



There Is No Plan B

Lesson 16 • 1Kings 19:1-21

God's Grace Is More Than Enough to Remain Loyal When There Is **NO PLAN B!**

"The LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way...So he departed from there and found Elisha..." 1Kings 19:15, 19

1. **"Enough Is Enough" Is Often Due to the LORD Not Meeting Our EXPECTATIONS.**

1Kings 19:1-5a

Elijah Was Human Just Like Us!

*Too often we expect the LORD to fulfill His promises **our way** on our **timetable** and to do it all **through us**.*

2. The LORD Teaches Us that His GRACE Is **"More Than Enough."**

1Kings 19:5b-18

► The LORD's PROVISION of love in the wilderness. (5b-8)

(7) "Arise, eat, because the **JOURNEY** (Heb. *derek*) is **TOO GREAT** (same Heb word as "enough" in v. 4) for you."

(15) "Go, return on **YOUR WAY** (Heb. *derek*)..."

*This word for "JOURNEY/WAY" often refers to the covenant WAY of life lived out loyal love for the LORD according to His WORD!
Deuteronomy 5:33; 9:12, 16; 11:28; 13:5; 31:29*

► The LORD's DEMONSTRATION of faith on the mountain. (9-16)

1) Twice the LORD asked Elijah: **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"** (9, 13)

(9) Then he came there to **[THE] CAVE** and lodged there; and **BEHOLD**, the **WORD** (Heb. *davar*) came to him and He said to him, **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"**

(13) It came about when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of **THE CAVE**. And **BEHOLD**, a **VOICE** (Heb. *qol*) came to him and said, **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"**

2) The LORD was holding Elijah accountable for...

His Present OCCUPATION and His Present LOCATION!

3) The LORD did not initially reveal any **NEW** revelation or information to Elijah on Mount Sinai.

(9) Elijah is in the **same cave** that Moses received the revelation of LORD's GLORY when the LORD passed by after Israel had broken the covenant and were worthy of being wiped out by the LORD. (See Exodus 33:12–34:

BUT this time the WORD of the LORD comes to Elijah and asks him the simple question: **"What are you DOING HERE, Elijah?"**

(10) Elijah's answer to the LORD **BEGINS** and **ENDS** with a **FOCUS** on **HIMSELF** and in the middle, he makes **ACCUSATIONS** against the LORD's disloyal covenant people.

(11-12a) The LORD is **SO GRACIOUS!** He says to Elijah: **"GO FORTH and STAND on the mountain before the LORD!"**

"And BEHOLD, the LORD is PASSING BY..." (Exodus 33:19-23; 34:6-9)

Will this be a revelation **like** the LORD did for Moses in this very same cave?!

Will there be **another** revelation of God's glory? A **new** revelation?

Will the LORD reveal **new** information? Will there be a **"PLAN B"** revealed in light of Israel's apostasy?

(12b) "and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing" (NAS)

Three Words in Hebrew

Hebrew Noun that Can Be Translated	Hebrew Noun that Can Be Translated	Hebrew Adjective to Describe Something
Sound or Voice	Silence or Stillness or Still Silence	Thin or Weak or Small

Five Ways This Has Been Translated in English

- 1) "A sound of a gentle blowing" [NAS]
- 2) "A sound of a low whisper" [ESV]
- 3) "A voice, a soft whisper" [CSB] or "a still small voice" [KJV/NKJV]
- 4) "A sound of sheer silence" [NRSV]
- 5) "A roaring and thundering voice" [Article by J. Lust]

Why I Think "a Sound of Sheer Silence" Is the Best Translation

- 1) It **emphasizes all** three words that are in the text.
- 2) It **agrees** with the only other two places in Scripture that are similar (*Job 4:12-16; Psalm 107:29-30; see also Job 26:14*).
- 3) It is **suggested** by the fact that there is no **"BEHOLD"** before this sound like there is in (9, 13) and there is no record of what was being said if it was actually a "whispering voice" instead of the "sound of profound silence."
- 4) It **best explains** what follows in the next verses (13-15).

(13) "It came about when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And **BEHOLD** a **VOICE** came to him and said, **"WHAT ARE DOING HERE, ELIJAH?"**"

There Was NO New Revelation Because There Was NO "Plan B"!

3. There Is No "Plan B" When It Comes to Being LOYAL in Times of Apostasy.

1Kings 19:15-19

- The LORD's **RE-COMMISSION** of hope for the future. (17-18)

Elijah Was Human Like Us but the LORD Is in Charge, Not Us!

Too often we expect the LORD to fulfill His promises our way on our timetable and to do it all through us or people we choose. But the LORD is in charge of all things, not us. He alone is the covenant-keeping, ever-present Redeemer who remains the same and will always keep His promises to His people!

Exodus 34:5-9

- 1) A **mission** is given: *I still have a mission for you to do but I will also work through others that I choose to use.*
- 2) A **prediction** is made: *My divine judgment will fall but through whom I choose, how I choose, and when I choose.*
- 3) A **provision** is promised: *My sovereign grace is longsuffering with the disloyal and will choose to preserve a loyal remnant until that Day when all My promises will be fulfilled to all My people!*

- The LORD's **REMNANT** always points forward to the future, final fulfillment. (*Romans 8:28-30; 11:1-36*)

There Is No "Plan B", So Remain Loyal to the LORD and His Promises Because One Day They Will All Be Completely Fulfilled in Christ's Coming Kingdom and Then in the New Creation!

- 1) This is true of **the Church** in this Present Age. *Romans 8:28-30*
- 2) This is true of **the Nation of Israel** in the Coming Kingdom. *Romans 11:1-36*

LESSONS to LEARN from the SOUND of SHEER SILENCE

God's Grace Is More Than Enough to Remain Loyal When There Is No "Plan B"!

- #1 A ministry of **bigness** (mighty works) is not always proof that God **is** working and His Word is present.
- #2 A ministry of **smallness** (mere whispers) is not always proof that God is **not** working and His Word is absent.
- #3 God's **ways** are not our ways, so don't give up and go looking for a **"Plan B"** when it seems like the LORD has let you down.
- #4 Remain in **"the Way"** of loyal love for the LORD, for His Word, for His people, and for reaching the lost until King Jesus returns for us.
- #5 The LORD has not **replaced** Israel with the Church; instead He will completely fulfill His covenant promises to His one people in Christ's Coming Kingdom and the New Jerusalem. *Romans 11; Revelation 21:9-14*