

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **The First Book of Kings** chapter **19** verses **9-18**, which can be found on page **402** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

⁹Elijah entered a cave and there he spent the night. Suddenly the word of the Lord came to him: 'Why are you here, Elijah?' 'Because of my great zeal for the Lord the God of Hosts', he said. 'The people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, torn down thy altars and put thy prophets to death with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life.' The answer came: 'Go and stand on the mount before the Lord.' For the Lord was passing by: a great and strong wind came rending mountains and shattering rocks before him, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a low murmuring sound. When Elijah heard it, he muffled his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice: 'Why are you here, Elijah?' 'Because of my great zeal for the Lord the God of Hosts', he said. 'The people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, torn down thy altars and put thy prophets to death with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life.'

The Lord said to him, 'Go back by way of the wilderness of Damascus, enter the city and anoint Hazael to be king of Aram; anoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be King of Israel, and Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah to be prophet in your place. Anyone who

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escapes the sword of Jehu Elisha will slay. But I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all who have not bent the knee to Baal, all whose lips have not kissed him.'

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Mark** chapter **3** verses **1-11**, which can be found on page **45** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹On another occasion when he went to synagogue, there was a man in the congregation who had a withered arm; and they were watching to see whether Jesus would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they could bring a charge against him. He said to the man with the withered arm, 'Come and stand out here.' Then he turned to them: 'Is it permitted to do good or to do evil on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?' They had nothing to say; and, looking round at them with anger and sorrow at their obstinate stupidity, he said to the man, 'Stretch out your arm.' He stretched it out and his arm was restored. But the Pharisees, on leaving the synagogue, began plotting against him with the partisans of Herod to see how they could make away with him.

Jesus went away to the lake-side with his disciples. Great numbers from Galilee, Judaea and Jerusalem, Idumaea and Transjordan, and the neighbourhood of Tyre and Sidon, heard what he was doing and came to see him. So he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him, to save him from being crushed by the crowd. For he cured so many that sick people of all kinds came crowding in upon him to touch him. The unclean spirits too, when they saw him, would fall at his feet and cry aloud, 'You are the Son of God'; but he insisted that they should not make him known.

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.