



Divine Purpose And My Mission (What Doest Thou Here?)

“... What doest thou here, Elijah” (I Kings 19,9,13).

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“And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, **What doest thou here, Elijah?** 10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. 13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, **What doest thou here, Elijah?** 14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. 17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. 18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (I Kings 19:9-18).

1) When a question is repeated, it is like being given opportunity to resit examinations with a view to ascertaining if you have learnt what you missed in your previous answers. Therefore, repeating the same answer as the previ-

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ous one will not address the underlying issue that God is trying to draw your attention to. You need to seriously consider if you were ‘thick’ in your previous answers or what points you may have missed.

- 2) The repetition of Pharaoh's dreams was to instil the message “... that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass” (Genesis 41:32). Similarly, a repeated question confirms that the facts has not yet been grasped.
- 3) The test to Peter's answers to Jesus' repeated questions “Do you love...” (John 21:15-17) came He asked him to follow Him. “Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? 22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me” (John 21:20-22).
- 4) “But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers” (I Kings 19:4). Fear, discouragement and ignorance brought Elisha to a point outside of his appointed mission field, prompting God to ask him the question “What doest thou here?”.
- 5) “I, even I only, am left” (I king 19:10,14). It is a dangerous spiritual condition to think you are the only one serving God when Obadiah had just informed you of the 100 prophets he hid (I Kings 18:13). Now God tells him of 7,000 believers he did not “recognise”.