

## *Elijah and Elisha*

#8, What are you doing here, Elijah? – I Kings 19:9-21

“Officers watched for signs of breaking. When Winters sensed that Private Liebgott was on the edge, he brought him back to battalion CP to be his runner. This gave Liebgott a chance to rest up and get away from the tensions of the MLR (main line of resistance). Just being back 50 yards, off the front line, made a tremendous difference, Winters wrote.”

Ambrose, Stephen E.; Band of Brothers

The stone felt cool on Elijah’s back! Having discovered the opening in the rocks, he had crawled inside. He was safe here, and now he could finally rest.

9 Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”  
10 He said, “ I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

[1.] v:9-10 What are you doing here, List Elijah’s “negative” statements.

[2.] v:9-10 again, What are you doing here, List Elijah’s “positive” statements.

[3.] v:10, I alone am left, We won’t try to psychoanalyze Elijah but, to have made that statement, what could he feeling?

[4.] v:10 again, I alone am left, If this kind of thinking had done Elijah any harm, what was the harm?

[5.] Something to think about. For believers with the mind of Christ ( I Cor 2:16), name some sources where they are guaranteed to get “negative” information?

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11 So He said, " Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks 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 After the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

[6.] Question [5.], From Philipians 4:8, What are some things Christians are commanded to do?

[7.] v:11, So He said, Where did God command Elijah to position himself?

[8.] v:11-12, behold, the Lord, List the momentous events that took place outside the cave.

[9.] v:13, When Elijah heard it, What did he hear?

[10.] v:13 again, When Elijah heard it, What did Elijah do after he heard?

[11.] v:13 again, went out and stood in the entrance of the cave, From v:11, what had the Lord previously commanded Elijah to do?

[12.] v:13 again, What are you doing here, Elijah? Give some reasons as to why Elijah was not at the location that God had instructed him to be?

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14 Then he said, " I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

15 The Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; 16 and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah (**map, next page**) you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

[13.] v:14, Then he said, This is the second time that God asked the same question. Write down the differences, if any, in Elijah's response.

[14.] v:15-16, Go, return on your way, God commands Elijah to leave Horeb. Then, assuming the three commands were to be obeyed in order, where was Elijah to go first?

Considering the notes (below) where was the second place he should go?

#### Notes

**Hazael**, His name means "God sees" or "Whom God beholds" Hazael was a servant of Ben-Hadad and not a member of the royal family. Assyrian records called Hazael the "son of a nobody" and his lineage was not recorded because he was a commoner.

MacArthur Study Bible

**Jehu**, According to II Ki 9:2, Jehu was the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. He probably could be found near Jerusalem.

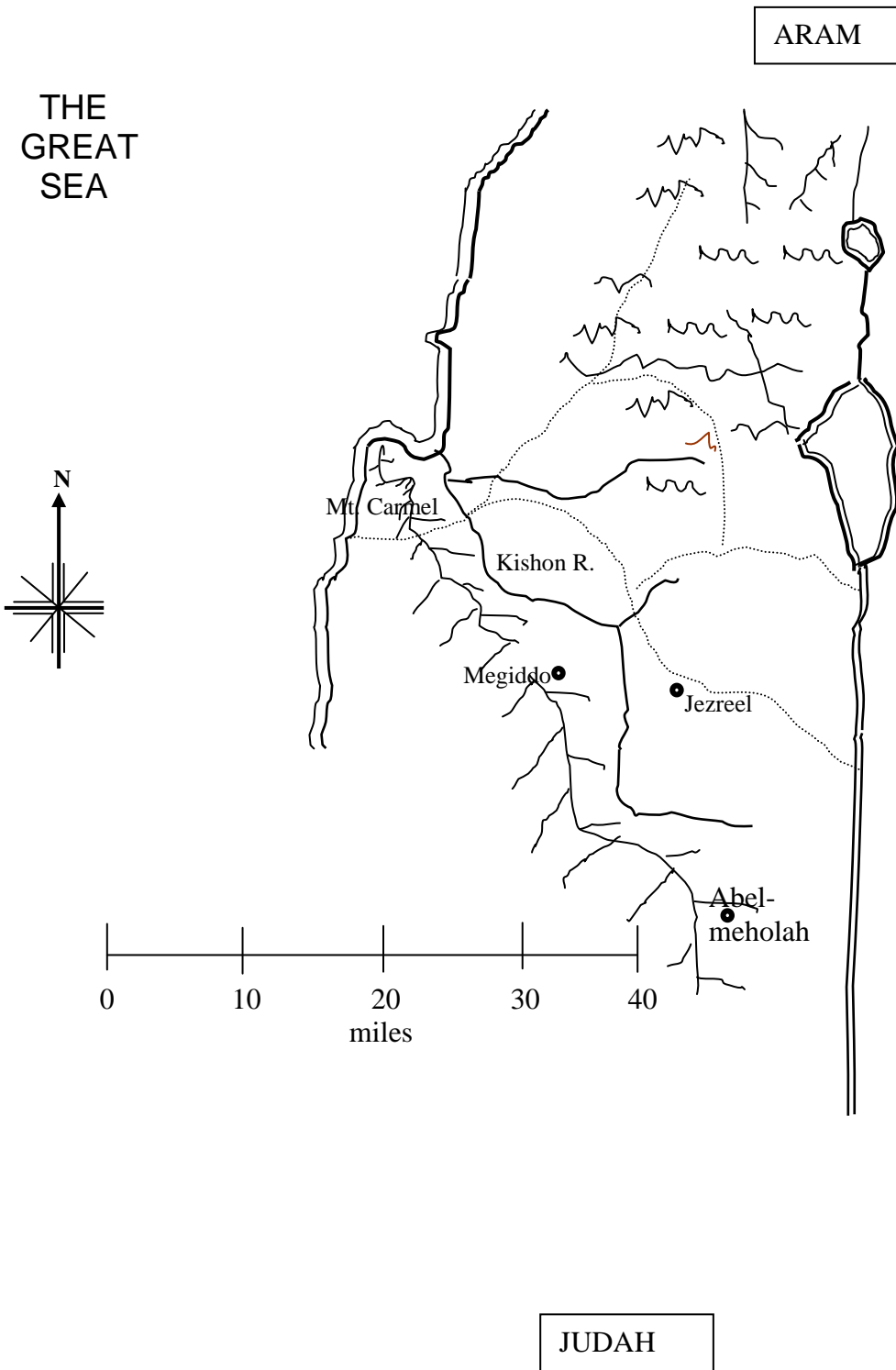
**Elisha**, As we read in our account, Elisha was a farmer/rancher.

**Anointing**, designated God's choice for a particular task but, as to when, God decides. We can see from I Sam 16:13, that David was anointed king, while still a boy but never served as king until years later.

[15.] v:16, Elisha... as prophet in your place, What are the implications of this command?

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17 "It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death.

18 " Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.

20 He left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

21 So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

[16.] v:17, From the list below, choose the best word that describes Israel's near future.

- a) Peace      b) Blood shed      c) Prosperity  
d) Revival      e) None of the choices

[17.] v:18, 7,000 in Israel, Remember Elijah's words, I alone am left, Why do you feel Elijah went over that twice?

[18.] v:19, threw his mantle on him, Elijah probably didn't have oil at this time in his journey but, because he used his own mantle, what did it mean?

[19.] v:20, what have I done to you? Elijah's probable meaning was:

- a) Elisha, you looked cold.  
b) You are now God's choice. Do what He says.  
c) Don't you have a field to plow?

[20.] v:21, and sacrificed them, With the loss of the oxen, Elisha lost his means of existence. What were the consequences of their sacrifice?

[21.]v:21 again, followed Elijah, We don't know if Elijah regained his servant (I Ki 19:3) or if Elisha sensed "something" about him but, what did Elisha do?

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[22.] Somethings to think about. Paul writes, II Cor 1:8, For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

Although very good commentaries do not mention a possible emotional trauma in Elijah, these last two lessons tried to present the possibility. Why would it surprise you if an OT patriarch suffered from this type of malady?

## **NOTES**