

God's Resting Place 1 Kings 19:9-18

Have you ever noticed how the life of Moses and Elijah are almost the same?

They both endured extended times of desolation
They both appeared with Christ on the Mt of Transfiguration
They both found God anew on Mt Horeb
I think their encounter with the Lord is prophetic to everyone who hasn't understood their own personal times of desolation

Mt Horeb has always represented a place where the desolate soul could find the presence of God again
But it is also the place where God releases His new assignments and power for our lives
It is a place that tells me God uses my struggles to prepare me for greater glory for Him
I want to look at Moses' second Horeb encounter with God
It will help me understand Elijah's experience with God
It will help me understand my own encounter with God

Moses like Elijah was frustrated with people

Even though Israel had seen God's hand of deliverance at the Red Sea they returned to idolatry
Moses, in anger, shatters the 10 commandments and with great passion he reproves Israel
But as angry as Moses was with the people, as he climbed Mt Horeb his attitude changed
He began to realize the only place of lasting peace was in the presence of God
Notice as he drew near to God he asked for more than just victory for Israel in battle (vs. 33)
Moses' greatest gift to us is his example of a life intimately close to God

It was at Horeb that the Lord first began to reveal His heart to Moses

*To know God is to attain the highest honor given unto men
But we can't really know God if we do not know His ways
(Psalm 103:7) – *He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel*
Why is that important?
To know the ways of God is to know the motives of His heart
It is to finally know the resolve of His love.....
There is such a difference between our religious knowledge about God and actually knowing the person of Jesus Christ as Lord of our life
We have known the Lord for many years, but how little we truly know Him
It's like my knowledge of God is like the size of one star against the vast expanse of outer space

Moses asked to see God's glory – He wanted to know God

But notice what God unveiled about Himself to Moses – His goodness
God's goodness is the life giving center of His glory
To know God is to know His goodness!!!!!!

The Lord promises Moses (vs. 14)

When God's presence is with our actions, all the energy we spent worrying is reclaimed and offered back to God in praise and service
We hear this phrase all the time – "Just rest in God"....
To enter into God's rest does not mean we become inactive but that God has become active
That is why Jesus calls us to rest in Him (Matt 11:28) – *"Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest"*
Jesus isn't talking about giving us a lack of activity – He is saying when we come to Him our activity will not be in our own strength

*The church, weary and desperate as we are, needs to return to Jesus and re-enter God's rest!!!!

When you yoke yourself to God your burdens are transferred to His vast strength & abilities

*He will become to you an untiring source for your weakness

*His unfailing wisdom for our ignorance

*A place of rest and continual life-spring of grace and virtue

*We can stop our labor and be unchanged from our ideas and traditions

*This is a place where we can serve Him in the unlimited strength of His might

***God has always been more concerned with the condition of our hearts than the activity of our hands

What we become to Him is far more consequential than all we shall ever do for Him
God wants your love and companionship (James 4:5) – *"Jealously desires the spirit which He has made to dwell in us"*
So what does all this mean?

*When our devotion to our task exceeds our devotion to Him, He will personally hinder our success

God will deliver us from the unanointed momentum of our own zeal

God insists that our success not originate from our strength but from our union with Him

That is why our times of desolation become a tool in His hand to work deep dependency on Him

Its those times, in spite of our sense of failure, God reveals to us His great goodness
Moses and Elijah both needed to be restored to God's goodness – AND SO DO WE!!!!

The Cave of Withdrawal (1 Kings 19:9-10)

How many have ever given your very best to something and still fallen short? Its crushing isn't it?

Elijah like Moses had been discouraged with God's people
Thinking he had failed, he fled Jezebel and begged God to take his life

(Pr 13:12) – *"hope deferred makes the heart sick"*

Elijah wanted, so bad, to see the nation awakened in repentance – but he just didn't understand the role God would have him play in it

His mistake was that he personally shouldered the burden of Israel's revival

Not know his own place caused him to assume the place of God

***When your heart becomes sick with disappointment and discouragement, it is easy to lose perspective**

Listen apart from the Holy Spirit you cant change another person's heart

Elijah's discouragement came from the false expectations he placed on himself

So alone and hurting he withdrew into a cave on Horeb

Self-pity is a spiritual cave – it's a trap of a dark hole, loneliness, and pain

And when you are in this cave its hard to hear the encouragement of God

All we can hear is the echo of our own voice magnifying and distorting our problems

Notice how God call him our of this cave (vs. 11-12)

A New Revelation of God

God wants set us free from the container of our past experiences by expanding our understanding of His will

God passed by, but not in the wind, the earthquake, or.... Don't miss this..... Or the fire

These were all symbols Elijah was familiar with

The Lord who caused these mighty manifestations was not in them this time

See for Elijah these things had been a sign of God's approval

But God was doing something new that would require a fresh submission to Him

It was a new anointing a "double portion"

This is the work of God that would destroy Jezebel and end Baal worship

This new work of God would be seen more in wisdom and compassion than manifestations

Notice how vs. 12 ends – **"after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing"** ...Ahhhhhhh the rest of God.....

This is the prelude of God's presence

Elijah knew it too (vs. 13)

Maybe it could have been at this very site 500 years eailer that Moses hid when the Lord passed

By

Now it was Elijah's turn

Entering this eternal stillness was the Person of God!!!!!!

Seeing Him Who Is Unseen

Earthquakes, fire and storms, the signs of Elijah, are the signs of our time as well

But can we know God is near when there are no earthquakes or storms to get our attention

God wants a deeper relationship with us than one based on manifestations

He wants us to know Him based on His word, love, and voice, not based on the issues of our times

Elijah gained the courage to endure Jezebel's wrath the same way Moses faced the rage of

Pharaoh (Heb 11:27) – *"He endured, as seeing Him who is unseen"*

That is the way we will endure too

The real power the church needs in these last days is to know His voice

God will not fight for our attention – the Bible says He must be sought

God is not going to walk up behind you and yell "Boo!"

It takes no special skill to discern an earthquake, a fire, or a storm

But to sense the gentle blowing of God, out other activities must stop

In a world of unending activity and distractions our hearts have to rise above to "see" Him who is Unseen

A New Beginning (vs. 13-18)

Restoring Elijah's perspective was the purpose of the quite place – he wasn't alone

See you have been there, feeling like your all alone.....

God is about to change your perspective....

Elijah gets a new commission – anoint a king, train a successor

His successor, Elisha, wouldn't be a prophet of judgment, his work would be a shadow Christ

He would multiply bread

He would capture and enemy army with kindness

He would establish peace between Israel and Aram
He would heal Naaman the Syrian general
He would anoint Jehu to destroy Jezebel and Baal worship
He would sit over the closest thing to revival they would ever experience

Elijah didn't personally bring national restoration

But he did receive a greater understanding of his place in God – to go before and prepare the way
for greater things to come

Many of us are destroying ourselves because we don't recognize how important our role is where we are

What if our greater calling is to prepare the way for what is to come

Elijah was successful – and God brought him to heaven in a way that was familiar to him –
flaming chariot and a whirlwind

God is going to reveal Himself to us in glories we have never seen before

But first He must stop our unanointed activities – He must bring us to the end of our strength and
the beginning of His

When we stop trying to take God's place we will find our place in Him

Even though the spirit of Jezebel is blatantly manifest in our world, its days are numbered

Our task is to be still and know He is God

He shall triumph over all His foes

He will be exalted in all the earth

In Him is my place of rest!!!!!!!