

*The Articles of*  
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# A Still, Small Voice

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Consider the story of Elijah in the famed event often titled the “Mt. Carmel Victory.” By way of setup, in 1 Kings 17:1, Elijah made the proclamation (through the power of God) to King Ahab that it wouldn’t rain “accept at my word.” We find in 18:1 that this drought lasted at least three years to the degree that after some time, brooks, rivers and other sources of water were drying up (17:7). When Elijah arranges to meet the king, Ahab wryly greets him as the “troubling of Israel” in 18:17. Elijah proceeds to inform Ahab that the true source of the problem is the nation’s infidelity with God and the pursuit of other gods, namely Baal. He issues the burnt-sacrifice challenge to conclusively prove, in front of all the people, that “*the God who answers by fire, He is God.*” In the end, Jehovah God answers the call by burning up Elijah’s sacrifice. The 450 prophets of Baal are slaughtered by the Brook Kishon (18:40). As Jezebel catches wind of the execution, she issued her vow to make Elijah’s life “*as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time*” (19:2).

While fleeing for his life, Elijah begins to despair that he is the only God-fearing, faithful individual left: “*I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts...I alone am left; and they seek to take my life*” (19:10). There are certain points we reach in life where we feel that we are the last man standing, so to speak, and that all else is lost around us. With many of us, simply the lack of support from like-minded friends at school is enough to generate such feelings. We somehow get into the mindset that once we walk out the church house’s doors, we must go at it alone. If this particular story of Elijah teaches us anything, it would be that this is, in fact, never the case. As the story continues, along with Elijah’s despondency, God decides to open his eyes. While standing outside his cave on top of the mountain, a number of divinely inspired events transpire which include “*a great and strong wind [that] tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces...an earthquake...and a fire*” (19:11, 12) As we normally do, we look for the large-scale signs, consistent with the character of God, to catch our attention. But God is as grand as He is subtle (think of David’s advice to Solomon in 1 Chron. 28:9 where he says “*the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, he will be found by you...*” [Emphasis GH]). Repeatedly, “*the Lord was not in*” (19:11, 12) the great wind, the earthquake, or even the fire. Instead God was present in the “*still small voice*” (19:12). Imagine that picture: these awe-inspiring events displayed by a God with power unmatched by anything familiar to us and yet, He was in the small voice. God spoke the loudest message to Elijah through the quietest of voices. As was mentioned earlier, we many times pass up looking for God in the small places because we don’t seem to find Him in the place **we think He should be**. What a wonderful thought, though, that God can be found anywhere! Chances are good that in the process of finding God where He is to be found, we will discover all of the support that is really around us. Elijah would have done well to spend a few minutes reflecting on the many ways in which he really wasn’t alone. The ravens brought him food everyday in 17:4-7, the widow housed and fed him “*for many days*” in 17:10-16, Obadiah (the man in charge of Ahab’s house and one, who at the very

least, cared for Elijah) is noted as having “*feared the Lord greatly*” in 18:3, an angel attended to him in 19:4-8, and God points out in 19:18 that there are 7,000 others “*whose knees have not bowed to Baal.*” At the root of all these events is God. It was God who performed the miracle with the widow, it was God who rained down fire on the sacrifices on Mt. Carmel, and it was God who reminded Elijah who was really in control.

The point of all this is that we very well may find ourselves in a situation like Elijah’s where we feel that we are backed up against a wall, with no one around to help and no apparent way to escape. However, most times it only *seems* that way. Yet, even in the situations where all others have forsaken us, we still *ALWAYS* have God. The popular citation for this concept is in 1 Cor. 10:13 where we have assurance that God will only let us be tempted in proportion to our abilities. Consider some other passages as well. Meditate on the poetic descriptions of God’s strength and protection in Psalm 3 (particularly vv. 3, 4) and Psalm 18:1-6 and 31-50. Think on Rom. 8:35 which states, “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*” Contemplate the significance of Christ’s proclamation that “*...I have overcome the world*” (Jn. 16:32, 33). When all around us turn to sin, we can stand fast on God’s remembrance of those who are His (2 Tim. 2:15-19). Simply, God is here for us. After all, “*God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*” (Jn. 3:16, 17). Our God is a god that wants to help us, and as the scriptures adequately attest to, His power is completely sufficient to help us no matter what (Heb. 4:14-16, 13:5b-6, Ps. 27). We must turn to Him first for strength remembering that He may not be in the place where we expect Him to be, rather, He will be in the place where He will be most helpful, even if it is a still small voice.

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