

1 Kings 19 Elijah Flees from Jezebel

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more so, if by about this time tomorrow I do not make your life like the life of one of them.

3 And he was afraid and got up and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; and he left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked for himself to die, and said, "Enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

5 Then he lay down and fell asleep under a broom tree; but behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat!" 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a round loaf of bread baked on hot coals, and a pitcher of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 But the angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him, and said, "Arise, eat; because the journey is too long for you." 8 So he arose and ate and drank, and he journeyed in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Elijah at Horeb

9 Then he came there to a cave and spent the night there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of armies; for the sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they have sought to take my life."

11 So He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind there was 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, and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak 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 armies; for the sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they have sought to take my life."

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 You shall also anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 And it shall come about that 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 seven thousand 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 ploughing, with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah came over to him and threw his cloak on him.

20 Then he left the oxen behind 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, for what have I done to you?" 21 So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them, and cooked their meat with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he got up and followed Elijah and served him.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Elijah has been found out and is in trouble with Jezebel!
2. Why do some people make trouble for other people?
3. Jezebel makes a decision to kill Elijah, but she overlooked Gods protection.
4. Fear took hold of Elijah and he ran away to Beersheba with his servant.
5. Does fear control your life?
6. Why did Elijah not trust in Gods protection?
7. He went by himself on a one day journey into the wilderness, feeling sorry for himself.
8. He said to God 'Enough! Now LORD, take my life'.
9. He came and sat down under a broom tree. What is that?
10. Why do depressed people sleep a lot?

11. Why do depressed people eat a lot?
12. What is it 'to journey' in the strength of that food, for forty days and forty nights?
13. He went to Horeb, the mountain of God.
14. What happened at Horeb?
15. Why does depression take you into a cave?
16. God asked a question "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
17. Elijah knew how to hear God speak, 'see how the word of the LORD came to him', and God spoke.
18. His answer is a self-justification, an opportunity to say, 'it's not fair!'
19. Did Elijah not know that the Lord knew the sons of Israel had abandoned the covenant?
20. 'They have sought to take my life; I thought it was Jezebel who had passed judgement'.
21. God said, 'Go and stand and see what chaos I can bring.'
22. THE LORD was not in the wind, although the wind was obeying Him.
23. THE LORD was not in the earthquake, although the earthquake was obeying Him.
24. THE LORD was not in the fire, although the fire was obeying Him.
25. THE LORD was in the sound of a gentle blowing.
26. Peace is the hallmark of God's presence.
27. 'The sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets'. Was this true?
28. God sends Elijah back to work to anoint the kings of Israel.
29. 'You shall anoint Elisha as prophet in your place'.
30. Elijah is going home to be with the Lord. Did Elijah die?
31. What was significant about Elijah coming over and throwing his cloak on Elisha?
32. God said, 'I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal.'
33. Why did Elisha burn the ox offering?
34. Elisha got up and served the Lord by following Elijah, and Elisha served Elijah.

What does "broom tree" mean in the Bible?

In the Berean Standard Bible, the words "broom tree" translate "Rotem"

This desert shrub or small tree offered shade to travellers and was also used for fuel.