

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“When the World Goes Dark”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): 1 Kings 17:1-9; ; 1 Kgs. 8:35-36; 16:30-33; 19:10; Is. 55:9; Jas. 5:17
Tim. 3:6; 2 Chr. 7:12-14; Matt. 5:44-45; Ps. 78:19

Introduction

Sometimes the world seems pretty dark. Because it is. There are seasons when it feels as though wickedness is flourishing, faithfulness is becoming increasingly rare, and those who genuinely desire to walk in obedience to the Lord are badly outnumbered. We look around at our culture, our workplaces, sometimes even our own families, and wonder, “Has it ever been this dark?” But Scripture reminds us that God’s people have walked through dark generations before. Elijah lived in one of them. By the time Ahab became king, Israel had endured decades of rebellion, idolatry, and compromise. Ahab and Jezebel took that darkness to another level as the worship of Baal moved from something merely tolerated to something aggressively promoted in the land of Israel.

It is against that almost pitch-black backdrop that Elijah suddenly steps onto the pages of Scripture. We are given no lengthy introduction and no impressive résumé. James reminds us that Elijah was simply “*a man with a nature like ours*” (Jas. 5:17). Yet this regular man from an obscure place walked into the presence of a wicked king and declared, “*As ADONAI God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be no dew or rain these years, except at my word*” (1 Kgs. 17:1). That declaration becomes the heartbeat of this passage. The darkness was real—but so was God. And 1 Kings 17:1-9 reminds us what faithful people need to remember when the world around them goes dark.

1. WHEN THE WORLD GOES DARK, REMEMBER WHO STILL REIGNS

Elijah’s first recorded words confront the central lie of his generation: “*As ADONAI God of Israel lives...*” (1 Kgs. 17:1). Baal was supposedly the storm god, the one his worshipers believed controlled the rain and fertility of the land. But Elijah announces that Baal does not control the clouds, the rain, Israel, or history. The living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob does. For years, Israel had continued receiving rain despite its rebellion. God’s patience may even have caused some to wonder whether He was paying attention at all. But His patience was not approval. He had been watching the whole time. The God who flooded the earth and split the sea could also quiet the clouds and withhold the rain.

We need that same reminder. Darkness does not mean God has abandoned the scene. Wickedness may appear to prosper. People may openly reject what God has said and seem to suffer no immediate consequence. Even some who claim His name may convince themselves that they can live in unrepentant disobedience while continuing to enjoy His blessing. But none of that changes who sits on the throne. The God of Israel still lives. He is still holy, still sovereign, still patient, and still calling people to repentance. And in dark

generations, God still calls ordinary people—people without status, wealth, influence, or impressive credentials—to stand before the world and faithfully declare that He is alive.

2. WHEN THE WORLD GOES DARK, LET GOD PREPARE YOU IN THE HIDDEN PLACE

Immediately after Elijah delivers his dramatic message to Ahab, God does something unexpected. He does not give Elijah a larger platform. He tells him, *“Leave this place, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, east of the Jordan”* (1 Kgs. 17:3). We might have expected Elijah to remain in the king’s face, pressing the message and demanding a response. Instead, God removes His prophet from public view. Cherith (*Kerit*) becomes a hidden place. The name *Kerit* is connected with the idea of cutting or cutting away, and that describes what this season would become for Elijah. He was cut away from the crowd, cut away from visibility, and given time in solitude with God.

Hidden seasons are not wasted seasons. Sometimes God needs to do something **in us** before He does something greater **through us**. It is dangerously easy for those entrusted with God’s work to begin thinking the work is somehow about them. So God sometimes brings us to our own Cherith—a place where we learn again that we are instruments and He is the One doing the work. And the hidden place also gives time for the Word to do its work in others. Elijah spoke, and then he withdrew while the skies slowly dried up and Ahab had time to realize that the prophet’s word was true. Sometimes our responsibility is simply to speak faithfully and then give the Lord room to work. The message may initially be rejected, ignored, or even attacked. Be faithful anyway. Speak when God says speak, and then trust Him with what happens next.

3. WHEN THE WORLD GOES DARK, TRUST GOD TO PROVIDE AS YOU OBEY

The drought Elijah announced would affect the entire land, which meant Elijah himself would feel its effects. Faithfulness does not always exempt us from the consequences of living in a broken and rebellious world. Yeshua reminds us that the Father *“sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous”* (Matt. 5:45). Yet in the middle of the drought, God gave Elijah a promise: *“It will come about that you will drink from the wadi. I have also commanded the ravens to feed you there”* (1 Kgs. 17:4). Water from a brook made some sense. Ravens delivering breakfast and dinner was something altogether different. But the God who fed Israel with manna in the wilderness was perfectly capable of setting a table for Elijah in the wilderness as well.

The remarkable thing is that Elijah obeyed. *“So he went and did according to the word of ADONAI”* (1 Kgs. 17:5). He did not simply visit Cherith; he lived there. Morning after morning and evening after evening, the ravens came, and the brook provided water. God sustained Elijah physically while also preparing him spiritually. If the Lord tells us to go somewhere, stay somewhere, speak something, surrender something, or obey Him in a way that feels frightening, we can trust that He will not abandon us there. His provision may not look the way we expected. It may even arrive in a form we never would have imagined. But when we walk in obedience, the living God knows exactly what we need and how to provide it.

CONCLUSION

Maybe the world around you feels dark right now. Maybe the darkness is closer to home—in your family, your workplace, your circumstances, or even in a season where God seems strangely quiet. You don't need to pretend the darkness is not real. Simply remember who still reigns in the darkness. This morning, if there is an area of disobedience in your life, humble yourself, seek His face, and turn back to Him. If He has told you to speak, speak. If He has called you into a hidden season, stop fighting the hiding place and allow Him to prepare you there. If obedience feels frightening because you do not know how your needs will be met, take the next faithful step anyway. Bring your fear, your compromise, your uncertainty, and your need to Him today. The world may be dark, but the darkness has never dethroned the living God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Elijah's opening declaration, "*As ADONAI God of Israel lives*" (1 Kgs. 17:1), especially significant in the spiritual setting of Ahab and Jezebel's Israel?
2. What do you think God was accomplishing by sending Elijah away to Cherith immediately after delivering such an important message to Ahab?
3. Where in your life right now does the darkness around you tempt you to believe that God is absent, inactive, or not paying attention? How does Elijah's story challenge that assumption?
4. Have you ever experienced a "Cherith season"—a time when you felt hidden, cut away, overlooked, or forced to wait? What might God have been preparing in you?
5. Elijah "*went and did according to the word of ADONAI*" before he ever saw how God would provide. What act of obedience might the Lord be asking of you before you can see how everything will work out?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, God of Israel, You live and You reign. When the world around us seems dark, help us remember that You have not abandoned Your people and You have not surrendered Your throne. Give us courage to stand faithfully when we feel outnumbered. When You lead us into hidden places, keep us humble and teach us what You desire to form within us. Forgive us for the places where we have resisted Your Word or mistaken Your patience for permission to compromise. Help us to humble ourselves, seek Your face, and turn from every way that does not honor You. And when obedience feels frightening, give us faith to go and do according to Your Word, trusting that You already know what we need and how You will provide it. Use us, ordinary people, to declare and demonstrate to a dark world that the God of Israel still lives.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.