

I Kings 19

War

I. Jezebel Spirit: Rebellion as the Sin of Witchcraft

1 Peter 1:13 ...gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...

- **Be ready for action:** Suit up
- **Be sober** Wake up
- **Trust God** ...so you don't **get ate up**.

Devil prowls like a roaring lion seeking those with their heads in the sand to devour

Sin is knocking at your door...but you must master it...know the enemies schemes

1 And **Ahab told Jezebel** all that **Elijah had done**, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, he arose and **ran for his life**, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

- **Ahab tattles to Jezebel:** Elijah killed the false prophets
- Jezebel immediately sends a **message to Elijah...**

"By this time tomorrow: If you're not chopped into tiny pieces as you did to my prophets then let the gods do the same to me"

- **Elijah "run's for his life":** Southernmost part of Judah; Beersheba [far as he can go]

What happened to this great man of God? What took him down?

Who is Jezebel? What is the spirit behind Jezebel?

Ephesians 5:11 ...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Exposing Jezebel Queen of Israel

- **Jezebel:** Lit. "Baal exalts" or "Baal is husband to" or "unchaste"
- **Her fate?**

2 Kings 9:37 ...the carcass of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

**Jezebel equates to powerful intimidation of the man/woman of God
To rebel against His the Authority of His Word**

1 Samuel 15:23 ...rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft

Jezebel Spirit is the Spirit of Rebellion

1. **Challenges God-given authority:** Breaking down/chipping away at the man of God with intimidation to back down, back off, sit down, give up and turn on TV. Tempting the woman of God to usurp authority over her "Homer Simpson like" husband
2. **Appeals to the Flesh:** Tempting man of God to act on feeling/forsake the Word of God. Using unsaved women in church to flatter and more. Home wreckers have JS.
3. **Entices/Baits bowing to Spiritual Compromise:** Pushing the man of God to gradually allow the world into his home, life of his family and into the church. Using women of the church to initiate non-Spirit led ministries to acquire ground in self-promoted leadership.
 - Spirit of Jezebel was in operation *before Queen Jezebel* ever came on the scene
 - Began to operate in the garden as Eve opened the door...
 1. God is not fair: Did God really say you can't eat from any tree?
 2. God is good: He is holding back His best from you
 3. God is Word is not true: You will not surely die.
 4. You don't need to submit to God...or your husband so eat

Lust of the eyes, Lust of the flesh, Pride of Life
Eve opens the door with the key of rebellion. Sin and Corruption entered humanity

- Eve died 6000 years ago
- Jezebel died 3000 years ago
- **Spirit of Jezebel and rebellion is alive and well**

Revelation 2 Thyatira the Corrupt Church

- **Ephesus: Truth without love** **Brutal**, Legalistic and insensitive
- **Thyatira : Love without Truth** **Hypocritical**, Corrupt; feelings based

1 Corinthians 5:6 [Rejoicing over compromise is not good]...do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- **Comprise:** Leads to corruption leading to the death of a church, family, individual

Jezebel Spirit: Spirit of rebellion utilizing the unique weaknesses of men and woman and revealed at the curse [Later]

femme fa-tale: An attractive and seductive woman, especially one who will ultimately bring disaster to a man who becomes involved with her.

- **Not a female Spirit but revealed as one...**

She is beautiful...she is wicked...she is powerful...and she is intimidating
 It is the Jezebel Spirit that took down Elijah the great man of God after great victory

Jezebel now dead 3000 years
 Jezebel Spirit that continues to take down great men of God. **Who/What is she?**

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the **Son of God**, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and His **feet like fine brass**:"

- Letter to the angel of Church of Thyatira **from Jesus Himself**
 1. **Eyes like a flame of fire:** He Who searches the minds and hearts v23
 2. **Feet like fine brass:** Judgment. Dashes enemies to pieces v27

This is how I judge you...

19 "I know your **works, love, service, faith, and your patience**; and as for your **works**, the last *are* more than the first.

- **I know your:**
 1. Works
 2. Love
 3. Service
 4. Faith
 5. Patience

More works than when you started
Feed the poor, help one another, shelter those in need, you are very,very tolerant

20 Nevertheless I have a **few things against** you, because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who **calls herself a prophetess, to teach...**

A few [3] things against you all relating to Jezebel

- **You allow her to teach:**
 1. **Exalts herself;** i.e. She calls herself a prophet
 2. She demands forcefully/with intimidation...

"I will teach and I will not be told what to do by anyone"

1 Timothy ...I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.

- **In the true church of God...**
 1. A woman is not to teach over a man [women and young people OK]
 2. A woman is not to have authority over a man
- Why can't a woman teach over men *nor* have authority over men?
- Word of God gives **2 Rationales...**

1. **Order of Creation:** Adam created first...then Eve
2. **Woman naturally susceptible to deception:** Satan came to woman first

NOTE: [1 Tim 2] Nothing relating to the culture of Paul's day but back to Creation

- Eve was deceived/Adam walked into sin with eyes wide open

Genesis 3:13 ...the LORD God said to the woman, **"What is this you have done?"** The woman said, **"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."**

- **Eve was tempted and succumbed to...**

1. **Lust of the Flesh:** Good for food
2. **Lust of the Eyes:** Pleasant to the eyes
3. **Pride of Life:** Desired to be wise

2 Corinthians 11:3 [Paul to the compromising Corinthian church...] I fear, lest somehow, as the **serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **simplicity that is in Christ.** [Note: Even though Eve sinned first Adam responsible]

- **Men/Woman different?** With regard to the Spiritual...

1. Men tend to stay with the "simplicity that is in Christ" Black/White
2. Woman's sensitivity to spiritual sometimes leads to gray or colorful paths

Gender weaknesses of men and woman are consequences of the curse

Genesis 3:16 [Curse: Consequence of sin] [Read] "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; **Your desire shall be for your husband,** And he shall rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have **heeded the voice of your wife,** and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': **"Cursed..."**"

- **Desire shall be for your husband;** i.e. you will desire the position of your husband
- **He shall rule over you;** Temptation to put down wife's rebellion with cruelty

These unique gender weaknesses are exploited by the Spirit of Jezebel in both world/church

God's Authority Structure

The Husband	Scripture References	Jesus Christ
Head of the wife	1 Corinthians 11:3 Ephesians 5:23	Head of the Church
Protector of wife	Ephesians 5:23, 29	Savior of the Church

Lover of the wife	Hosea 2:13-14 Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29 Song of Solomon	Lover of the Church
The Wife	Scripture References	The Church
Submitted to husband	Ephesians 5:22-24	Submitted to Christ
One with husband	Genesis 2:23-24 Mark 10:8 Ephesians 5:31-32	One with Christ
Bride, betrothed to her husband	Isaiah 54:5 Jeremiah 3:14 Hosea 2:16, 19, 20	Bride of Christ, betrothed to know the Lord
Bridal gown of white	Isaiah 61:10 Revelation 19:6-9	Fine linen, the righteousness of the saints
Wedding feast	Matt. 22:1-14 John 2:1-11 Rev. 19:7, 8	Marriage supper of the Lamb
Permanency of the marriage vow	Matt. 19:3-6 1 Cor. 7:10, 11, 39	Promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God

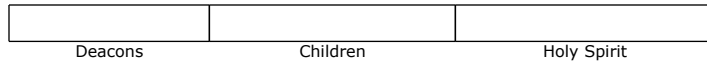
Not primarily a call for women to back down but more an exhortation for men to step up and lead their wives in love

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body...**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...**33** Nevertheless let each one of you [husbands] so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**I have this against you...she calls herself a Prophet and you go along!
Allow that woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophet to teach**

- Satan is behind this: Goal is the destruction of the God-Given authority structure

Church Authority Structure	Family Authority Structure	Godhead Authority Structure
Pastor	Husband	Father
Elders	Wife	Son



- Destruction of the Church:
 1. **Presumptuous woman:** *Identifying as Pastors/Elders.*
 2. **Lazy men:** Only enough strength to emasculate selves now unable to serve

Causing great confusion in church, home and creating the monster we call...
United Methodist Church? [And many, many other]

- Woman led and husband dead churches
- Allow that woman Jezebel to teach...because you fell to ungodly intimidation
- First...**Challenges** God-given authority Structure in homes/churches

Satan is working hard to chip away at Authority Structure God our Creator has put in place...

- **Challenge to God-given Authority Structure, Examples of:**
 1. Wives/children challenging husbands role as Spiritual Leader
 2. Congregants challenging authority of church leaders
 3. Citizens challenging authority of law enforcement and government

Why can't we do what we want to do? Because you're Creator says no

1. Husbands are Spiritual Heads of wife and leaders of the family
2. Church leaders [true church] anointed/appointed by God
3. Rebelling against law enforcement/government is rebellion against God [witchcraft]

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

- Challenge to God-given Authority Structure

I also have this against you...

- **You allow Jezebel to entice My people:** To act on feelings rather than God's Word

20b...and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality

1. Challenge to God-given Authority Structure
2. Appeals to Emotions and the Flesh rather than God's Word

If it feels good do it. How can something that feels so right be so wrong?

- **We welcome everyone...** No repentance required...Anything goes
 1. Fornication
 2. Homosexuality
 3. Bi-sexuality
 4. Transgender
 5. No genders?

Jezebel revs up her intimidation when speaking against this because it so destructive to Individuals, Family and the Church [Sadness/Suicides, etc.]

03/09/2018 article by Virginal Hare "Some men have vaginas and some women have penises," congregations have been told in a Church of Scotland resource urging greater sensitivity towards transgender people.

The 30-page booklet, a copy of which was delivered to every Scottish church on Tuesday, asks ministers to consider using gender-neutral language for God as part of a range of measures to make their congregation more inclusive for individuals who identify as transgender.

Testimony featured in *Diverse Gender Identities and Pastoral Care* includes the demand for a "21st century" update to the "patriarchal" Scriptures, and complaints that "Christian culture" makes life hard for "gender nonconforming" individuals.

"I struggle with the wording of the Lord's Prayer because I see God as my parent not my father," writes Andrew, stating that: "God is genderless to me: it's not father God it is parent God." "The Scriptures are very patriarchal; we need to update them for the 21st century," adds the churchgoer, who was born female but identifies as a man. "God, Holy Trinity, Father and Mother, Son - Sister and Brother, and Spirit - Lifeguard and Inspirator, lead us to your depths of wealth, wisdom and knowledge"

Church of Sweden Officially Drops Calling God 'Lord': 'He' to be More Inclusive. The Church of Sweden has voted to adopt a controversial new handbook which says masculine references to God, such as "Lord" should be dropped



- Spirit of Jezebel encourages those who are killing themselves to fight for their rights
 1. **This is Hate:** Condoning that which leads to death of another is murder
 2. **This is Love:** When God says don't ...He means **"Don't hurt yourself"**

God says...be holy as I AM holy!

NOTE: Also intimidation leading to apologies for speaking truth about sexuality and gender

- **Appeals to** Emotions and the Flesh rather than God's Word
I also have this against you...

20c [you seduce my servants]...and eat things sacrificed to idols.

1. **Challenge** to God-given Authority Structure
2. **Appeals to** Emotions and the Flesh rather than God's Word
3. **You intimidate** my people into Spiritual Compromise...

Change the Church from the Church of Jesus Christ to the Community Grange

- Push [seduce] My people to celebrate "Easter" with Rabbits/Eggs
- Push [seduce] My people to Celebrate "Satan Claws" instead God Father gift-giver
- Push [seduce] to introduce godless symbols and idols with real satanic meaning
- Push [seduce] My people to invent programs; nothing to do with Jesus, Word, Glory
- Push [seduce] My people to entertain in place of the worship of God

Why can't we. Everyone else is. It would be nice. Because God said NO
But people are going to leave...**Bye.**

**Try to chip away at leadership with
Powerful Intimidation aggressively pushing for Compromise**

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good...do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

- **Jezebel seduces people away from the simplicity of Christ**
 1. The newest thing; biblical or not, true or not, of God or not
 2. Nickels and noses

Q: What happened to this Elijah great man of God? Who/What took him down?

A. Spirit of Jezebel: Powerful spirit of intimidation still working God's people today...

1. **Challenge** God-given Authority Structure
 2. **Appeals to** Emotions and the Flesh rather than God's Word
 3. **You intimidate** My people into Spiritual Compromise...
- **Q.** Why is it the Jezebel Spirit powerful? Why is she so intimidating?
 - **All of these things promise life/happiness but lead to misery and death!**
 1. Death of a Family
 2. Death of Church
 3. Death of an individual Ministry

Elijah chose flight instead of fight and lost...

Began with a thought: I'm the only one left...self-absorption instead of suiting up

- Jezebel fighting hard to bring more, more compromise into the end times churches
- God will put an end to the compromisers in the church **after one more chance...**

21 And I gave her **time to repent** of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

- **Gave this corrupt end times Church time to repent**

22 Indeed I will **cast her into a sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds.

- She will be cast into a sickbed: Her intimidation will end
- Her followers into the "**great tribulation**" i.e. **not raptured**

Belonging to a Church is NOT Salvation

- Jezebel is the Woman who rides the Beast as a little girl...

Revelation 17:3 [Read] So he carried me away in the Spirit into **the wilderness**. [*Back in time to Plain of Shinar; i.e. Babylon where false religion was birthed in rebellion of Nimrod at the tower of Babel*] And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

- Universal False Religious System [Mystery/whore of Babylon] on back of AC [Beast]
- Un-repentant/unsaved Church members will continue their charade into Tribulation

23 I will **kill her children with death**, and all the churches shall know that I am **He who searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Those who follow her will die and all will see

- **Children:** Converts birthed from her impotent false-doctrine
- **Kill her children w/death:** AC will throw her off his back Mid-trib when done with her to worship him

Revelation 17:15 [Read] [Angel to John] "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast [*10 Kings ruling 10 regions of earth under AC*], these will **hate the harlot**, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Those who follow her into to one-world religion of the Tribulation will also be those who receive the mark of the beast and are without hope

24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as **do not have this doctrine**, who have **not known the depths of Satan**, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

- More information about Jezebel: **Teaches the "deep things of Satan"**

**Unconverted end times church members will be the Universal False Religion
Jezebel is the "woman that rides the beast" as a little girl**

We are exhorted to search out the deep things of God

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the **deep things of God.**

- She teaches the deep things of Satan; thing apart, contrasted, added to God's Word
- God tells us to stay always and

Romans ... be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

- **She is Love without truth** = Perverted version of Tolerance/Diversity...
- Compromising with sin

**Elijah chose to flee instead of fight and it began with a thought:
I'm the only one left!**

What should he have done...Hold fast!

25 **But hold fast what you have till I come.** 26 And he who overcomes, and **keeps My works until the end**

- **Victory over Jezebel**

Hold fast till I come get you! Keep My works till the end

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| ▪ Challenge to God-given Authority Structure | Hold onto God's Word |
| ▪ Appeals to Emotions and the Flesh | Hold onto God's Word |
| ▪ Intimidated to Compromise | Hold onto God's Word |

What does God's Word say? Hold fast. Hold tight. Hold on.

Psalm 121:2 My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved

- Holds fast to God's Word regarding **Authority Structure**

- Holds fast to God's Word regarding **Sexual Temptation**
- Holds fast to God's Word regarding **Spiritual Compromise**

26b...I will give power over the nations— ²⁷ *'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'*—as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the **morning star**.

To him/her that holds fast till the end and does God's work

Those who *do not* fall/flee from the powerful intimidation of the Jezebel Sprit

- These will Rule with Jesus
- These will Rejoice with Jesus [Morning Star]

Revelation "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the **Bright and Morning Star.**"

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when[f] He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

- The glory of the Fiery Chariot belongs to God...not Elijah.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Jezebel Application: Men and woman together are created in the "image of God". Each of the two genders fulfilling equal but different God-given roles is both beautiful and edifying to both.

Cowering from Jezebel's intense intimidation leads to corruption eventually leading to the humiliating defeat of an individual ministry, broken, upside down, dysfunctional family and the eventual **death of a church**.

- **NOTE:** Spirit says to the Churches [plural] all churches and individuals need to be stay alert

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Why did Elijah run? He was intimidated. Period

II. Elijah Descends: Self-Pity to Depression

Elijah runs 80-100 miles from Jezreel to Beersheba

- Leaves servant in Beersheba. **Why?**

Elijah was about to have a Pity Party... only one invited

4 But [Elijah] himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and **sat down under a broom tree**. And he **prayed that he might die**, and said, "**It is enough!** Now, Lord, **take my life**, for I am **no better than**

my fathers!"

- **Elijah's Prayer: For a guy known for prayer in James 5?**

1. **No salutation**/acknowledgment of/ to God
2. **It is enough?** This is too much for me!
 - **Who** does he think he's talking to?
 - **What** does he believe about the One he is talking to?
 - **Where** is his faith in a Big God who cares for him?
 - **Why** does he think this is okay?

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

3. **Now Lord...take my life:**

- Not a prayer of courage
- Not the prayer of a warrior warring to the end...

Jonah 4:1 [Assyria repented after Jonah preached] and [Jonah] became angry...3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" 4 Then the Lord said, **"Is it right for you to be angry?"**

- Is there something you are doing/attitude you are having to make you want to die?
 1. Because things are not going your way you want to die?
 2. Because things are not going your way you are having a pity party?

Genesis 4:4 [Read] Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

- **Contrast Paul...to Elijah, Jonah and Cain**

2 Corinthians 1:8 [Read] For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, 11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

- **Paul did not blame himself** for trouble Jesus said would come

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- **Paul did not blame God while** ... burdened beyond measure, above strength, so despairing even of [this] life
- **Paul knew God** had a purpose in the pain...draw closer to God and away from self

2 Corinthians 1:9...that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us

- Paul looked to God and other not to self
- Paul was thankful to God and others and had great joy in his desperation of life
- Paul learned to profit from trials as all great men/women learn to do

James 1:2 [Profiting from Trials] My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing

4. **I'm obviously no better** than my fathers by the way Your treating me.

Pathway to Depression

- **Depression:**

1. Depression is real.
2. Depression is disabling.
3. Depression is parallelizing.
4. Depression can be won.

Depression is not sin.

The Self-absorption, Self-pity, and Self-justification that may have led us there are

- **Path to Depression starts somewhere...**

1. **Self-awareness:** Focus on self/our problems/our entitlements/our rights

Beware of allowing your self-awareness to continue, because slowly but surely it will awaken self-pity, and self-pity is satanic. [Oswald Chambers] [Note focus of Elijah's prayer]

- a) **Focus on self:** What does every saturation have to do with me
- b) **Focus off Jesus:** No acknowledgment of God's power
- c) **Focus off others:** I am the only one doing what is right

Road to depression begins with self-awareness digressing to self-pity and all beginning with pride; i.e. all about me

1 Kings 18:22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord" ?

1. **Self-awareness** Why me. I'm no better than...Kill me.
2. **Cut all ties:** Left his servant

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but

exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- Pride will blind us to our need for others.
- Paul coveted the prayers of others when in despair

3. **Give up:** It is enough. Elijah sat down under a broom tree

- **We are called to endure:** Easy to say when we are not depressed; yet one of the roads to recovery...press on anyway

2 Timothy 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

- Jesus our example of endurance

Hebrews 12:3 ...consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- Endure for the sake of others who are watching...

James 5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

- There is real hope... unless we willfully continue down the path of depression
 1. **Indulge** in Self-awareness Make it all about you
 2. **Cut** all ties with others Isolate yourself like a monk?
 3. **Decide** to give up: You deserve it Drop everything/spend time w/self
 4. **Justify** why you feel this way Self-pity. Self-talk...I'm no good.
- **Cure for Depression: Take the path the opposite way...**
 1. Identify the sin of self-awareness and confess it
 2. Get into a group setting: Church, Home group
 3. Don't give up: If Jesus said to endure he will give us what we need to do so
 4. Stop making excuses for why it's okay to wallow in self-pity...**it's not**
- **Satanic:** Thief comes to steal abundant life. When we indulge in Self-Pity we are...
 1. Stealing from God
 2. Stealing from others
 3. Ripping ourselves off

BONUS Remedy for Depression: Do what is right. Take inventory of your Spiritual Life

Genesis 4:5 [God to Cain] "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Start doing what you know is right even if you don't feel like it.

Feelings will follow obedience

- **God is our deliverer:** Pour out hearts [even complaints] in **prayer of hope to God**

Psalm 142 [Of David. A Prayer when he was in the cave] I cry out to the Lord with my voice; With my voice to the Lord I make my supplication. 2 I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. 3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk They have secretly set a snare for me. 4 Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul. [Valley of Decision] 5 I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. 6 Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I. 7 Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name; The righteous shall surround me, **For You shall deal bountifully with me.**"

- **Valley of Decision:** Hope if God to get you to the other side

2 Corinthians 7:6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us...

Psalm 43:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

Depression is not sin.

The Self-absorption, self-pity, self-justification that may have brought us there are

5 Then as [Elijah] lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "**Arise and eat.**" 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a **cake baked on coals**, and a **jar of water**. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

- **Pancake and water:** Reminder of God's faithfulness w/ widow
- Angel? Made Elijah breakfast. Eats and goes back to sleep...

7 And **the angel of the Lord** came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "**Arise and eat**, because the journey is too great for you."

- **The Angel of the Lord:** 1st of 2 x Jesus makes breakfast. Here/after resurrection

8 So [Elijah] arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

- **40 Days/40 Nights** to the mountain of God
 1. Mt. Horeb; i.e. **Mt Sinai**
 2. **200 miles:** Should have taken much less time

"Elijah's forty-day journey is not without significance. Indeed, a straight trip from Beersheba would require little more than a quarter of that time. Therefore the period is designed as symbolic. As the children of Israel had a notable spiritual failure and so were to wander forty years in the wilderness, so a defeated Elijah was to spend forty days in the desert." [Patterson and Austel]

9 And there [Elijah] went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, **“What are you doing here, Elijah?”**

- Spends night in cave: Base of Sinai
- Lit **“the cave”** and possibly where God appeared to Moses

What are you doing here...Elijah?

10 So [Elijah] said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

- Does not really answer the question
- **Elijah knew he was being rebuked by God...makes excuses for attitude**
 1. I’ve been zealous for you Lord
 2. Everyone else has deserted You...

“I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” Me, me, me

SUMMARY Elijah Descends: Self-Pity to Depression

II. God’s Revelation to Elijah: You’re done.

11 Then [God] said...

- After Elijah gives up
- After the Lord rebukes him
- After Elijah finishes making excuses...

11 [Then God said...] “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, 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; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

- **God shows His power:**
 1. Tornado
 2. Earthquake
 3. Fire

Then...God reveals the intimacy He desires to have with us
Still small voice; Lit. calm whisper

13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he **wrapped his face in his mantle**

and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

- **Wrapped face in mantle:** Not knowing what might come next...
- God surprises Elijah with a whisper...

Elijah heard the still small voice...

13b...Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

- **Whispered:** "Why are you giving up my son?"

Genesis 3:8 [Adam and Eve]... heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, **"Where are you?"** 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- God asks questions He already knows the answers to...especially when we hide
 1. **Where are you Adam?** I miss you...lets reason together
 2. **What are you doing here Elijah**

One more chance man up...**to stop making excuses. Shut down the pity party...**

14 And [Elijah] said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

- **Repeats the same. Really? That's it.**

Elijah has just lost his ministry...but doesn't know it yet.

15 Then 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. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet **in your place.**

- **Return north to Damascus:** Toward Jezebel
- **Make arrangement for your early retirement...**
 1. Anoint Hazael over Syria
 2. Anoint Jehu over Israel
 3. Anoint Elisha to take your place...

No one is irreplaceable

Esther 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

It is a privilege to be a servant of the Most High God

- Elijah did not lose his Salvation
- Elijah did not lose God's love

**But...As the hole left in a bucket of water fills when we pull our hand out
...so we will be missed after forfeiting our ministry. One waiting in wings**

- Go anoint Hazael over Syria to do my work...

17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

- Hazael will deal with Ahab and Jezebel and their ilk
- Whoever Hazael misses...**Jehu will kill**
 1. **Bittersweet:**
 - a) God's work would continue
 - b) Continue without Elijah [Prayer answered: Take me out of here]

And by the way Elijah...just saying...

18 Yet...I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

- You were always wrong about being the only one
- You were always wrong about working harder than everyone else

**There are 7000 in the Northern Kingdom alone who follow Me
And would have been with you in the battle**

Only so many times of self-pity before God says I have had enough

SUMMARY God's Revelation to Elijah

III. Elisha follows Elijah

19 So [Elijah] departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth.

- **Elijah finds Elisha already working?** Leaders are found already working

19b...Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

- **Mantle:** Symbolic of Prophetic authority

Threw the mantle on Elisha while passing by him and keeps walking? Hissy fit?

20 And [Elisha] left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to

him, **"Go back again, for what have I done to you?"**

- **Go back...**but don't forget you're a prophet now, your life will never be the same

21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

- **Destroyed the tools of his trade for new life:** Not looking back

Luke 9:62 [Jesus] "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."