



- Scripture Reading: Psalm 46
- 1 Kings 19:10: He said, "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."



- When Ahab returned to Queen Jezebel, he told her all that had happened with Elijah.
- Elijah prayed that it not rain for 3.5 years, and it didn't rain.
- Confronted the prophets of Baal (Jezebel had intensified the worship of Baal).
- Mt. Carmel he powerfully showed that people that Baal was not a real god at all, and that Jehovah is the true God.
- Killed 450 prophets of Baal.
- Prayed for rain ... and it rained.



- How does Jezebel react to this amazing demonstration of Jehovah's power, control and majesty?
- She doesn't repent of her idolatry.
- She doesn't consider the greatness of Jehovah.
- She doesn't renounce Baal after the failure to do anything.
- 1 Kings 19:2: Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."



- 1 Kings 19:3-4 (ESV) 3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.
- 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree.
- And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."



- 1 Kings 19:5-7 (ESV) 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree.



- And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.”
- 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water.
- And he ate and drank and lay down again.
- 7 And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”



- 1 Kings 19:8 (ESV) And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.
- Deuteronomy 1:2 (ESV) 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea.



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- 1 Kings 19:9: There he came to a cave and lodged in it.



- 1 Kings 19:9: And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
- 1 Kings 19:10: He said, “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.”



- 1 Kings 19:13-18 (ESV) 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"



- 14 He said, “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.”

Why did Elijah suddenly struggle?



- Why did Elijah struggle?
 - He had seen the power of his prayers to Jehovah: no rain and rain.
 - He had seen God provide for him throughout the drought.
 - He had seen the dead raised.
 - He had seen the power of Jehovah in accepting the offering on Mt. Carmel.
 - He had seen the defeat of so many prophets of Baal.
 - He had seen the people seemingly turn back to Jehovah.



- He was afraid.
 - Jezebel's threat to kill him was very real, and Elijah understood that she was serious and capable of accomplishing this.
- Why would Elijah be afraid now?
 - Why not pray for Jehovah to protect him? Did he fail to trust Jehovah?
 - Was Elijah wrong to be afraid?
 - Was this an emotional reaction to a stressful situation?
 - None the less, his fear was real.



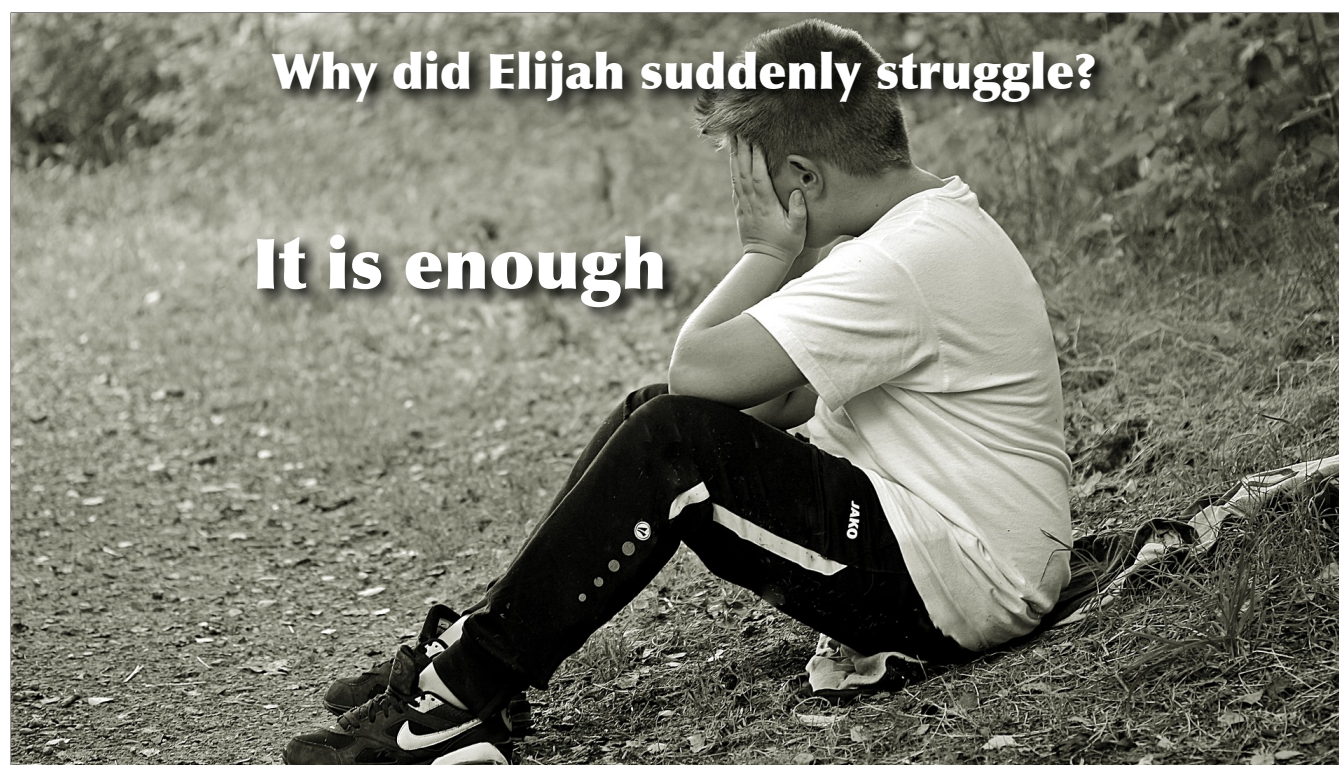
- Even those who believe in God are sometimes afraid because of situations they face in the world
- Paul in Macedonia
 - 2 Corinthians 7:5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within.



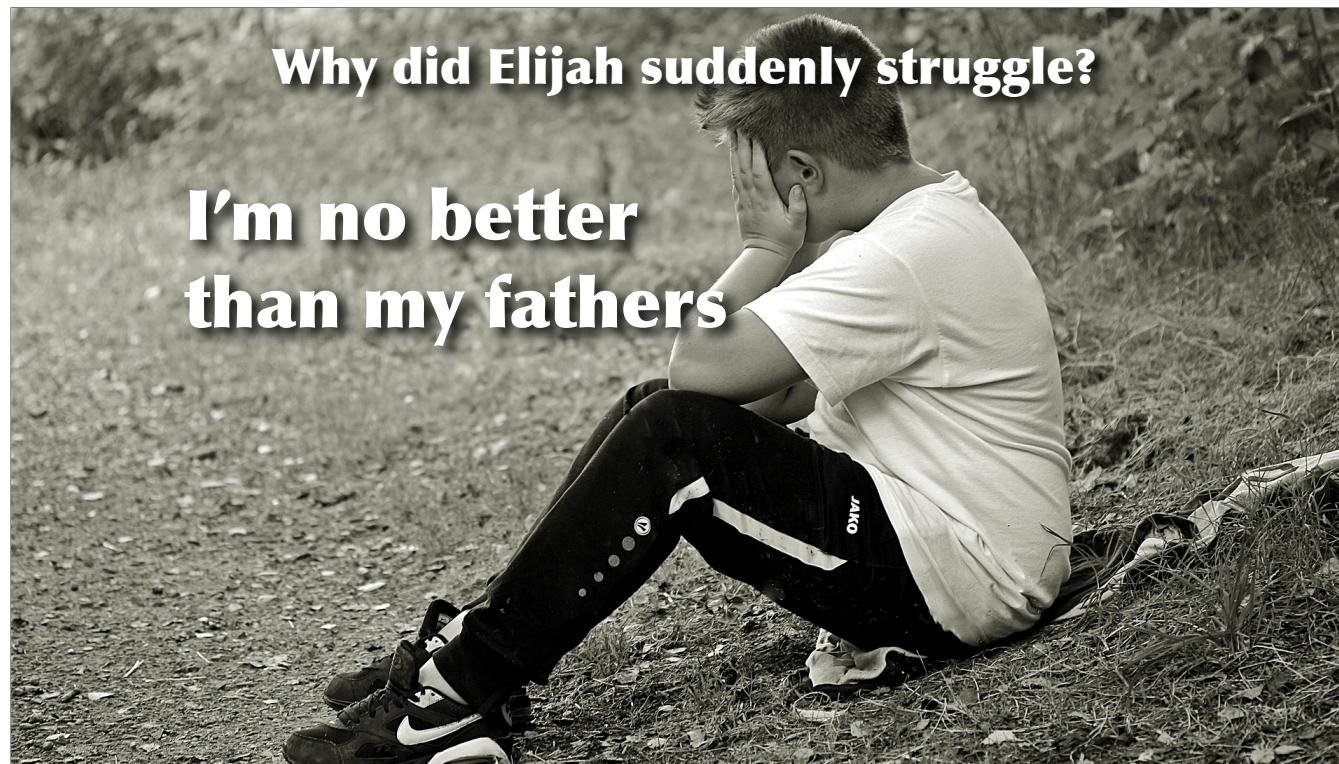
- Paul in Corinth
 - Acts 18:9-10 (ESV) 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”
- Paul in Corinth
 - 1 Corinthians 2:3: And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,
- Paul to Timothy
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.



- Sometimes we will be afraid ...
 - Whether persecution or relationships or difficulties of life
- It's not a question of fear, but what does that fear lead to? How do I deal with it?
 - Do I allow my fear to separate me from God? Question God?
 - Or do I use my fear to turn to my God in prayer? trust? help?



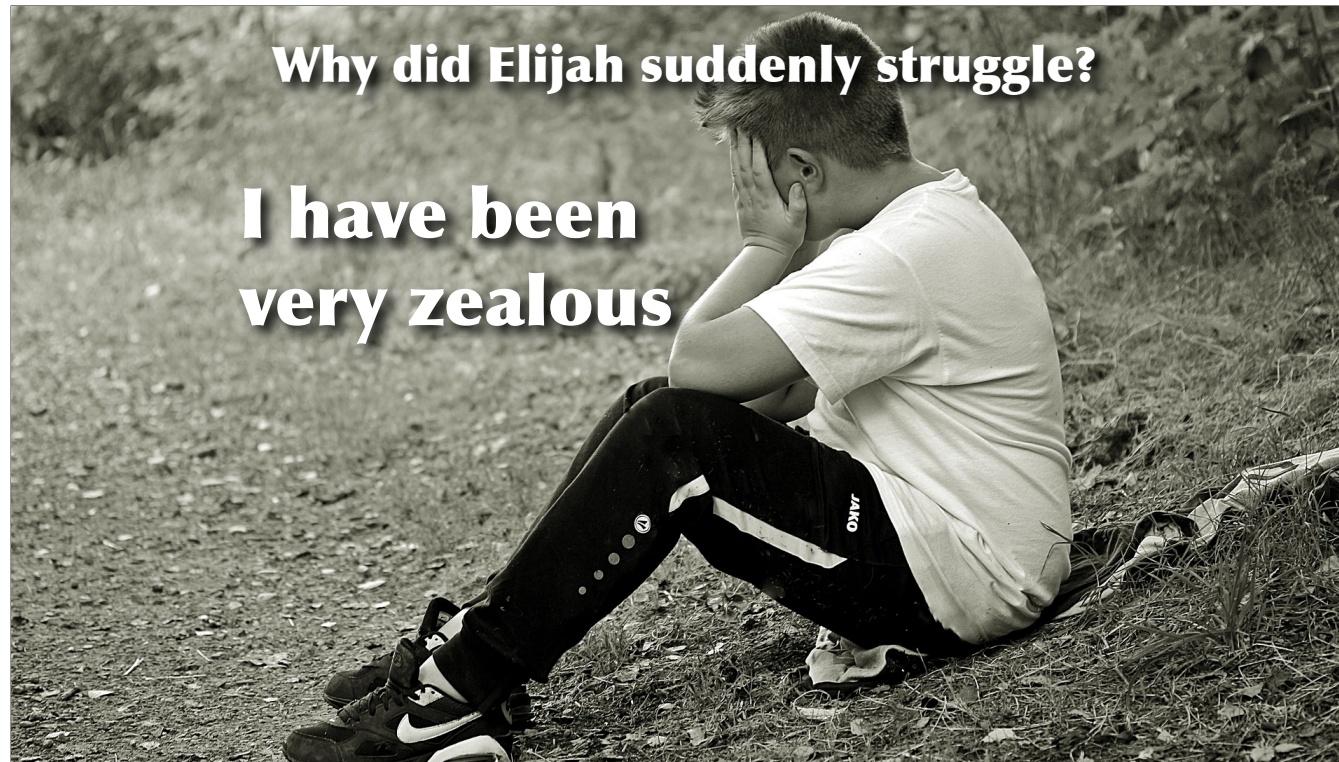
- 1 Kings 19:4 And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”
- exhaustion, frustration, defeat.
- I just can’t go on, not one more step, not one more moment
- Reached the end of my rope
- Psalms 73:26 (ESV) 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- Galatians 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.



- 1 Kings 19:4 “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”
- failure, unfaithfulness
- Hard not to compare ourselves to others.
- Was Elijah a worse prophet than those who came before?
 - Eli?
 - Samuel?



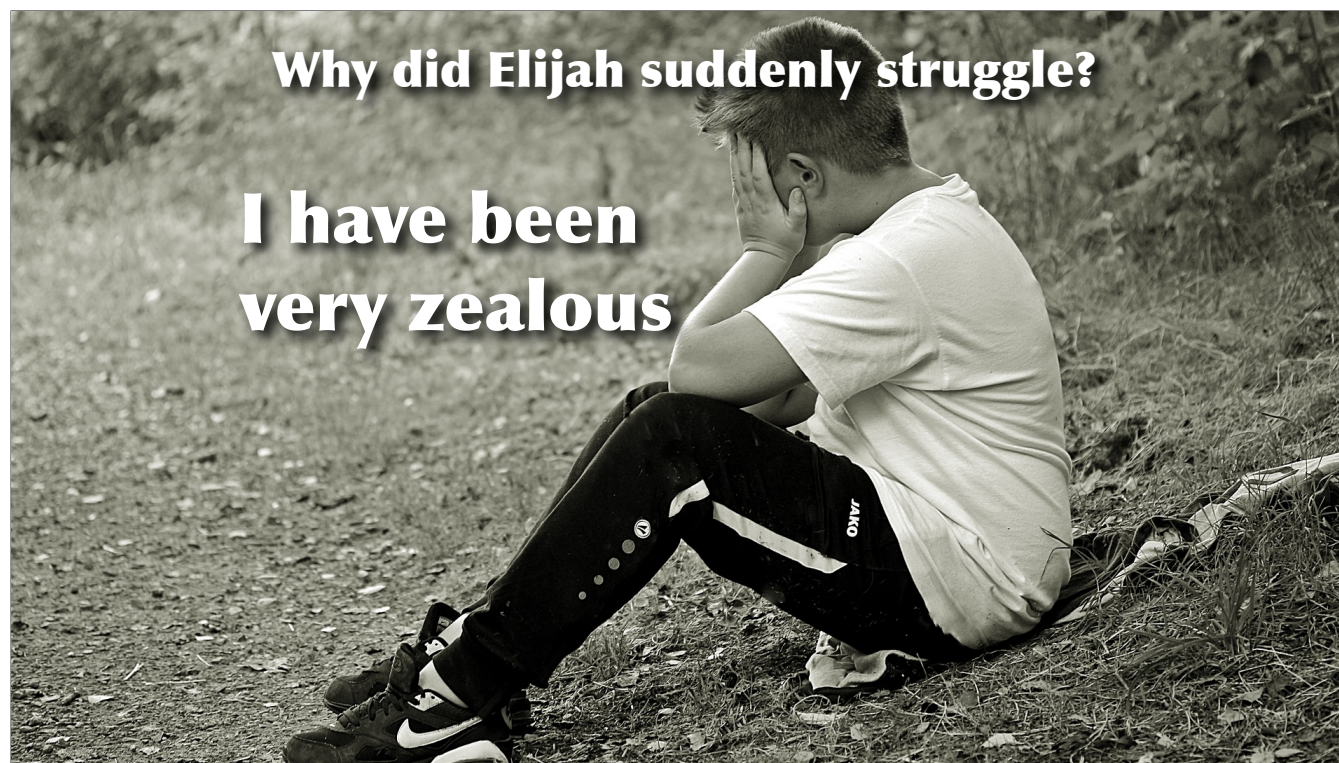
- Was this a result of unreal expectations?
 - Did Elijah think that he could turn all of Israel's hearts back to God?
 - They had been idolaters for 100's of years.
- 2 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV) Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.



- 1 Kings 19:10: He said, "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."



- Elijah had worked hard for Jehovah, but the results were dismal.
 - Israel had not turned back to Jehovah
 - forsaken your covenant
 - thrown down your altars
 - killed your prophets
 - This also explains why Elijah was afraid of Jezebel's threat: it had happened a lot.
 - His sense of failure was not personal, but about how Israel had forsaken God



- This is also a very real struggle for those who serve God diligently
 - Work hard, devoted
 - But see God's chosen people choose to ignore God, focus on world
- Like Jeremiah, those who are righteous are often mistreated by others — even their own brethren, priests.



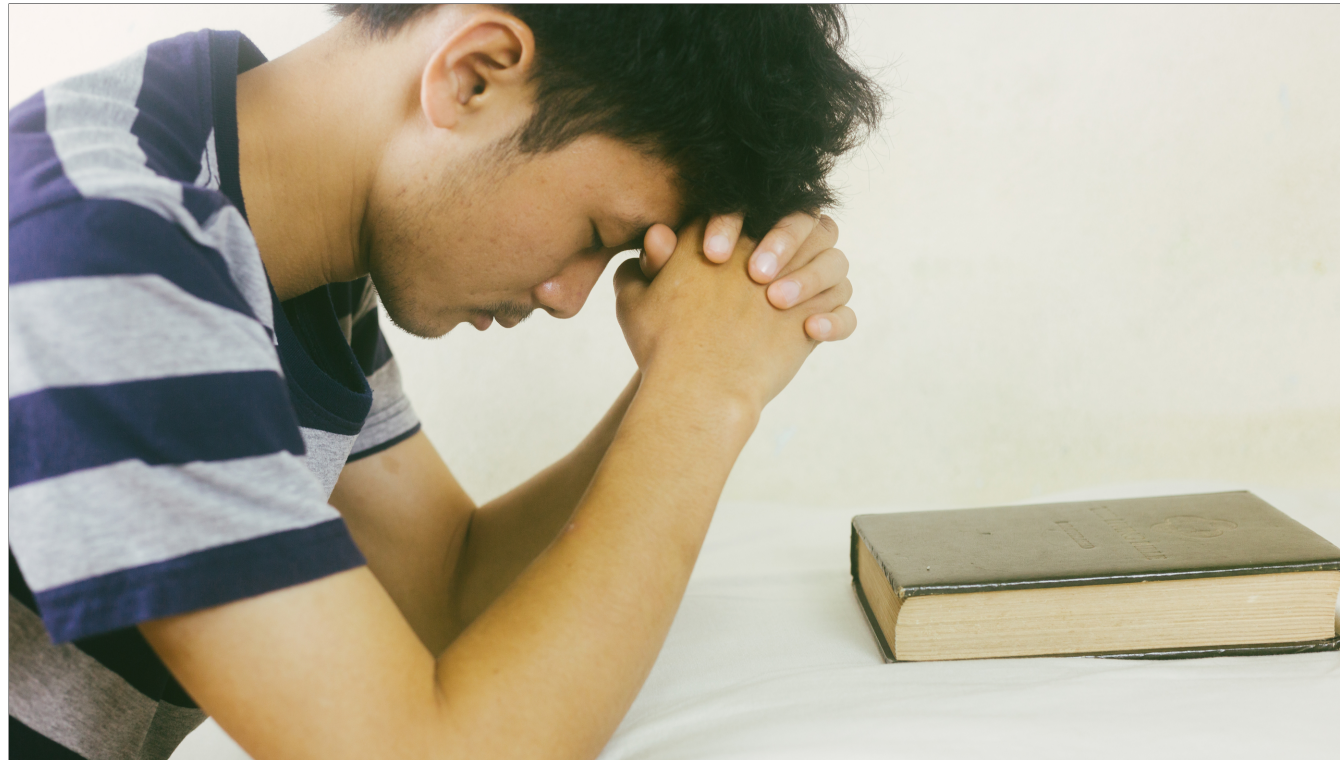
- 10 and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”
- Elijah was very aware of Obadiah (1 Kings 18:3-16)
 - Obadiah is the servant over the household of Ahab
 - Feared Jehovah greatly
 - Jezebel had “cut off” the prophets of Jehovah
 - Obadiah saved 100 prophets in caves, fed them with bread and water
 - Feared delivering message of Elijah’s presence to Ahab, killed
 - That had been 3.5 years earlier ... still



- Why did Elijah think he was alone?
 - Maybe he couldn't see anyone else making a difference?
 - Assumed all the other prophets had been killed?
- Elijah felt isolated. No help. No where to turn. No one to talk to.



- Without saying Elijah was either right or wrong with these thoughts and emotions
- Recognize that these are very understandable reactions to a difficult situation.
- There are times when we find ourselves troubled by these kinds of thoughts and emotions.
- And see them sometimes in our brethren.



- What should I do when I'm feeling emotions like Elijah felt?
- How should I help a brother or sister who is struggling?
- Be careful not to discount these emotions and struggles, rather, point them to God.
 - Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
 - Psalms 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
- Next lesson: How Jehovah helps Elijah.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Elijah's Struggles

1 Kings 19

Synopsis: In this lesson, we see the struggle Elijah faced when threatened with death and failure. We are reminded that these are emotions that sometimes God's strongest children deal with.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."