

ASLEEP UNDER A JUNIPER TREE

In our [last study](#) we discussed Elijah's running for his life from Jezebel's empty threat. He ran from Jezreel to Beersheba and then a "day journey into the wilderness and sat down under a Juniper tree (rothem/ broom tree), prayed to die, and fell asleep."

This lesson will study four aspects of Elijah falling Asleep Under a Juniper Tree.

1. The Juniper tree was almost a leafless desert bush. It would have offered more a shadow than shade to Elijah from the desert sun.

The Juniper tree's roots were a sort of wilderness survival food (Job 30:4). Its roots and sticks were used for night fire warmth and to keep desert predators away (Ps.120:4).

It wasn't much, but it was better than nothing. Now remember he doesn't need to be here. He is here because of a series of wrong choices because he is running from God rather than towards Him!

Elijah is not running with endurance the race set before him (Heb.12:1-3).

However, the Juniper tree was God's temporary logistical grace for Elijah (Phil.4:19).

2. Elijah laid down and slept when he should have stood-up, firm in his faith, and fought for God like he did at Mt. Carmel (Eph.6:10-17; 1 Kings18:20-46).

Elijah went from fame to flames in 24 hours!

PRINCIPLE: Your life is never better without God in control of it.

The spiritually advancing believer is better on his feet (taking the offense) than on his back (in retreat); and yet he is better off on his back, alive than on a cold slab, dead.

It was while he was on his back, alive, that he made a request of God that he might **DIE**,

"It is enough, now, O Lord." (1 Kgs.19:4)

"But Elijah, God will show you when enough is enough!" (Job; Jonah) (2 Cor.12:9).

Doctrinal principle: The spiritually mature believer cannot "sleep away" his spiritual problems. He must face the reality - no matter how complicated he may think they have become in his life. He (you) must stop wallowing in self-induced misery; and stop being pre-occupied with self-importance (i.e. Elijah running for his life) and consider where it has gotten him (you) - often thinking suicide.

3. Suicide is no option for the believer and certainly not for an unbeliever (Judas Iscariot) (Matt.27:1-8; Act5s 1:15-21).

Even Elijah knew it was wrong and reworded his death prayer - *"Lord, take my life (19:4)."*

Notice that Elijah's prayer under the Juniper tree was outside of The Will of God; and notice that he prayed while running away from God.

Also note the content of his prayer once he took over his life's choices without consulting God's Will. (Eph.6:6)

- **Doctrinal principle:** You cannot fool God! He knows your heart and His Plans for you even if you don't know them at the time (Eccl.3:1-8; Acts 15:8; Rom.8:26-28).
- **Doctrinal principle:** A day under the Juniper tree may get worse before it gets better; but it won't get better until you confess your sin and return to God in faith (1 John 1:9; Col.2:6-7).
- **Doctrinal principle:** After confession of sin and making the mental attitude adjustment to the directive Will of God, things can get better rather than worst. This was true for Elijah while still under the Juniper tree, the result being a visit from the teaching angel. (1 Kgs.19:5-8)
 - Notice that the teaching angel woke him from a spiritual slumber. (touched to awaken).

4. Notice the first thing that the teaching angel told Elijah - "Arise, eat (live not die!)."

When death came finally to Elijah, it was spectacular (2 Kings 2:1-14).

Note where the teaching angel placed Elijah's logistical grace food and drink (1 Kgs.19:6)? It was a message for Elijah to get his head back into the Plan of God.

There is still work (Divine Production) for you in the Plan of God.

You have been spiritually asleep; and it is time to wake-up and get busy doing the revealed Will of God. Stop wasting time complaining and spiritually sleeping.

After **one day** of running away from God, Elijah had convinced himself to quit.

But God had another assignment, a **40-day RACE** set before him to run (Heb.12:1-3; **1 Kings 19:7-8**).

The spiritually advancing believer needs to be where God wants him to be IN the Directive Will of God!

- Geographically Mt. Horeb)
- Mentally New assignment/ directive will),
- Operationally Walk by means of the Holy Spirit and apply the Faith Cycle

The Juniper tree was not the place to find comfort to the wearied warrior of God. The Juniper was never designed to replace the great inner comfort that only God can bring to the human heart (**John 14:1-4, 25-27**).

If you want something different in your life, then you must choose something different!

The world cannot do it. The world can only exchange one lust pattern for another!

One example would be **body lust**, you might have a lung problem, the consequence of smoking, give it up and switching to eating resulting in a problem with weigh. If you are a believer, don't do this!