

## **The Ascent...**

### **Mountain of Decision**

In the Bible, mountains are often more than just geographical features. Throughout Scripture, God often meets His people in high places. But, here is the truth we often overlook—while the view from the summit is often breathtaking...transformation happens during the climb. Whether it's Mount Sinai, Moriah, or Calvary, the ascent requires effort and a singular focus on the One we are climbing to meet.

We will explore these pivotal mountain encounters where we will see that while the terrain may be difficult...the view of God from the summit changes everything. This series isn't just about geographical peaks it's about the spiritual journey as we rise above the noise of the world to hear the voice of the Father.

We've watched Abraham climb Moriah with a heavy heart but a steady hand. We've watched Moses scale Sinai to meet the glory of God at the summit. Today, we turn to a man whose life was defined by three very different accents—Elijah. In his story, we will see that sometimes the climb is where we face our greatest battles and other times it's where we face our greatest fears.

#### **First Ascent: Victory at the Summit**

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." 26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it. 1 Kings 18:25-26

37 Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!" 1 Kings 18:37-39

God meets us at the summit to vindicate His name not to elevate ours. When we ascend in obedience, God answers undeniably.

#### **Second Ascent: Revelation at the Summit**

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." 1 Kings 19:3-4

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."

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. 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?" 1 Kings 19:9b-13

On Mt. Carmel, Elijah was looking outward—watching the fire fall, watching the prophets of Baal, and watching the clouds for rain. On Mt. Sinai, God forced him to look inward.

The cave connection – Moses asks for, and sees, the glory of God in the "cleft of the rock" on Sinai. Elijah is shown the glory of God in the opening of the cave at the same place on Mt. Sinai.

### **Final Ascent: The Ultimate Summit**

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11

Our faithfulness in the "ascents" of life prepare us for the and most glorious summit.

1. **Prepare Your Altar:** Abraham built an altar for sacrifice. Elijah rebuilt the "ruined altar of the Lord". Our "ascent" always requires us to repair our hearts and faith before we can expect the fire.
2. **God Will Provide:** At Carmel, Abraham learned the true character of Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide). On Sinai, Elijah learned that God provides more than provision...He provides His presence and glory for present situation.
3. **Pass the Test:** All three men had to leave the crowd behind to meet God. You cannot reach the summit if you are always tethered to the world.

***The same God who sent the fire also sent the whisper. He is the God of the whole mountain.***

### **The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday***

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

**Monday** – Elijah was faithful and acted boldly in his faith. God provided in every way for Elijah. How has, is, and will God provide for you – body, mind, and soul?

**Tuesday** – Elijah KNEW who God was. He called fire down from God as a sign to others. How are you asking God to reveal Himself to those around you? How is He using you for this purpose?

**Wednesday** – Elijah witnessed the power of God. Then, he immediately fled in fear. How could he lose faith so quickly? How does this happen to us and how can we keep the faith in trials?

**Thursday** – God revealed Himself personally to Elijah on Mt. Sinai. He saw the mighty signs, but heard God clearly in the whisper. What small ways is God using powerfully to reach you?

**Friday** – God summoned Elijah to the ultimate summit of Heaven. This is the destinate we all seek and it is the easiest to reach? What does it take to reach the ultimate goal of Heaven?