



THE PEOPLE OF GOD – SERIES 4

Bible Reading Plan, January - March 2020

Elijah – the man who stood up

- 1 Kings 19:1-10
- But how did we get here?



Sad history

- Kingdom split c.930BC
- Idolatry established in Bethel & Dan to cement division and retain power (1 Kings 12:26-33)
 - They're still worshipping calves 500 years after the Exodus!!
- 7 'evil' kings had reigned in Israel
- King Ahab married Jezebel
 - a Sidonian princess, a political marriage for power
 - Baal worship established in Samaria
 - 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah (Canaanite goddess, consort of Baal) are in court (1 Kings 18:19)
- Now c.870BC



Dramatic high!

- Famine declared (1 Kings 17:1)
- Elijah hides from King Ahab for 3 years
- All Israel summoned to Mount Carmel
 - Why did Ahab agree?
- Contest of the gods!
- Prophets of Baal executed
- Not the victory he hoped for!



Depressing low

- Hiding again
 - Runs to Judah, Beersheba
- Prayed that he might die!
 - No better than my fathers
 - Needed a longer perspective
- The mountain of God
 - Where Moses received the Law
 - “What are you doing here?”
- The small voice
 - God isn’t in the power displays
 - “Go back and anoint...”
 - He had work to do
 - “You’re not alone”



“A man just like us”

James 5:17

- His highs were not so high as he hoped
- His lows were not so low as he feared
- He did not have a full revelation of the Lord (2 Kings 1, Luke 9:51-56)
 - God’s heart is to save people, not to destroy them, even his enemies
- But he was like Jesus!



What can we learn from Elijah?

We can be like him!

- Our highs are not as high as we might have hoped
 - We can see miracles, but they are not the victory
- Our lows are not as low as we might fear
 - We may not be better than previous generations, but we have work to do so will we be faithful to his small voice?
 - We're not alone

