

Lesson #4-9***Elijah's Call in the Wilderness***

1 Kings 19:1-18

**Key Verse:**

But the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
-1 Kings 19:12

The Point:

God can come to us and power and glory, but sometimes chooses the quiet way.

Unit Theme (October 15 - November 5):

Called by God

Culture/Religion

- It is noteworthy that, although the increasingly centralized power structure had sent women to the margins of society, they figure prominently in the stories of Elijah and Elisha. Five of the eight miracle stories in 1 and 2 Kings feature women. These stories are empowering and depict a God who turns cultural norms upside down.¹

Literature

- Elijah's journey in chapter 19 parallels, but also greatly contrasts with his travels in chapter 17. The first time Elijah fled, it was at the command of the Lord, and for Elijah's physical safety. This second time, Elijah himself decided to flee, his running fueled by fear, rather than faith. The parallel contrasts continue with Elijah's experience of God. While other theophanies (appearances of God) occurred with great actions such as earthquakes, spontaneous fire, or parting of waters, this time God appeared in the sheer silence.²

Hymns/Music

- Hymns about silence/mystery: "Now the Silence," "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," and "He Comes to Us as One Unknown."

Media Connections

- The heavy metal band, Disturbed, produced a remarkable music video of Simon and Garfunkel's "The Sound of Silence." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9Dg-g7t2l4>

¹ Claudia V. Camp, "1 and 2 Kings" in *Women's Bible Commentary*, ed. Carol A. Newsom and Sharon H. Ringe (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 103.

² Roger Tomes, "1 and 2 Kings," in *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*, ed. James D. G. Dunn and John W. Rogerson (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003), 263.



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