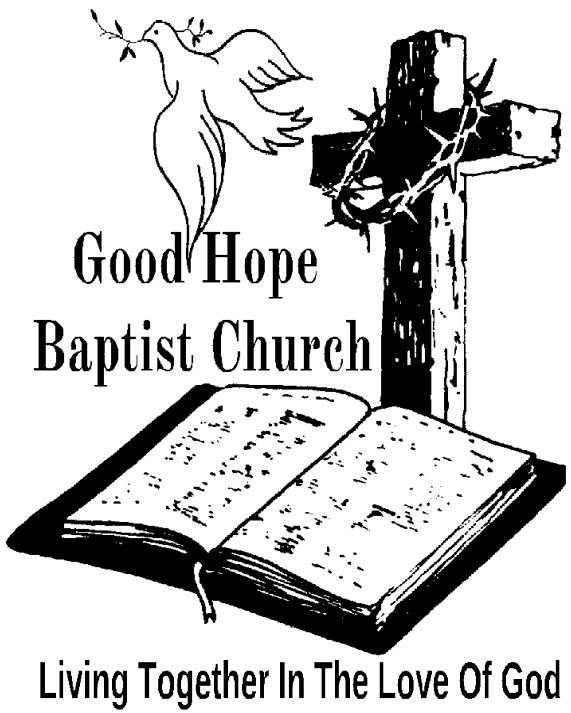
What Are You Doing Here?

1 Kings 19:9



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FOCAL Read Together **1 Kings 19:9[KJV] And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?**

> Our Lord often asks us questions, not because He doesn't know the answer, but because He wants us to know the answer. We are to **"judge ourselves" (1 Corinthians 11:31)**

God knoweth the secrets of the heart (Psalm 44:21), and **all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:13)**. When Adam sinned the Lord asked him **"Where art thou?" (Genesis 3:9)** because He wanted Adam to examine his life. Why was Adam – up until recently covered with the glory of God – now hidden and covered with pitiful fig leaves? Sin led him where he was. Sin always takes us from a mountaintop to a valley.

Why was Elijah in this cave? Here is one of God's most mighty prophets, a man that prayed and brought a three year drought on unbelieving Israel. This man stood on Mount Carmel and, in the power of God, faced down 450 false preachers. This was literally a *mountaintop experience*. Once Israel saw these prophets exposed for what they were, Elijah said:

1 Kings 18:40 ... Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew

KJV All texts KJV, unless otherwise noted. Any other translations used are used for the purpose of clarity.

them there.

Elijah thought that this one great catastrophic event would change the nation of Israel, drawing her back to the Lord. Did it? No, it didn't. I'm sure that Elijah – like any of us – expected that the nation would rouse itself and throw out the evil government that sponsored Baal worship. It just didn't happen. The Bible says that:

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:2-3[NIV] .. Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. ....

Elijah took his eyes off of the Lord. This mighty man of God let the foolish evil of Jezebel scare him, and **Elijah was afraid and ran for his life**. He ran away from Jezebel, his servant, and showed yellow for all the world to see. Once Elijah realized what he had done he was about a day's journey into the wilderness. That's significant.

Rather than being led by FAITH, Elijah was driven to the wilderness by FEAR.

ILLUSTRATE God Will Find You - even in the Wilderness When Abraham tried to have a child by Hagar his maid his wife Sarah chased her out of the camp. **Hagar** went into the wilderness to die **(Genesis 16:7)** and God found her there. **Joseph** was cast into a pit in the wilderness by his jealous brothers **(Genesis 37:22)**, and slavers carried him away – but God found him in the wilderness. When **Moses** ran away from home he ran to the deserts of Midian, but the Lord called him to service **"in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush" (Exodus 3:2)**. The Lord often seeks and speaks to people while they, discouraged and alone, are in the wildernesses of life.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God. **Hebrews 11:6 [(KJV)] But without faith [it is] impossible to please [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** Without a *working* faith, it is impossible to satisfy even your own self.

An Elijah obeying God's Word and walking in faith stood down 450 false prophets. An Elijah disobeying God' Word and walking in fear is ready to die. He said:

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:4 ... It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

Here is the misery that faithlessness produces. **"Lord, I've failed You. I'm no better than any one else. I should have done better."** The Bible never justifies faithlessness, nor does it advocate a willful disobedience. Yet God knew Elijah's heart. He knows your heart, and knew your limitations and direction before He ever saved you. God is the God Who:

Isaiah 46:10-11 [(KJV)] Declaring the end from the

beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken [it], I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed [it], I will also do it.

We do not surprise God with our failures. God did not take Elijah's life, but recognized his need. The Bible says:

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:5-6 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. {6} And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

> God had a purpose for Elijah's life, and He has a purpose for your life! **God saves a Christian by faith, then calls that Christian to work with other Christians in building God''s Kingdom.**

The Lord allowed Elijah to lay and rest, then had him eat again. After the second meal the Bible says:

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:8 ... {Elijah} arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

Arriving at Mount Horeb, the Lord asked Elijah **"What doest thou here?"**

1 Why Am I Here? What I My Purpose? When the Lord asked **"What doest thou here Elijah"** the Lord wanted Elijah to examine his life. **"Why are you here, Elijah? What is your purpose in being? Are you doing what God commands you to do, or are you on your own path right now?"**

Pastor **Jerry Johnson** said,

"Many folks today have a presumptive faith. The Gospel has simply become a fire insurance policy and nothing else. They do not see the Gospel transforming lives, let alone culture. And yet, Christ called us to Kingdom work. This work is not in order to *be* saved, it's because we *have* been saved."

God has ordained - ordered - that His people do good. The salvation message of **Ephesians 2:8-9** carries with it the declaration of **verse 10**, which states:

Ephesians 2:10 (KJV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

> God's people do God's work. God's people do good works - as God defines good, and not as I define good. Kingdom work is not based upon what *I feel*, but on what *God has said*.

Unless we obey the Lord we will not glorify the Lord. It is hard to be a Christian, hard to stand against the world.

But if the believer is to fulfill his or her destiny we must internalize what the Apostle wrote:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 You are not your own, {20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

If you are a Christian then you belong to Jesus. If you are a Christian Church then you belong to Jesus. **If you are lost, this doesn't apply, but if you are saved you belong to the Lord Who saved you.**

Satan cannot destroy the local Church, nor can he destroy the Christian. Only the Christian can destroy the Christian, and we usually destroy ourselves when we *willfully disobey our God.*

Christians are sheep. Not goats, not wolves, not dogs, but sheep following the Shepherd.

Those who do not believe are "goats" **(see Matthew 25:32-33)**, but believers are sheep who follow the Great Shepherd. Like Elijah on Mount Carmel we stand with Jesus - together - against the world. The more billy goats there are in the local Church the weaker it becomes. These are people who, upon hearing the Word of God, say "**I know what You're saying God, BUT"**. They strive against God. Their eyes are on their lives, and not on what the Lord wants them to do.

Why are you here? We are here to promote the **"Good News"** of the Kingdom Gospel.

ILLUSTRATE NEWS The Gospel of salvation is filled with **Good "News"**. The Gospel was prophesied in the Old Testament, but fulfilled in the **NEW Testament**. Jesus Christ shed His Blood on Calvary so that the believer could approach God in a **NEW and living way (Hebrews 10:20)**. Those who believe in Christ are given a **NEW birth**, which makes us **NEW creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17)**. The Christian is given a **NEW name** by God our Savior **(Revelation 2:17)** and a **NEW song** to sing **(Revelation 14:3)**. We walk in **NEWness of life (Romans 6:4)** following the **NEW Commandment** to **"love one another" (John 13:34)**. Everyone who is truly saved by faith in Christ is under the **NEW Management of the Holy Spirit of God (Galatians 5:25)**, and as God's people we are headed toward the **NEW Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2)**, bound for the Promised Land in Glory. In the last chapter of the Bible our Lord Jesus says, **"Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5)**.

You are a miracle of God if you are a Christian, remade and empowered, and you have a job to do. **What doest thou here, Elijah?** You are here to tell others the NEWS, the GOOD NEWS of salvation, that **whosoever believeth on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved**.

2 Those Who Are Saved Hear and Obey The Lord.

We walk by FAITH not by FEAR. We follow God's Word, not our impulses. What was Elijah doing at Mount Horeb? Why was he running from Jezebel? He let fear drive him rather than living in faith. Jesus made us all a great and precious promise in the Scripture, saying

John 10:27-28 (KJV) **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. ....**

What a Golden Chain this verse is! Our Lord said **"My sheep hear My voice"**. No matter how we do, or no matter how far we fall, God speaks to His sheep. **"They follow Me"**. We who belong to Jesus follow Him. We may slip, but He is never far from us. **We never perish, for we have eternal life, and no one can take that away.** What a blessed promise this is! Secure, saved, though we slip we cannot get away.

> We have all let FEAR or FEELING drive us at one time in our lives. Look to Jesus, not to your selves! Know He loves you, and that He watches over you as you serve Him.

When God asked Elijah **"What doest thou here, Elijah?"** he replied ...

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:10 .... I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Here is why Elijah is defeated. Elijah looking to God and obeying His Word could not be defeated. Elijah looking to "I" and *feelings* rather than faith was defeated with but a word. **Elijah had an "I" problem.** He was trying to do God's work in his own power - and it was killing him. Elijah thought that God had abandoned him, and that he and he alone was standing up for the Lord. He was wrong. God always has a people, a remnant that are faithful to His Word. The Lord said:

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:18 (KJV) **Yet I have left [me] seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.**

"Elijah, you're not alone. Trust Me, and keep doing what I tell you to do, and you will be blessed."

a The way to loss is always marked with man-made sign posts. Adam and Eve were thrown out of Eden because they did it *their* way instead of God's way. The **first generation of Israel** lost the Promised Land because they refused to obey God. The **Prophet Moses** died without entering the Land of Canaan because, God said,

Numbers 20:12 (KJV) ... ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

b Regardless as to the noise the world or even our heart makes, we are to obey the Word of God. **The Lord demonstrates this in a very graphic way.** He tells Elijah to ...

CONTEXT **1 Kings 19:11a .... Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by,**

God passes by. Once God passes, a storm comes ...

CONTEXT **1 Kings 19:11-12 ... a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke 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} And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire**

There are *three terrible displays* of power, but the Bible says **"the Lord was not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire"**. Where was God? He is in the **still, small voice**. He is in His Word obediently observed by His followers.

CONTEXT **1 Kings 19:12b – 13 .... and after the fire a still small voice. {13} And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. ...**

God allows the noise and the terror of this world to be all around us. We shouldn't focus on the noise, but on His Word. Listen Beloved: everyone experiences times of relative peace, and times of terrible noise. **During the times of relative peace we need to be focused on heeding and learning to follow God's Word. No soldier trains for battle during the battle, but during peacetime. Read His Word, Heed His Word, and Do His Word now so when trials come you will look not at the fearful but at His "Still small voice", His Word in your hearts.**

3 **If God's Kingdom is going to be built and Satan's Kingdom overthrown, God's Church and God's Children must "keep on keeping on"**. No single catastrophe is going to turn a nation fallen into idolatry around. When the **Twin Towers were destroyed by Muslim terrorists on 9/11 many pastors I know said "Now America will turn back to God"**. Myself, I didn't think so, and I was right. The Bible says ..

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? {10} I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

The heart of man may *temporarily* be swayed by disaster,but like Pharaoh, the shocked heart does not stay in tune with God. God during this Age speaks to men to convert them. He – **through the still small Voice** - leads as many as will to the Cross of Calvary. God uses His people to change culture.

What doest thou here, Elijah? If people are going to be changed the people of God – His Elijah's – *must come out of the "Church cave" and carry the Word to the lost and dying*.

The Great Commission that we as God's Church has been

given is:

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We are to GO, to TEACH, and to require every believer be BAPTIZED. We are to teach others to **observe ALL THINGS THAT JESUS COMMANDED US.** The early Church obeyed this commission. It was not afraid of Jezebel, though the world was afraid of Jesus. Rulers cried out when they heard that Christians were in their area, saying:

Acts 17:6-8 (HCSB) ... These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, ... They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king — Jesus! " 8 The Jews stirred up the crowd and the city officials who heard these things.

> The modern Gospel doesn't have this kind of impact, for it is seeker sensitive, user friendly, and anti-Lordship. We as Christians need to get back to the Bible!

ILLUSTRATE **Rodney "Gypsy" Smith** was a great evangelist of the early 20th century. He never had any theological training, but after teaching himself to read and write he trusted what God wrote – and acted on it. Gypsy used to sing at some point during his sermons. Someone once told him that he could sing better **"if you sing from your diaphragm"**. Gypsy replied, **"I don't want to sing from my diaphragm – I want to sing from my heart"**. He preached well into his 80s. Someone once asked him, **"What is the secret of your long ministry"**. Gypsy replied, **"I never lost the wonder of it all"**.

Matthew 18:3-4 ... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. {4} Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

I have seen little children spend hours watching ants work on an ant hill. We, however, either step on them or poison them. Little children don't over analyze things. They trust, and do. Little children make mistakes, and are disobedient, but they are never puffed up.

> We who are God's are called to be like little children. Not childISH but childLIKE. <u>Salvation is a wonder, communicated by wonders</u>.

It is a wonder that God would care enough to save anyone, much less me. Salvation is a wonderful mystery. The one who has been saved is truly changed at the heart.

Romans 5:5-6 ... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. {6} For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

The **love of God is shed abroad in the hearts** of the saved. God blesses us for a purpose. We have purposes. **What doest thou here, Elijah?** We are not called and saved to stay in a cave. As much as I love the assembly of the Saints, I must go out into the world and do as God directs.

Someone once said that **there are two stages to every movement: the apostolic and the mechanistic**. Those who still have the wonder follow in the footsteps of the Apostles. Those who have lost the wonder lose sight of God, and focus on the ME and the I, or else expect OTHERS to do the work.

Elijah had lost the wonder.

After giving Elijah a wonderful display of power followed by the **still small Voice of God** Elijah **wrapped his face in his mantle**. Like the angels he covered his face rather than look on the immense holy power of God. God asked Elijah a *second* time, **"What doest thou here, Elijah?"**, and Elijah refused to change his tune. Elijah told the Lord a second time ...

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:14 ... I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Nothing changed. He was still focused on himself, and on his life. He thought he was by himself. He said, **"I, only I, am left, and they seek to take my life"**. Elijah heard the **still, small Voice of God**, but was no longer responsive to it. How did God reply?

4 If The Christian Will Not Serve The Lord, The Lord Will Find Another To Do His Will.

God's will will be done. When **King Saul failed God, the Lord raised up King David**. When the **Prophet Moses failed God, the Lord raised up Joshua**. When a confused Saul persecuted the Church, the Lord knocked him down on the Damascus Road and **turned Saul to Paul**. God will have His way one way or the other!

CONTEXT 1 Kings 19:15-16 ... Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: {16} And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

Someone else is going to take your place, Elijah. God was going to have Elijah anoint a farmer named **Elisha** take his place. On the day you were saved you confessed Jesus Christ as Lord. You *had to*, for the Scripture says:

Romans 10:9-11 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For it is with your heart that you believe and are

justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. {11} As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Illustrate Does your faith pass the "smell test"? Sherry and I often buy food close to the expiration date, and then cook it or else freeze it that day. I purchased some chicken that was in such a state, then froze it. A few weeks later we thawed it out. But instead of cooking it that day, I put it in the refrigerator thinking it was fine, and that I could use it the next day. When I opened up the pack the next day there was a smell that *just wasn't right*. I briefly considered cooking it, but then decided I'd rather lose five dollars to the trash rather than my own health. It just didn't pass the smell test.

What doest thou here, Elijah? How is your faith. Examine yourselves. I am not your judge - God is. The Bible says **"If we would judge ourselves, we will not be judged" (1 Corinthians 11:31). Are you prepared for eternity? Will your faith pass the "smell test"?**

He is Lord! Do you know Him to be so? If not, today is the day to call on Jesus Christ and, in faith, to give yourself to Him.

FOCAL Read Together 1 Kings 19:9 (KJV) And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

Our Lord often asks us questions, not because He doesn't know the answer, but because He wants us to know the answer. We are to **"judge ourselves" (1 Corinthians 11:31)**

Psalm 44:21; Hebrews 4:13; Genesis 3:9; 1 Kings 18:40; 1 Kings 19:2-3; **Hebrews 11:6**; **1 Kings 19:4; Isaiah 46:10-11; 1 Kings 19:5-6; 1 Kings 19:8**

1 Why Am I Here? What I My Purpose? _____

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Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Matthew 25:32-33

2 Those Who Are Saved Hear and Obey The Lord.

We walk by FAITH not by FEAR. We follow God's Word, not our impulses. _____

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John 10:27-28; 1 Kings 19:10; 1 Kings 19:18

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1 Kings 19:11; 1 Kings 19:11-12; 1 Kings 19:12b – 13

3 If God's Kingdom is going to be built and Satan's Kingdom overthrown, God's Church and God's Children must "keep on keeping on". _____

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Jeremiah 17:9-10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 17:6-8; Matthew 18:3-4; Romans 5:5-6; 1 Kings 19:14

4 If The Christian Will Not Serve The Lord, The Lord Will Find Another To Do His Will. _____

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1 Kings 19:15-16; Romans 10:9-11

Good Hope Baptist Church

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