

THE TISHBITE

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

¹“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.”

The stone felt cool on his 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 List the “negative” statements (v:10) that were going through Elijah’s mind.

[2.] question [1.], List the “positive” statements (v:10) that were going through Elijah’s mind.

[3.] From our lessons, so far, list some positive things that have happened to Elijah.

[4.] If the “negative” had done Elijah any harm, what was it?

[5.] For Christians, name some sources where one can always rely on getting negative information?

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

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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?"

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, page 3**) you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

[7.] v:11, So He said, **What did God command Elijah to do?**

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

[9.] v:13, How did Elijah obey (v:11) God's command?

[10.] v:14, What are you doing here, Elijah?, **This is the second time that God asked the same question. Write down the differences, if any, in Elijah's response.**

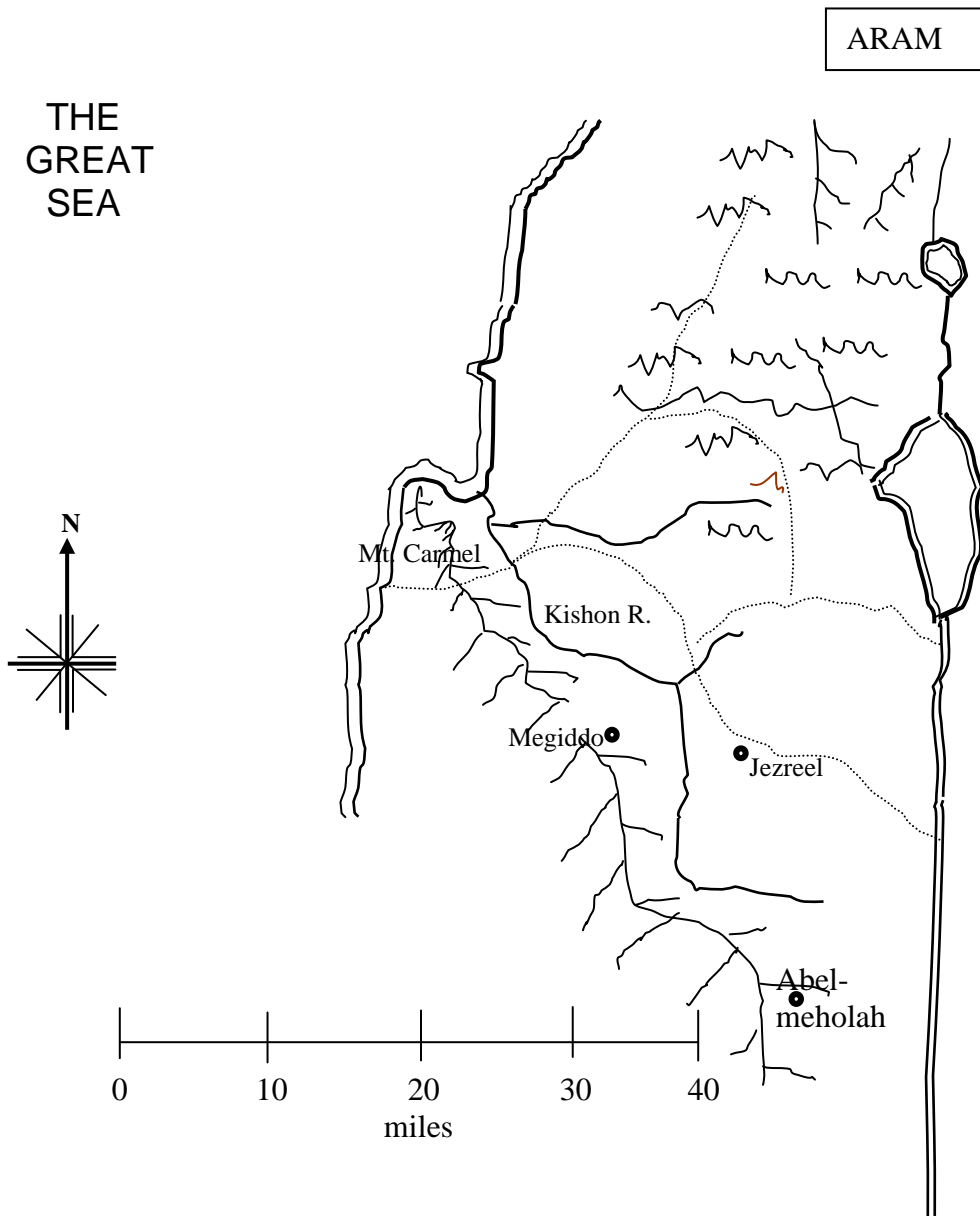
[11.] v:15, Go, return **Why might we conclude that Elijah had been in the cave long enough?**

[12.] v:15-16, Write down the three commands God gave Elijah.

[13.] 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.

[14.] Why might God have replaced Elijah?

- a) Elijah delayed at Zarephath.
- b) Elijah refused to wear a tie.
- c) Elijah was too frightened to serve.
- d) Elisha was a younger man.

[15.] v:17, It shall come about, Write down what is in store for Israel in the near future.

[16.] v:18, Paul used this event in Rom 11:2-6, to encourage His people. From Rom 11:5-6, the "present remnant" is "according to *God's* gracious choice". What does that mean?

[17.] Why or why shouldn't Christians believe that we are part of the "remnant" during the time we live?

[18.] v:19, threw his mantle on him, This signified that:

- a) Elisha was cold.
- b) Elijah went on R & R.
- c) Elisha should resemble Elijah,

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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.

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

- a) Elisha, go barbecue your oxen.
- b) You are now God's choice, just 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 trade. What did their sacrifice indicate?

[21.] ministered to him, Why might Elijah need someone to do this?

[22.] question [21.], Why is it important for us, as Christians, to be continually keeping an eye on others?