

LESSON 68

Egermeier's Story:

Page 263 – Elijah Under the Juniper Tree

Page 264 – Elijah and the Still Small Voice

Memory Verse: Psalm 139:1 “O LORD, You have searched me and known me.” NASB

Scripture: I Kings 19:1-21

Teaching Resource:

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lesson 181

Object Lesson:

Use a piece of modeling clay and a rock to illustrate the concept of Immutability. God doesn't change; He is always the same. We can shape and mold a piece of clay, but the rock stays the same. Another illustration could be to place a rock on the desk and place an ice cube beside it. After a while the ice cube will have melted into a puddle of water, but the rock will be the same. It is God's unchanging character that leads Moses in Deuteronomy 32:4, 15, 18, 30, and 31 to refer to the Lord as “the Rock.” Numerous times in the Psalms, David refers to the Lord as “my Rock,” (see Psalm 18:2, 19:14, and 31:3).

Doctrinal Emphasis: The Remnant

Key Theme: *Because God does not change, we can expect His word to be true.*

In this story, Elijah has just had a “mountaintop experience.” He has single-handedly and successfully challenged the priests of Baal and has seen the faithfulness of the Lord in relieving the draught. But now he is running for his life, and he is despondent. He believes he is the only one who still worships the One True God.

But God tells Elijah that there are still 7,000 of His people who have not bowed the knee to Baal. This passage in I Kings 19:18 is quoted by Paul in Romans 11:4. Paul points out that God has a remnant of His people in Paul's time, also. This concept of the “remnant” is important. In order for God's sovereign plan for His people to be carried out, His people must still exist. This has two applications:

1. God is not finished with His people, the Jewish race. They will never be exterminated. Although we are in the church age, God's plan for Israel is not finished. And as Paul points out in Romans 11, Israel has a future. God's covenant with Israel is an everlasting covenant
2. Until the rapture occurs, there will always be Christians. Even as the world becomes more and more apostate, turning more and more away from the Truth, until Jesus comes to call His own at the time of the rapture, there will always be believers. The numbers may dwindle or they may increase, but there will be a remnant.

God has made a covenant with Israel, and He has told us in His Word that there will be an event we call the rapture. These things will happen because God doesn't change. He is Immutable.

This characteristic of God means that He does not change. To understand this attribute is one of the most stabilizing concepts we can grasp since everything about us is in a continual state of change. People change, environment changes, ideas change. This is so much a part of life that we even admit it when we greet another person by saying, "How are you?" Why do we say this? Simply because people and circumstances never remain permanently the same. This is not true of God, for what He was yesterday, He is today; and what He is today, so He will be forever. Hebrews 13:8 tells us of Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday and today and forever." Jehovah declares of Himself in Malachi 3:6, "...I, the LORD, do not change...."

That God is unchanging in His character also means His plan and purposes never change. He is the "the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come (Revelation 4:8)." Even if we are unfaithful and undependable, this in no way affects God. We are clearly told in II Timothy 2:13, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself." Man's conduct in no way changes God. Israel was reminded of this in these words of Numbers 23:19, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Men may plan and devise and scheme, but none of it can cause God to change. Proverbs 19:21 reads, "Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand."

This attribute relates directly to all God's other attributes. God is love—this can never change. God is all-powerful—this can never change. God is truth—this can never change.

God is absolute in His character. Neither time nor place nor circumstance alters His divine character in any degree whatsoever. Who else but God is worthy of all our trust? Who else but one of such a character could give us a written Word of absolute truth?