

The voice of God 1 Kings 19:11–13

Elijah meets God at Horeb

He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces 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 a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “*What are you doing here, Elijah?*”

At a volatile time in Israel’s history, the great prophet Elijah was victorious over the prophets of Baal, but when he heard Jezebel (wife of Ahab, King of Israel) was planning to kill him he fled into the wilderness. He became depressed and asked the Lord to end his life. Twice he drifted into sleep but an angel appeared providing him with sustenance before directing him to Mount Horeb (in the direction of Mt Sinai). The narrative continues with the reading above.

The voice of God – an often discussed topic and sometimes when much of our time is taken up with ‘everyday things’ or ‘clutter’. So much so, spiritual priority can slip

And then, on some quiet day reading the Word and in prayerful communion with God, there it is, the still small voice of Compassion, Encouragement, Correction, Direction and our world is at rights again. But what does the voice of God sound like? How does he communicate with us?

Throughout Scripture God communicates in various ways, a few examples are:

Exodus 19:18, “Now all of Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the LORD had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently.”

Job 38:1, “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind”

John 12:29, “The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

Psalms 77:18, “The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

Other examples in Scripture are of God’s voice sounding like Thunder, Trumpets, Booming....etc

It would be understandable that Elijah, standing on Mt Horeb, might have been expecting the voice of God through the great wind, earthquake or fire as in the reading from 1 Kings, but these powerful happenings were followed by silence.....and it was in this silence Elijah heard the voice of the Lord.

As we seek the voice of God in our own lives, may we take time to regularly and consciously put aside the stresses and clutter of everyday busy-ness. Reading the Word in expectation we are more available to enter His Presence in spirit and truth. We pray His Spirit will lead our worship and praise that we may hear God speak to us through His voice, His Word and His Son.

Revd Tish Bird

John 4:24,

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth”.