

# I'm Coming Out

1 Kings 19:9-13 | Seth Yancey | Hope City Church

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## CENTRAL QUESTION

***What are you still doing in the cave?***

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### Intro: A Word for the Hour

***Key Text:*** 1 Kings 19:9-13

- Three ministers, three different lives, and the Spirit gives the same word for this season
- God asks Elijah, "What doest thou here?" He asks it twice
- Elijah is in a cave God never named. God told him to go to the mountain of the Lord

### I. How We End Up in the Cave

- Elijah had just called down fire and called down rain, and then he is under a juniper tree
- The enemy shows up after God has moved and asks, "Did the Lord really say that?"
- Fear creeps in, and fear is faith in the enemy
- This word is for encouragement, not for beating anyone up
- A new building is coming in a few weeks. Don't make this building a cave to hide in

### II. Why the Cave Feels Safe

- People and animals go into caves for shelter, to get out of a storm
- Nothing is wrong with taking shelter. A storm on the Big South Fork sent a canoe party under a rock overhang until it passed
- But creatures that stay in a cave adapt to the dark
- The longer you stay, the more the adaptations take hold
- The visions God once gave you start to go dark
- We were made for the light

### III. Caves in Scripture

#### Lot (Genesis 19:30)

- Lot asked to go to Zoar and God let him go. Then fear came on him
- He ended up in a cave
- Asking God for something is easy. Doing it when it counts can send us running to hide

#### Israel (Judges 6:2)

- Under Midian, Israel made dens in the mountains, caves, and strongholds
- When people get afraid, they run to caves

### **A promise that did not go as planned**

- When a word from God does not go our way, the old familiar cave is waiting
- It is comfortable there, and it is easy to say “I’ll never do anything for the Lord again”
- God comes by quietly, not in a quake. He reminds us what he has already brought us through, the flood and the fire

### **David (1 Samuel 22)**

- The distressed and the discontented all showed up at David’s cave
- The prophet Gad told him to abide not in the hold. Get out

## **IV. What Happens When You Stay**

*Key Text: Joshua 10:16-27*

- Five kings fled and hid in a cave at Makkedah (v. 16)
- Watch who you hide with. These were kings of the world, and the world starts to infiltrate the cave
- At first you come and go as you please
- Then Joshua said to roll great stones on the mouth and set men to guard it (v. 18)
- The hiding place becomes a prison. The enemy decides what you do
- Someone else has to drag you out (v. 22)
- Afterward the kings were put back in the cave and stones were laid at its mouth (vv. 26-27)
- The prison becomes a grave
- The enemy’s excuses sound like “I can’t go to church because of this.” God has called you out

## **V. Jesus Walks Out**

*Key Text: John 11:38*

- Lazarus was in a cave with a stone on it
- Jesus said, roll away the stone, and called Lazarus out
- Jesus was mocked, beaten, and crucified, and then put in Joseph’s tomb
- Jesus is not a cave dweller and did not plan to stay
- He walked out of the grave. We have to walk out too, and leave the grave clothes behind

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### **Closing: I’m Coming Out**

- The phrase comes from a well-known song. The message makes it the cry of someone leaving the cave
  - What the enemy meant for evil, God has turned around
  - Say it out loud: I’m coming out
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### **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

1. Where do you go when fear or disappointment hits? Is there a cave you went to on your own?

2. Think of a promise from God that did not go the way you planned. What did you do next?
3. The cave moved from hiding place to prison to grave. Where are you on that path, and who are you hiding with?
4. What excuses has the enemy given you for staying away from church or from God?
5. Jesus called Lazarus out and walked out of his own tomb. What stone needs to be rolled away in your life?

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Scripture References: 1 Kings 19:9-13 | Genesis 19:30 | Judges 6:2 | 1 Samuel 22 | Joshua 10:16-27 | John 11:38