



# ELIJAH 9: I AM THE ONLY ONE LEFT (1 Kings 19.8-18)

*Ps. Hennie Swart*

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## 1 Kings 19.8-18

<sup>8</sup>So [Elijah] got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup>There he went into a cave and spent the night.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

<sup>12</sup>After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

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## 1 Kings 19.8-18

<sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>14</sup>He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram."

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### 1 Kings 19.8-18

<sup>16</sup>Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup>Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup>Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.

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### Outline

Even though Moses is not explicitly mentioned, this passage teaches us a few things about Elijah and Moses:

1. Elijah thought he was the 'only one left.'
2. By God's grace he was not the 'only one left.'
3. God's grace depends on the 'only one left.'

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### God's preserving grace



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### Romans 11.1-6

<sup>1</sup>I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: <sup>3</sup>"Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? <sup>4</sup>And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." <sup>5</sup>So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup>And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

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### Conclusion

We are saved by works, but not by our works:

The reason why God can reserve for Himself a remnant who don't have to work is because Jesus was a remnant-of-one who did all the work.

Because of God's p/reserving grace, just like Elijah, we never have to walk alone!

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