declaring he would be the first, but not the second. vs. 9
- 4) Ben-Hadad responded by an oath by the gods to do to him worst if he left enough dirt for each person with him. vs. 10
- 5) Ahab told him not to count his chickens before the hatched. vs. 11
- 6) Ben-Hadad heard received the message, as he and the kings were drinking at the command post, and gave the command to his servants to get ready for the attack. vs. 12

20:13-21 *The king of Syria delivered to Ahab by God.*

- 1) Out of nowhere a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and told him God would deliver the great multitude to him,

that he might know that God was the Yahweh. vs. 13

* God was so merciful, He gave this evil king many opportunities to repent, but he did not!

- 2) Ahab asked by whom and what commander, the prophet said by the young princes of the provinces and Ahab. vs. 14
- 3) Ahab gathered 232 young leaders of the provinces 7,000 of the people for battle. vs. 15
- 4) They sent out at noon, while Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings were getting drunk at the command post. vs. 16
- 5) Ben-Hadad sent out a patrol and they spotted men coming out of Samaria and reported it to Ben-Hadad! vs. 17
- 6) Their orders were to take them alive, whether they came out in peace or war. vs. 18
- 7) The battle went bad for the confederacy and the Syrians fled, but Ben-Hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the cavalry. vs. 19-20
- 8) Ahab went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter. vs. 21

20:22-43 *The second battle.*

20:22-27 *The prophet of God directs Ahab for the battle.*

- 1) The prophet came to Ahab and warned him to strengthen himself and make preparations, for in the spring of the year Ben-Hadad would come up against him again. vs. 22
- 2) Meanwhile the servants of Ben-Hadad told him they were defeated, due to the fact that the gods of Ahab were of the hills, they needed to fight them in the plain to defeat them. vs. 23
- 3) The 32 kings were fitted with new armies of horses and chariots, Ahab believing the words of his servants. vs. 24-25
- 4) The following spring Ben-Hadad went up to Aphek to fight against Israel, who encamped before them, as two little flocks of goats against a sea of soldiers. vs. 26-27

20:28-34 *The prophet of God assured Ahab victory.*

- 1) A man of God came to Ahab and told him that because the Syrians believed Yahweh was only the God of the hill, He would deliver them to his hand again and he would know that He was the LORD. vs. 28
- 2) The battle was set. vs. 29-30

- a) They faced each other for 7 days and on that day Israel killed one hundred thousand foot soldiers *of* the Syrians in one day. vs. 29
- b) The rest fled to Aphek, a short distance east of the Sea of Galilee from the middle of the lake and a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the men, but Ben-Hadad fled into the city, to an inner chamber. vs. 30
- 3) The servants of Ben-Hadad Ahab was merciful, they should put on clothes of humiliation and go out to him. vs. 31
- 4) They did so and pleaded for king Ben-Hadad, to which Ahab declared, “*Is he still alive? He is my brother.*” vs. 32
- 5) The men noting the truth of Ahab’s words brought Ben-Hadad and Ahab had him come up into the chariot. vs. 33
- 6) Ben-Hadad promised to return the cities his father took from him allowed him to set up marketplaces in Damascus, as his father did in Samaria and sent him back with a treaty. vs. 34

20:35-43 *The judgment over Ahab for his disobedience in the battle.*

- 1) One of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD, “Strike me, please.” And the man refused to strike him. vs. 35

- 2) Refusing to obey the word of God, the prophet pronounced his death by a lion and it came to pass. vs. 36
- 3) The prophet found another man, and commanded him likewise and the man struck him, inflicting a wound. vs. 37
- 4) The prophet departed and waited for Ahab by the road, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. vs. 38
- 5) Ahab passed by and the prophet cried out to him and declared a parable to him to reveal his sin against God. vs. 39-40
- 6) The prophet removed his bandage and Ahab recognized him as one of the prophets. vs. 41
- 7) The prophet pronounced judgment over Ahab for allowing Ben-Hadad to live. vs. 42
- 8) Ahab went to his house in Samaria, sullen and displeased. vs. 43