

# 1 Kings.

## The Sound for Silence



**Key verse:** 1 Kings 19:10.

Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

### Kick Off

What is a good definition of loyalty?

Why is loyalty such a great quality to have in your friends?

## Study five...



**Big Idea:** When life gets you down it is good to know God never really lets you down.

### STUDY

Read 1 Kings 19:1-21.

If you take away all the artificial verse and chapter divisions in our bibles you get to appreciate more fully the powerful contrast of this section from what has just preceded it in the story so far from chapter 18.

1. Run your eye over the end section of chapter 18 vv38-45. Write down the three spectacular signs of God's power demonstrated to Israel here.

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2. How would you expect Israel to behave following God's signs of power?





3. In the light of what you would expect to happen following God's signs of power, is Elijah's behaviour in vv3-4 amazing or understandable? Explain.

4. Elijah has reached rock bottom. In effect he is handing in his resignation papers to God and demanding he get a transfer to the death department. How does God help him at this point?

5. The whole range of Exodus expressions that occur in this passage are here for a reason. What happened between God and Israel back when Moses was on this mountain (Ex 34:1-17) and what is the essence of Elijah's twice repeated report back to God on this same mountain in 1 Kings 19:10,14?

6. Elijah feels he is alone and a failure. What does the Lord instruct him to do and how is this an encouragement to us vv15-18?

7. Sometimes characters in the Old Testament say and do things that, although they are totally unaware of it, point to and get fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus Christ. There are all sorts of hints and clues in this chapter that get picked up in the life and action of Jesus. Here are some you can reflect on and you may spot others yourself.

- a. Israel's hard heartedness overwhelms Elijah.  Luke 19:44ff
- b. Israel's hard heartedness drives Elijah to say, "take my life".  Rom 5:8.
- c. Elijah ran for his life to avoid dying at the hands of wicked people.  Acts 2:22-24.
- d. God reserves 7000 Israelites, not from Judgment but through it.  Rom 5:9-10.

## THINK AND APPLY

Think about disappointments you have experienced in life. How is or has the Lord looked after you through such times.

What makes Israel such a disappointment to Elijah and to God in this passage and how can we to avoid disappointing each other and God?

How encouraging is it to know no matter how much of a mess we might make of our service for God, he never lets us go but continues to love and look after us?

## PRAYER

**What can you pray about arising from this study?**



**For next week  
Read  
1 Kings 20-22.**