



A scenic view of a valley with a city in the distance, overlaid with text. The image shows a wide, green valley with a city visible in the background under a clear blue sky. The text is centered and reads "The Discouraged Prophet" in a large, white, sans-serif font, and "Elijah" in a slightly smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

The Discouraged Prophet

Elijah



I. The Causes of Elijah's Discouragement

A. He Let The Wickedness of A Few Blind Him To Good Things

- **So focused on Ahab and Jezebel that he forgot Mt. Carmel, Obadiah, Elisha, etc.**
 - **Since the division of the United Kingdom this is one of Israel's "brightest times"**
 - **We sometimes put a bad "spin" on the events of our lives *Gen.47:8-9***

"Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life"

A. He Let The Wickedness of A Few Blind Him To Good Things

- **Individuals and churches can become sad and depressed *Rev.2:8-10***
 - **Negativism will cause us to behave contrary to our character *Matt.11:1-3***
 - **Churches can become sad and stifled just keeping house because the fire is out!**
 - **We need to continually take note of all faithful people *Phil.2:19-20***

B. He Expected Greater Instant Results Than Reality Allowed

- **God accomplished powerful things!**
 - **No rain 3 ½ years, Fire on Mt. Carmel, People confessed, and Flooded for Elijah**
 - **Instead of a reformation of Israel, Jezebel vowed to kill Elijah / *Kgs.19:2***
 - **Elijah's visions for Israel weren't quickly met so Elijah saw himself as a "failure"**

B. He Expected Greater Instant Results Than Reality Allowed

- We live according to God's schedule not our own
 - After we've done all we can we must then trust God and remain faithful / *Cor.3:6-7*

6 I **planted, Apollos **watered**, but God gave the increase.**

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but **God who gives the increase.**

A photograph of a narrow, rocky canyon. The walls are dark and textured, with some light-colored rock patches. The sky is a clear, bright blue. In the distance, there are green trees and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a lens flare effect. The overall scene is a natural, rugged landscape.

II. The Fruits of Elijah's Discouragement

A. Elijah Fell Into Fear and Self-pity

- A frightened Elijah ran and prayed for death / *Kgs.19:3-4*

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "**It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!**"

- He temporarily lost confidence in God's ability to protect and save him

A. Elijah Fell Into Fear and Self-pity

- Elijah's self-pity caused him to run and hide from his duties

8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as **Horeb, the mountain of God.**

9 And **there he went into a cave, and **spent the night in that place**;** *I Kgs.19*

- King Saul once said, "there is not one of you who is sorry for me" *I Sam.22:7-8*

- God won't leave or forsake us *Heb.13:5-6*

B. Elijah Is Lonely and Hopeless

- God asked, “What are you doing here Elijah?” / *Kgs.19:9*
- Elijah spoke his true feelings

10 So he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

- Have you ever felt hopeless and alone in life: marriage, work, church, school, etc?

C. Elijah Stops Faithful Progress

- The great prophet is hiding!
 - Elijah's productivity ceases
 - A discouraged Paul didn't take advantage of an open door *2 Cor.2:12-13*

12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened to me by the Lord,**

13 **I had no rest in my spirit,** because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia. *2 Cor.2*



III. The Cure For Elijah's Discouragement

A. Elijah Was Reminded of Who God Is! / *Kgs.19:9-16*

- **He saw God's power on Mt. Horeb**
 - **Elijah observed a violent wind, a fire, and an earthquake but God was not in them**
 - **God's "still small voice" taught Elijah that He can work in other ways**
 - **The faithful trust God to work in His own way and in His own time / *Pet.3:12***

B. Elijah Saw The Many Good In Israel

- A godly focus will renew us
 - After Elijah's meeting with God at Mt. Horeb his faith was totally restored
 - When we see from God's perspective it creates a positive outlook *2 Kgs.6:13-19*

17 Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, **the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

2 Kgs.6:17b

C. Elijah Got Busy Doing God's Work

- God told Elijah to anoint Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha
 - The Lord also informed Elijah that he was not alone in his faithfulness / *Kgs.19:18*

18 “Yet I have reserved **seven thousand in Israel**, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

- There is always much to do. We must get busy!

Our Bible Heroes Are Human

- It is natural to become discouraged from time to time – but we must not stay there
- We must be encouraged through our trust in Almighty God *Heb.10:38-39*

38 Now the just shall live by faith; **But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."**

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, **but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**