

“What are you doing here?”

I Kings 19:1-10

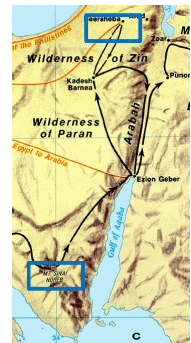
- Ahab and Jezebel *“did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him ...”* 1 Kings 16:29-33
- Elijah told Ahab of a famine (no rain) to come upon the land which wouldn't end until he said so. (17:1)
- Elijah fled at the Lord's command. (17:3)
- Elijah later told (18:1-3) to go show himself again to Ahab and called Obadiah (who was over Ahab's house and who feared the Lord) to tell him.

- Jezebel had the prophets of the Lord destroyed – save for 100 that Obadiah hid. (18:4)
- Ahab had been searching for him everywhere. (18:10)
- When Ahab met Elijah, he said to him, *“is this you, you troubler of Israel?”* (18:17; Galatians 4:16)
- Elijah, *“I have not troubled Israel, but you ... because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed the Baals.”*(18:18)

- Elijah then challenges Ahab and his 450 prophets of Baal and Jezebel's 400 prophets of the Asherah (18:23ff).
- Elijah also challenges his fellow Israelites to take a stand, *“How long will you hesitate (go on limping – ESV) between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal follow him”* (18:21). His fellow citizens wouldn't answer.
- We must choose! Joshua 24:15

- The challenge: (18:22-38)
- The outcome: (18:39-46)
- Jezebel's threat, *“So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time”* (19:2).
- Elijah perceived the threat to be credible and reacted with fear and *“ran for his life”* (19:3).

- Elijah first fled to the wilderness a day's journey outside of Beersheba where he was so low that he declared, *“It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.”* (19:4).
- Elijah went to Mt. Horeb and lodged in a cave where God said to him, *“What are you doing here, Elijah?”*(19:10)



Not where we ought to be ...

- Why was Elijah not where he ought to be?
 - **Discouragement.** *“I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away”*(19:10).
 - **One of Satan’s favorite tools.**
Nehemiah 6:9

Not where we ought to be ...

- What was Elijah told by God to do?
 - *“Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus ...”*
 - You have work I need for you to do. (19:15-16)
 - No one will escape judgment (19:17)
 - You are not left alone. (19:18)

Others who needed to answer the question, “what are you doing here?”

- **Adam and Eve**
 - Who *“hid”* themselves in the trees of the garden. **Genesis 3:8-11**
 - What were they doing there?
 - **Shame and embarrassment of unrepentant sin.**

Others who needed to answer the question, “what are you doing here?”

- **Jonah**
 - Who fled *“from the presence of the Lord”* by getting on a ship going in the other direction. **Jonah 1:3.** Jonah then slept in the hold of the ship while the rest on the ship tried to save their lives.
 - What was he doing there?
 - **Avoid responsibility.**

Others who needed to answer the question, “what are you doing here?”

- **King Saul and the Israelite army.**
 - Who stood on the sidelines (as it were) scared to engage the enemy. 1 Kings 17:10-11, 24
 - David wanted to know why wasn’t anyone doing anything about the one who *“taunted the armies of the living God”* (verse 26) and ultimately *“the God of the armies of Israel”* (verse 45).
 - What were they doing there?
 - **Lack of faith and courage.**

Others who needed to answer the question, “what are you doing here?”

- **The young man “lacking sense”** in Proverbs chapter 7.
 - Going where he had no business going (verses 8-10, 21-22). What was he doing there at the time?
- **King David who went where he could see a beautiful woman bathing and then had her brought to him.** 2 Samuel 11:2ff.
 - What was David doing while his armies were fighting his battles?
- **The lusts of the flesh**

Others who needed to answer the question, “what are you doing here?”

- **The prodigal son.**
 - Blessed with a loving father and abundant blessings, he chose to “squander his estate with loose living” (Luke 15:13). He found himself then feeding swine wishing he could eat what he fed them. Then he said to himself, in essence, what am I doing here?
 - **The lust of the eyes and pride of life.**

Others who needed to answer the question, “what are you doing here?”

- **The apostle Peter.**
 - Who understood that the gospel was for the Gentiles also and that were fellow citizens in the kingdom, yet when faced with peer pressure, distanced himself and “hold himself aloof” influencing others to do the same (Galatians 2:11-13). Paul asked of Peter, what are you doing there?
 - **Pleasing men rather than God.**

What are you doing there?

How do we get to where we ought not to be?

1. Discouragement. Deuteronomy 31:6-8
2. Shame of sin. Revelation 3:19
3. Avoiding responsibility. Luke 17:10
4. Lack of faith and courage. Acts 27:25
5. The lusts of the flesh. Romans 13:13-14
6. The lure of the things of the world. 1 John 2:15

What are we to do when we're not where we ought to be?

- Act in faithful obedience
- Get to work
- Trust the justice and judgement of God
- Remember your brethren – you're not alone!