

Persevering in an Apostate World: The Life and Ministry of Elijah and Elisha

Week Six – The Remnant, I Kings 19:9-18

1. Review

a. The prophetic agony (I Kings 19:4)

The prophets saw not only “the turbulent surface ... their eyes were opened to the religious and moral terrors underneath. The prophetic agony was no less spiritual than physical: it battled with the sin of Israel and the wrath of God ... which made [the prophets] true types of Christ [for] the prophets bore the unfaithfulness of the people in their hearts.”¹ (Numbers 11:14-15; Jeremiah 9:1-2; Jeremiah 15:10, 18)

Godward Dependence and Intimacy (cf., Psalm 70) – Biblical piety

b. God’s Tender Mercies (I Kings 19:5-8)

c. To whom does the prophet flee? (I Kings 19:8)

2. “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

a. The context (I Kings 19:9, 13)

b. The prophet’s response (I Kings 19:10, 14)

“I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

- Godly jealousy (Numbers 25:6-13)

“Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.” (Numbers 25:12-13; Ezekiel 37:26-28; Zechariah 6:12-13; Hebrews 7:23-25)

¹ Geerhardus Vos, Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation, “Jeremiah’s Pliant and Its Answer” (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2001), 288.

- Prophetic Indictments
 1. Forsaken your Covenant (Deuteronomy 31:16-18)
 2. Thrown down your altars (cf., Deuteronomy 7:1-6)
 3. Killed your prophets (cf., Matt. 23:29-36; Acts 7:51-53)
3. "Go out and stand on the mount of the LORD." (I Kings 19:11)
 - a. What happens?
 - Wind/Earthquake/Fire ~Judgment (*but the LORD was not in ...*) Delayed
 - ... *the sound of a low whisper.* (12)
 4. "Go, return on your way ..." (15)
 - b. Anoint Hazael, king of Syria; Jehu, king of Israel; Elisha, prophet in your place
 - c. To what end? (17)
 5. A Remnant Chosen by Grace (I Kings 19:18)

"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."

For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 37:32)

Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:3-4)

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. (Romans 11:2-5)