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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1536 ~ Elijah flees from Jezebel.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

We know a lot about the lives famous people led hundreds of years ago because they kept a diary of their activities. Do you keep a diary and write what you did in it each day? If you do, you will have noticed that some days seem filled with routine matters hardly worth writing about. But other days record God's hand in some answer to prayer or how He worked out the circumstances of your life. When you see this, praise to Him bubbles out of the heart and becomes a matter of great joy.

In the Bible book of 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, Chapter 18, the diary entry of Elijah's day on Mount Carmel was huge. He climbed Mount Carmel, spoke to the people, repaired the altar of God and prepared to sacrifice on it. Then after prayer and fire from God fell on it, he climbed down Mount Carmel with 450 prisoners and executed them. After this, he went up the mountain again and prayed for God to send rain. He gathered up his clothes and ran nearly 20 miles, part of the way in pouring rain, down the mountain again to the city of Jezreel. He did this in the power God gave him. He ran ahead of King Ahab's own chariot and arrived in Jezreel before he did. What a day he had!

Jezreel was one of Ahab's capital cities. It was left to Ahab to explain to his wife Queen Jezebel in the palace what had happened to her 450 prophets of the Canaanite storm-god Baal. To say she was displeased with such news is an understatement!

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DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

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After Elijah's exhausting day on Mount Carmel, he needed food and rest. So when he heard Jezebel's promise to kill him, fear took over his thinking. He started to walk by sight (or what he knew) and not by the faith he had in his faithful God. God had provided his food for the last three and a half years. Could He not take care of the Queen's threats too?

Jezebel made a promise that Baal could kill her if she did not avenge the death of Baal's prophets by killing Elijah. This time Elijah went into hiding without God's command to do so. He became concerned about saving his own life and he fled 90 miles southward to the city of Beersheba, out of Jezebel's zone of control.

Once here, Elijah then travelled a whole day into the wilderness and asked God to take his life. But God didn't answer him. Elijah was to learn that when he had been strong and bold, it was because he was in the Lord's power and might; not his own.

But now by himself, Elijah believed he was not better than his ancestors. And he fell asleep. Everyone has high and low points in their lives. And often after a great joy, there also comes a sorrow. We can't live on mountain-top experiences all the time. Sometimes we will walk through the valley of the shadow of death and it is then that we learn to trust God to bring us through a bad time.

Elijah now also believed that he was the only prophet of God left in Israel and by this thought, was very disappointed. In times of great discouragement about our work or even ourselves, we can wish God would call us to our eternal home. This wish, however, is not the answer to despair. In many ways, it is selfish and does not bring glory to God. The real answer to overcoming discouragement is to give up and die to our self thoughts and sadness and instead, trust God to lead us through and work things out.

God sent an angel to feed Elijah twice. In the strength of this food, he travelled another 200 miles south until he came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God in the Sinai Peninsula.

Here he moved into a cave and God finally spoke to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” It was a rebuke for being so far away from his place of duty. Elijah told God his complaints. In response, God sent a great wind, earthquake and fire on the mountain. Elijah just watched. Then God spoke in a small voice to him and Elijah immediately covered his face, out of respect for the Lord. Elijah learnt that God does not always work through big dramatic events but that often, His truths are communicated to His devoted people in prayer, quiet study and meditation.

God asked Elijah again why he was there and Elijah responded the same as before. God told him to go back to the wilderness of Damascus, for God had several jobs for him to do there. Not only that, God comforted Elijah with the knowledge that God still had 7000 faithful people in Israel who had not worshipped Baal. Humbled, Elijah resolved again that God and God only, would be his strength and shield and that he would not fear Jezebel anymore.

The New Testament records a story of when the Lord Jesus was walking to the home of an official called Jairus, from the local synagogue, to see his sick daughter. Some servants came from Jairus' house to say the child had died. But the Lord Jesus told Jairus: “Don't be afraid, only believe.” These words in Mark's Gospel, Chapter 5, are a lesson to us all. God does want to help us in our difficulties yet we must be prepared to let Him.

Apart from fear, another cause for discouragement and depression can be thinking negative thoughts. A professor studied the different attributes of optimistic, happy people and pessimistic, unhappy people. Optimistic happy people, when confronted with the hard knocks of life, tend to believe that defeat is not their fault and it is only a temporary setback. When confronted by a bad situation, they accept it as a challenge and will try even harder.

However, pessimistic unhappy people tend to believe that bad events will last a long time and undermine everything they do. They consider difficult situations as all their fault! Depression results from lifelong habits of training the conscious thought to think that way. How we feel comes directly from what we think. The professor claimed that many depressed people could talk their way out of pessimism by changing the way they think, to result in better attitudes and happier hopes.

A famous psychiatrist once gave a lecture on mental health. A question at the end of the lecture was: “What would you advise a person to do if that person thought they would soon have a nervous breakdown?” The famous man replied: “Lock up your house, go and find somebody in need and help that person.” To overcome discouragement, don’t focus on yourself. Instead, get involved in the lives of others.

If you do keep a diary, write in all the times God has blessed you. Then, when everything seems to be going wrong and you feel discouraged, go back and read how God has been with you in the past. This will bring joy amid your difficulties and your attitude towards your troubles will quickly change.

We all have to learn how to handle ourselves. We must talk to ourselves, set standards for ourselves, self-discipline ourselves, guard our tongues when provoked to anger, quote verses of Scripture to ourselves and question any unacceptable behaviour we may produce. We must also remind ourselves about God’s promises and His fruitful plan for our lives here on earth.

One year, as part of their evening devotions together as a family, a father and a mother decided to keep a prayer diary to convince their children that God answers prayer. They entered the date and each specific prayer request in a book. Then when the prayer was answered, they wrote in the date. The longest time between the dates was 10 months.

God longs for a relationship with each one of us. Are you prepared to turn your back on your own pleasures and ambitions and trust instead your whole life to the Lord Jesus? Will you give your every waking moment to Him to use as He sees fit? Becoming a Christian means that the Lord Jesus is given every part of us. We can hold nothing back and He deserves nothing less than a full commitment to Him. Pray to Him about this today!

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MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

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That was Lenny LeBlanc singing “Hidden in My Heart”

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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