

ELIJAH'S WORST ENEMY

In our [last study](#) we discussed why Elijah ran when no one was chasing him. We learned that he ran because of cosmos (worldly) fear (yare) of an "Empty Threat" from Jezebel, the foreign wife of King Ahab.

We also learned that he was running "for his life" rather than standing firm and fight the good fight of faith for God in the Angelic Conflict (1 Tim.6:12; 1 Pet.5:6-10).

He ran from Jezreel to Beersheba and then traveled a "day's journey" into the wilderness (1 Kings 18:46; 19:3-4).

This brings us to this lesson entitled, Elijah's Worst Enemy.

We will study <u>three aspects</u> of Elijah's Worst enemy, which was not Jezebel.

1. Let's begin with a doctrinal principle for the spiritually advancing believer.

PRINCIPLE: "A spiritually advancing believer is most vulnerable after a great spiritual victory in the Angelic Conflict, because Satan is sure to launch a counterattack."

Satan wants to put the believer on the defense, to retreat, rather than to take the offence and engage in the fight of the faith cycle, using the spiritual sword of the word of God (Eph.6:10-17).

Once Elijah mistakenly used violence to solve a spiritual problem, he became vulnerable to violence, even by an Empty Threat of it.

Jesus' rebuke of Peter at Gethsemane:

(Matt.26:52) "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."

(Matt.26:54) "How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way."

Elijah knew that the victory at Mt. Carmel was not completed until God sent the RAIN (1 Kings 18:1) The (Rain Part) was for moving Israel from a Spiritual Awakening to a Spiritual Reformation.

2. Elijah became vulnerable to Jezebel's empty threat of violence against him (2 Cor.5:7; Gal.5:16).

He had become emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually weary by succumbing to Jezebel's empty threats.

Elijah has done this to himself. It is called Self-Induce Misery (SIM) of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) [worldly thinking] (Rom.12:2) [Cosmos Fear].

As a spiritually advancing believer, Elijah is running "for his life" - away from the source of his life (God)!

He has chosen fright and flight rather than fighting the good faith of faith!

(1 Tim.6:12) "Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Pet.5:6-10).

Elijah other choice:

(Heb.12:1b) "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Heb.12:1-3)

(Heb.12:3) "For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Elijah became his worst enemy, even more than Jezebel was and made himself weary of fighting for God.

3. Yet he was not too weary to journey "a days into the wilderness"!

He convinced himself that he was all alone, the only knee not to bow to Baal. NOT TRUE! The believer is never ALONE!

(Heb.13:5b) "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

He has caused himself to be exhausted, weary, hungry, thirsty, and without provisions.

NOTE: Pay attention to the series of fourteen (imperfects) with Elijah and the two (BEHOLDS) with Teaching Angel in (1 Kings 19:4-8).

(19:4) Elijah came and sat down - under Juniper Tree (logistical grace)

Elijah requested for himself that he might die, and said - It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers (engaged in a pity party)!

(19:5) Elijah lay down and slept; (not a good solution to dealing with problems)

And **BEHOLD** The Teaching Angel "touched him and said - arise and eat! LIVE because God wants you to participate in His Plan!

(19:6) Elijah looked (hiphil impf) **and BEHOLD.**

The teaching angel with logistical grace (Phil.4:19) provided bread cake baked on hot coals and jar of water – and Elijah ate and drank and laid down again.

(19:7) Again the Teaching Angel of the Lord.

Came again a second time and touched him and said, arise and eat because the journey is too great for you!

(19:8) Elijah arose and ate and drank and went.

In the strength of that food forty days and forty nights (for a new assignment in the Plan of God).

DIVINE PRINCIPLE: *The Lord will never give up on you!*

(Heb.13:8) "Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever."

(Joshua 1:9) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

(Jeremiah 29:11) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."