

LIFE OF ELIJAH: A study by Bill Jones

“A Horrible Day on Horeb”

1 Kings 19

**I. If you are being used of God be mindful of your vulnerability to periods of discouragement....
Keep your eyes on Him.**

(Numbers 11:4-6, 10-15, Jeremiah 36, 45; Jonah 4:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, James 5:17)

**II. If you are in leadership and doing a work for God you will live with the threats of
intimidation....Expect them and consider the source.**

(1 Kings 19:2)

III. Fear is often the first step toward depression....Fear God not man.

(1 Kings 19:3, Isaiah 8:11-13)

**IV. Recognize the contributing factors to discouragement and deal with them immediately....
Spend much time in prayer with God.**

Contributing causes to Elijah’s discouragement:

A. He was disappointed and disillusioned.

B. He may have been angry at God like Jonah.

(Numbers 11:14-15, Jonah 4:3)

C. He took his eyes off God.

(Like Peter: Matthew 14:28-31)

1. Christ understands our suffering.

(Romans 8:18, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:20-25)

**2. We need to see our circumstances through God, not see God through our
circumstances.**

D. He had lost perspective and was not thinking clearly.

E. He failed to consider the source.

F. He isolated himself from his closest friends who could have given him support.

(1 Kings 19:3)

G. He had just come off a “mountaintop experience.”

H. He has just been through a period of intense stress and activity.

I. He was physically exhausted and emotionally drained and spiritually disillusioned.

(Matthew 11:28)

J. He submitted to the beast of self-pity.

**V. Recognize God’s cure for discouragement....Acknowledge God’s provisions and be thankful.
Learn from God’s approach when ministering to those who are discouraged.**

He provides Elijah with:

A. Proofs of His love.

(1 Kings 19:1-8)

1. God does not rebuke Elijah.

2. God provides for his physical needs.

3. God sent an angel to comfort and reassure him.

B. Signs of His goodness.

(1 Kings 19:9-14, Exodus 33:18-23)

1. God counsels with him wisely.

2. God uses a questioning technique.

(1 Kings 19:9, Psalm 62:8)

3. Elijah seeks self-justification and places blame.

(1 Kings 19:10, Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-3)

4. God doesn't judge him or even correct him. He merely listens and lets him vent.

(Isaiah 65:24)

5. When our focus is on God, all problems of life shrink to their proper size.

6. God gets him active and to stop focusing on self.

(1 Kings 19:11-13, Exodus 19:18, 2 Peter 3:9)

7. Elijah, after seeing God would regain his proper perspective on life.

C. A fresh call to service.

(1 Kings 19:15-18)

1. God shows Elijah how he was still an integral part of God's plan.

2. God graciously shows Elijah the future, and how Elijah's service to God was not yet over.

3. God further shows Elijah that there would be others to help him rid Israel of their idolatry.

(1 Kings 19:15-18, Romans 11:2-6)

God would use Hazeel (great wind) to judge Israel in answer to Elijah's first complaint,

"The Israelites have rejected your covenant." (2 Kings 8:7-15, 10:32-33, 12:17-18)

Jehu (earthquake) buries Ahab's family, Jezebel and Baal worship in answer to Elijah's second complaint concerning the altars and prophets. (2 Kings 9:33, 10:25,28)

Elisha (fire) as the two edged sword of God's word to cause the Israelites to be dead to sin in answer to Elijah's third complaint, "I am the only one left." (Matthew 16:24-25, Mark 8:34-35, Luke 9:23-24, Romans 6:1-2,11, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 2:24)

4. How many opportunities for service have we missed because we don't trust in God?

(Numbers 20:1-12, Deuteronomy 3:21-26, John 15:1-2)

D. A close personal friend.

(1 Kings 19:19-21)

1. Elisha willingly gives up everything to follow Elijah.

2. Elisha demonstrated complete dedication by burning all bridges so there was no turning back.

(Matthew 4:18-22, 6:33, 19:27-29, Mark 10:28-30, Luke 5:11, 14:33, 18:28-30)

3. Elisha becomes a true friend who won't desert Elijah no matter what the cost.

(2 Kings 2:2, 2:4, 2:6, John 15:13-15)

"A friend is one who comes in when the whole world has gone out!"

VI. Often we become more enamored with the gifts rather than the giver of the gifts, which is God...

Be quick to thank Him and continually acknowledge Him.