

Devotional Questions – “What are you doing here?” i.e. “What doest thou here, Elijah?” Study Leader’s Questions

Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-3, 9-21

General/Background:

1. *What really caused Elijah to run away (1 Kings 19:1-3)?
What causes us to run and hide away?*
2. *What was Elijah disillusioned with?
The people – Was it true that the people were ‘a lost cause’?
The saints – Were there no other believers?
God – Was it true that God was not doing anything?

Who do we get disillusioned with?*
3. *How was this disillusionment expressed to God?
How do we let God know how we are feeling?*

The Question “What are you doing here, Elijah?” i.e. “What doest thou here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:9, 13)?

4. *Why does God ask this question?
Would God ask us this question?*
5. *Why does God direct the question to Elijah?
Can it be directed to us personally?*
6. *Where does the question imply Elijah should be?
Where does God expect us to be?*
7. *What does the question imply that Elijah should be doing?
What does God expect us to be doing?*
8. *When did Elijah really start to listen to God again (1 Kings 19:13)?*

Devotional Questions – “*What doest thou here, Elijah?*” Answers to Questions

Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-3, 9-21

General/Background:

1. What *really* caused Elijah to run away (1 Kings 19:1-3)?
What causes us to run and hide away?

Fear, the same thing that caused Adam to run from God:

“I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” Genesis 3:10.

Elijah thought he was naked before Jezebel’s threat against his life. Adam covered himself with an apron, Genesis 3:7. Elijah covered himself with a cave, 1 Kings 19:9. Commendably he **“went...unto Horeb the mount of God”** 1 Kings 19:8 but **“he wrapped his face in his mantle”** 1 Kings 19:13 because like Adam, Genesis 3:8, 10 and later Moses Elijah **“hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God”** Exodus 3:6.

All three men were estranged from God at the time of their respective encounters with God.

Today’s believer will run and hide away from God when he is estranged from God and will use coverings to cloak his estrangement:

- **“philosophy and vain deceit”** Colossians 2:8 e.g. atheism
- **“oppositions of science falsely so called”** 1 Timothy 6:20 e.g. evolution
- **“vain...man’s religion”** James 1:26 e.g. Catholicism, Mohammedanism

The estrangement can only be ended by the **“one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”** 1 Timothy 2:5.

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” Ephesians 2:13.

2. What was Elijah disillusioned with?
The people – Was it true that the people were ‘a lost cause’?
The saints – Were there no other believers?
God – Was it true that God was not doing anything?

Who do we get disillusioned with?

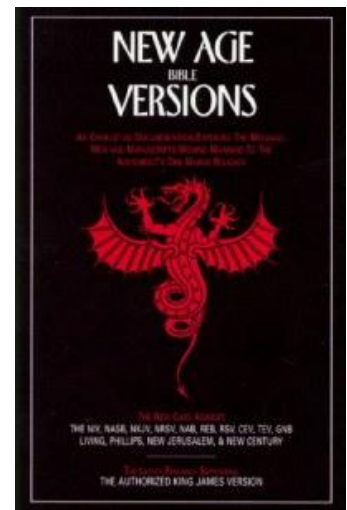
The people were not altogether a lost cause. They had declared Who was the true God.

“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God” 1 Kings 18:39. Note that the 1984, 2011 NIVs, NKJV cut out the definite article from the expression **“the God.”** It is especially important today to retain the correct reading **“the God”** owing to the spread of the New Age heresy. See *New Age Bible Versions* by Gail Ripplinger Chapter 16 *Gospels & Gods of the New Age* www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html.

The saints were not all gone. They numbered 7,000.

“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” 1 Kings 19:18.

Observe the progressive revelation in the New Testament with respect to disclosure of modern idolatry and the wafer god. See *Babylon Religion* by David W. Daniels Chapter 7 *Babylon Religion - Revived* www.chick.com/catalog/books/0187.asp.



“But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal” Romans 11:4.

This 7,000 would most likely have been those who were prepared to resist the invaders.

“Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand” 1 Kings 20:15.

That should be an incentive for today’s saints to resist the invaders.

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”
1 Corinthians 16:13.

The Chick tract featured is an excellent resource for that purpose. As Bro. Chick says *“The Catholic Church is mother to four great false religions. She will do anything to keep you from Jesus.”*

See:

www.chick.com/catalog/tractlist.asp?q=126&Language=English,
www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1077/1077_01.asp.

God was not being inactive. See 1 Kings 19:18

above and note that God was already working such that two kings, Hazael of Syria and Jehu of Israel, would be anointed through Elijah’s ministry 1 Kings 19:15, 16 and ***“and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room”*** 1 Kings 19:16.

These men would fulfil God’s purposes for both Israel and her enemies, grim though some of the results would be.

“And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay” 1 Kings 19:17 with 2 Kings 9:1-37, 10:32, 13:3, 22, 13:14-20.

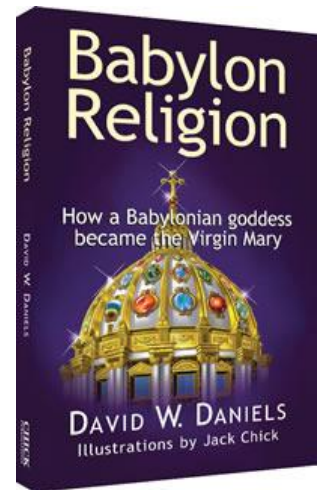
Isaiah’s admonition should be remembered with respect to God’s purposes.

“For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” Isaiah 14:27.

Today’s King James Bible believer may be disillusioned with other saints who effectively plead the Fifth Amendment* when faced with the question *“What is all scripture that’s given by inspiration of God 2 Timothy 3:16 and finally authoritative available today as a single document between two covers that doesn’t require specialist knowledge to decipher in violation of the priesthood of all believers 1 Peter 2:5, 9?”*

*See:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution *Self-incrimination*



This writer has recently had such an experience with The Trinitarian Bible Society www.tbsbibles.org/ who have refused to answer a question similar to the above forwarded to them by this writer on May 30th 2013. Today's date is July 15th 2013. The automated reply from the society received on May 30th 2013 follows, with this writer's question placed in italics:



Enquiries and Requests

Please retain for your records.

Thank you for your enquiry. We acknowledge receipt of the following information:

Name: Dr Alan James O'Reilly

E-mail Address: alan.oreilly@ntlworld.com

Type of Enquiry or Request: *The So-Called Pure Cambridge Edition*

Message:

Dear Sir

Thank you for the latest Quarterly Record with the article of the above title. Mr Brigden makes a number of references to the original Hebrew and Greek and appears to endorse the quoted statement from the Westminster Confession to the effect that only the original Hebrew and Greek are inspired scripture and that they are the final authority for the Church.

Can you therefore please tell me where the original Hebrew and Greek may be obtained today as a single document between two covers? (I am aware that various editions of the Hebrew Masoretic and Received Greek Texts exist but I am unsure which of these is agreed all round to be inspired scripture and the final authority for the Church.)

Please note that this confirmation is generated automatically. If your enquiry is raised in English, we hope to respond to you within 1 to 2 working days. For other languages, please allow longer.

Yours sincerely,

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sales@tbsbibles.org

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"...And the people answered him not a word" 1 Kings 18:21.

3. *How was this disillusionment expressed to God?*

How do we let God know how we are feeling?

Bitterly, 1 Kings 19:10, 14 like Naomi's:

"And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" Ruth 1:20.

While remembering Ezekiel's experience ***"I sat where they sat"*** Ezekiel 3:15, the Christian should respond thankfully because that is God's will for him.

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" 1 Thessalonians 5:18, which should be memorised.

The Question "What are you doing here, Elijah?" i.e. "What doest thou here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9, 13)?

4. *Why does God ask this question?*

Would God ask us this question?

Note that God asks Elijah the question twice and gets the same answer each time. God appears to be prompting Elijah to fulfil Matthew 12:34 ***"for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"*** and Elijah at this point does seem to have a heart problem.

God gets Elijah to disclose it because he doesn't answer the question.

Elijah says what he has been doing at Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18 and makes reference to his perception of Israel's doings but not what he is doing at Mount Horeb, 1 Kings 19:8, which is what God asked him.

Though such was not to be, it would have helped Elijah if he'd been able to answer that he was seeking to fulfil the Psalmist's exhortation.

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" Psalm 27:14.

If a Christian is asked a similar question via the promptings of God's Spirit, the Psalmist supplies the kind of answer that the believer should be able to give ***"in singleness of heart, fearing God"*** Colossians 3:22.

"I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope" Psalm 130:5.

Such an answer does depend on the individual believer remaining in God's will according to what God has *said*. That condition should be a major part of his prayer life, both for himself and others.

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" Ephesians 5:17.

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" Colossians 1:9-10.

5. *Why does God direct the question to Elijah?*

Can it be directed to us personally?

With respect to the direction of the question to Elijah, see the first part of *Question 4*.

With respect to what God may ask the individual, see the remainder of *Question 4* and note Paul's admonition.

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" Ephesians 4:30.

“The holy Spirit of God” could ask a believer a question similar to that which God asked Elijah in 1 Kings 19:9, 13 on the basis of being grieved by that believer, e.g. by means of **“bitterness”** see *Question 3*. That is no doubt why Paul immediately follows Ephesians 4:30 with this exhortation that also addresses heart problems.

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” Ephesians 4:31-32.

Obedience to that exhortation is of course only possible through the effectual work of the scriptures in the believer.

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

6. *Where does the question imply Elijah should be?*

Where does God expect us to be?

Geographically, not at Mount Horeb, 1 Kings 19:15, 16, spiritually **“in all the will of God.”** That is God’s will for the Christian.

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” Colossians 4:12.

7. *What does the question imply that Elijah should be doing?*

What does God expect us to be doing?

Specifically what God told him to do, 1 Kings 19:15, 16, according to God’s purposes, see *Question 2* and Isaiah 14:27.

It is the same for the Christian. Note that Paul’s exhortation to servants has general application to Christian believers and addresses the matter of the heart in particular. Again, 1 Thessalonians 2:13 must be in effective operation. See *Questions 4, 5*.

“And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them” Matthew 21:6.

“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” Ephesians 6:5-6.

8. *When did Elijah really start to listen to God again (1 Kings 19:13)?*

When God got his attention by means of **“a still small voice”** 1 Kings 19:12.

The lesson for the Christian is to be attentive to the voice of God, especially so that He does not have to interrupt you, *in order to keep and do what God says and manifest the fruit of so doing*.

Observe again that the heart is addressed.

“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” Matthew 17:5.

“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience” Luke 8:15.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 1:13.

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” James 1:22.