

Confirmation Instruction – November 7, 2021 – God Speaks to Elijah

Welcome

- Prayer
- Questions from last week’s classes or readings?

Review (See 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13)

God called _____ to build the temple in Jerusalem. The length, width, and height were measured in _____. All the tribes of _____ gathered for the temple’s dedication. The _____ carried the _____ of the Covenant into the temple. Solomon said to God, “I have built you an exalted _____, a place for you to dwell in _____.”

Key Events Between 1 Kings 8 and 1 Kings 19

- God promises to establish Solomon’s throne over Israel forever, if he obeys God.
- The queen of Sheba visits and is impressed by Solomon’s wisdom and prosperity.
- Solomon marries Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, which God had told the Israelites not to do. Solomon starts worshiping their gods.
- Solomon’s son Rehoboam succeeds him as king. The people ask him to lighten the yoke Solomon placed on them. (*Recall: Solomon had conscripted them to serve 1 month out of every 3 to build the temple.*) Instead, Rehoboam says he will make it heavier. The people reject him as king.
- As foretold by the prophet Ahijah, Jeroboam becomes king of Israel (the Northern Kingdom), while Rehoboam remains king of Judah (the Southern Kingdom).
- King Ahab of Israel marries Jezebel, a Sidonian. He begins worshiping the god she worships, the Canaanite fertility god Baal.
- The prophet Elijah tells Ahab there will be a drought. During the drought, God provides food for Elijah, a widow, and her son, via a jar of meal and a jug of oil that don’t run out. The son dies but is revived when Elijah prays to God.
- Jezebel has killed the prophets of the Lord. Elijah sets up a challenge against the prophets of Baal: Will Baal send fire to consume the bull they sacrifice? No, but God sends fire to consume the bull Elijah sacrifices on the altar of the LORD.
- Elijah orders the killing of the prophets of Baal. The drought comes to an end.

Law and Gospel in Today’s Readings

	Law (What is the problem? What are people supposed to be doing?)	Gospel (What is God doing for us?)
1 Kings 19:1-18		

Bible Villains

- *The Lutheran Handbook*, pp. 150-152

Discussion Questions

- What faith practices did you notice in this story?
- While Elijah is fleeing for his life, he sits down and asks God to take away his life.
 - How does God respond?
 - What are some of the warning signs that can help you determine if a loved one is at risk for suicide?
 - What can you do to help someone who is at risk? What can you do if you are at risk?
 - The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255
- The angel tells Elijah, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” How does God feed you, to give you strength for your journey?
- God was not in the great wind, the earthquake, or the fire. God spoke to Elijah from the sound of sheer silence. When can you best hear God speaking to you?
- Elijah thought he was the only one left who was obedient to God, but God said there were seven thousand Israelites who hadn’t worshiped Baal. It can be hard to do the right thing when it’s not the popular thing to do. How can our faith help us in such situations?



About the image: Elijah Flees to Horeb, from *L'histoire dv Vieux et dv Nouveau Testament*, Nicolas Fontaine, 1670. From the Digital Image Archive of the Pitts Theology Library of Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

Daily Readings:

- *Monday* – 1 Kings 21:1-29
- *Tuesday* - 2 Kings 2:1-13
- *Wednesday* - 2 Kings 2:13-25
- *Thursday* - 2 Kings 4:1-44
- *Friday* - 2 Kings 14:23-29
- *Saturday* - 2 Kings 15:1-7
- *Sunday, November 14* – Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24 (Amos: Justice Rolls Down)

