

March 23, 2021

Read 1 Kings 19

Key verse: 1 Kings 19:14

Elijah answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

God Raises New Servants

Poor Elijah. He has served God against all odds, defying the king and queen of Israel and all the false prophets of the false gods that pervade. It has reached the point that Queen Jezebel has sent soldiers to kill Elijah and end his resistance to the idolatry once and for all. And in Elijah's eyes, his whole religion seems to be on the brink of death.

It has been the sad experience of many Christians that our churches shut down. We see congregations grow older, children's ministries growing smaller, and leaders growing fewer in number. When the church that we have attended and faithfully served for years closes its doors for the last time we may think that faith is dying, that Christianity will not survive the next hundred years.

God thinks differently. Elijah was ready to throw in the towel and just die, but God gave him strength to do a few more things before calling it quits, things like appointing a few new kings and anointing his own successor. He also opened Elijah's eyes to the fact that there were still seven thousand people in the land who had not bowed down to the false god Baal, and those were the people God would save. Now, twenty-five hundred years later, there are millions – perhaps billions – of people who worship the true God.

Idolatry has always been a problem in religion – and it's a very serious problem in American churches – but God always raises up new leaders. It has been my joy to witness the strong faith of people much younger than me, people who God will no doubt raise up to lead his people in true faith. And even though we may grow old and feel discouraged about the state of the world, God will still give you what you need to fulfill your mission here.

Prayer: Eternal God, open our eyes to the wonderful ways that you work through others, and give us the strength we need this day to fulfill our mission for your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.