

**In Search of Elijah:** The Long Journey Home

Lesson 8.8

**The Palace Opening:**

Last week we heard the story of the “battle of the gods” won by Yahweh on Mount Carmel. Fire rained down on Elijah’s altar to Yahweh. The priests of Melkart were killed. Israel was turning away from the worship of Baal. Or were they? Don’t count out Jezebel just yet. Can you imagine her reaction to King Ahab telling her of the incident on Mount Carmel and the killing of the priests she had brought from her country? It wasn’t very lady like!

In today’s lesson we see Queen Jezebel giving orders to her servants to find Elijah and kill him. If she is to stop the return of Israel to the worship of Yahweh, she must stop Elijah.

**Queen Jezebel:** “What have you done! Why didn’t you tell me before you went to Mount Carmel. I would not have allowed my priests to go to such a setup. Obviously Elijah made some foul trickery to light his fire. Melkart will punish Israel for the loss of his priests! Ahab, you are very foolish. You should never do as Elijah tells you to do! We are doomed, unless I can capture and kill Elijah. He must not be allowed to get away with such a traitorous act. May the gods deal with me severely if by this time tomorrow I have not killed Elijah. Ahab, send messengers to take that word to Elijah.

Time travelers, you are in deep trouble. If you do not find Elijah, you will answer to me! You may never see your future world again!

Ahab, I will appeal to Asherah to persuade Melkart to go easy on us. Asherah has a great power of persuasion. She has done a great job converting these poor Israelites to Melkart. We must make sure they do not return to the worship of Yahweh. That would tear Samaria away from Phoenicia. Samaria would then fall to Ben-Hadad of Aram. I still have my 400 priestess of Asherah. Those lovely women can charm any man of Israel. I’ll send messengers to the temple groves and order them to give their all to Asherah now. Tonight will be a wild night in Samaria!

Time travelers! What are you waiting for, get moving! And no more excuses, like running out of gas ... whatever that is.”

At the town of Beersheba in Judah, Elijah left his servant Elisha.

**Elisha:** “I’m really concerned about Elijah. When Queen Jezebel’s messenger arrived and told Elijah of her intent to kill him, He sort of gave up. Elijah really believed that the people of Samaria would return to Yahweh, tear down all the altars to Baal, and throw Queen Jezebel to the dogs. Instead, the queen seems more powerful than ever and King Ahab is unwilling to stop her. Elijah fled out of the house where we were staying in Samaria. I followed him as far as here at Beersheba in Judah. Elijah didn’t even feel safe in Judah since King Jehoshaphat of Judah is trying to gain a trade agreement with King Ahab. You just missed Elijah. He told me that he was going into the desert and I was to remain behind. The desert is very dangerous and Elijah doesn’t seem right. If you find him, please bring him to me, not King Ahab.”

The “broom tree”: Elijah travelled a day from Beersheba into the desert and stopped at a broom tree. He was exhausted physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. But Yahweh had not forgotten him or lost track of him. He sent an angel to attend to Elijah. Interview the angel and discover where Elijah has gone next.

**The Broom Tree Angel:** “Elijah was very discouraged and tired when I found him. He prayed: “I have had enough, Lord. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under this broom tree and fell asleep. After a while, I touched him and told him to get up and eat. I gave him a cake of hot bread and a jug of water. Not much to sustain him, but it kept him alive. I let him rest, then returned with another cake and jar of water. I told him to get up and eat, for the journey was too much for him. Elijah began to be encouraged. Now he knew Yahweh was still with him and still had work for him. He ate and then walked for forty days to the tip of the great desert of Arabia to the mountain of God where Moses had received the Ten Commandments. You will find Elijah there in a cave, unless your time machines fail you again!”

The Mountain of God – Mount Horeb.

**Mount Horeb Shepherd:** “Some strange things happened in this cave and on Mount Horeb itself. I was tending my sheep on a nearby mountain when it all started. A powerful wind tore the mountain apart, blew down trees and threw rocks all over the place. Then a great earthquake hit. The rocks and trees that had been blown down by the wind were thrown down into the valley of the mountain. Then fire came down from the sky and the entire mountain was burned. It was really frightening! My sheep ran away and it took me days to round them up. But it became very quiet afterwards. I listened and heard a faint voice say: ‘Elijah, what are you doing here?’ And then I heard the voice of Elijah trying to explain his actions. But the voice said: ‘Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus.’ It was really strange. So, Elijah is not here. He has gone from the mountain of God.”