



THE MESSENGER

MARCH 21, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays at 11 on Zoom

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing
On hold

Address and Contact

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GOD IS IN THE WHISPER AND THE STORM

We recently discussed Elijah in the young adult class. His life was one of extraordinary highs and deep lows. God was working on bringing Elijah out of his lowest point in 1 Kings 19. We pick up our reading as God invites Elijah to step out of the cave in which he lodged.

And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. (1 Kings 19:11-12)

The text implies that God was present in the whisper. It has been said that this passage shows God is to be found in the still, quiet moments of life. He is in the whisper rather than the shout. This is a comforting thought and doubtless true from time to time. I wish to express another possible understanding of the events of 1 Kings 19 and then urge a more robust and well-rounded view of God.

Elijah was a man seeking instant results. He got them in the contest with the prophets of Baal but saw no real renewed commitment from the people or repentance from royalty. As a result, he considered himself a failure and wanted to die. On the mountain God showed Elijah powerful forces of nature. A mighty wind ripped the mountain apart. A powerful earthquake came next to be followed by a roaring fire. After this, God finally showed himself in the quiet whisper. Elijah wanted the equivalent of a mighty wind, earthquake, and fire to blast the nation out of its idolatrous malaise and return it to God. I believe God came in the whisper to show Elijah that His plan was unfolding slowly. Its

Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Julie Patton, Jackie Litmer, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

Others Needing Prayers

Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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fulfillment was not going to come suddenly and all at once, but it *was* coming, and God was there. Elijah needed to know that.

Let us consider God a bit more as we bring this article to its close. Is He there in the still and quiet moments? Certainly. Yet He also speaks with the mighty voice of the raging storm and in the thunder of many waters. *The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon...The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire...The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.* (Psalm 29)

God speaks in the soft breeze and in the mighty thunderstorm. His voice is heard in the gentle rustling of the leaves and in the terrifying rushing of powerful waters. May we be comforted by His love *and* awed at His might. May our hearts find their rest in His grace *and* tremble at His power.

Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

