



## Mountaintop Experiences

1 Kings 19:1-18; Selected Scriptures  
#9 in the series *Elijah—A Man Like Us*

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Theme: **Always listen to and obey God.**

### Elijah's zigzag\* route to the mountaintop experience.



1. Zig: a dramatic entrance. Zag: a quick exit. (1 Kings 17:1, 2-3)
2. Zig: hiding out in the wilderness. Zag: hiding out in Zarephath. (1 Kings 17:3-7, 8-16)
3. Zig: the widow's son died. Zag: the widow's son was raised back to life. (1 Kings 17:17-24)
4. Zig: victory at Mt. Carmel. Zag: running for his life. (1 Kings 18:1, 17-46)
5. Zig: deep despair. Zag: a special encounter with God. (1 Kings 19:1-6, 8-18)

### Elijah's zigzag route from the mountaintop experience.



1. Zig: leave the mountain. Zag: anoint kings. (1 Kings 19:15-17; cf. 2 Kings 8:7-14; 9:1-3)
2. Zig: anoint his successor. Zag: home to heaven. (1 Kings 19:16-21; 2 Kings 2:1-11)

### Our zigzag routes.



1. God's zigzag routes for you ...
  - a. are good. (Jeremiah 29:11-14; Romans 8:28-29; 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:16-18; see also 107:1; 119:68)
  - b. protect and prepare you. (see Exodus 13:17-18)
  - c. never leave you on your own. (Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 37:28; 94:14; Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-18; Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 13:5)
2. So, in all the zigzags, always listen to and obey God.

\* The phrase and concept *zigzag* as used here has been adapted from Donald Sunukjian's *The Shortest Distance Between Two Points Is A Zigzag*.

## In My Life This Week

**Monday.** Yesterday we took an aerial view of Elijah's zigzag route to and from his mountaintop experience with God. This pattern is the norm, not an exception. Elijah was a man just like us. Remember one speaker's title, *The Shortest Distance Between Two Points Is A Zigzag*. Review some of Elijah's pre and post mountaintop experience zigzags, following the outline. Now chart some of your own zigzag route to where you are today.

**Tuesday.** As you think about and at times struggle with your zigzag routes, remember God's routes, His plans for you are *good* (for example, Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 12:2). His ultimate goal is for you to bring glory to Him as you are transformed to be like Christ. The route is difficult at times, but the outcome is certain and the difficulties are worth it (see 2 Corinthians 4:18). Whether looking back at past difficulties or straight ahead at present ones, ask God to enable you to frame them with this wonderful truth—His plans and paths for you are good.

**Wednesday.** Part of God's purpose in leading us on zigzag routes is that they protect and prepare us. Sunday we noted an example of this in God's leading Israel south rather than northeast immediately after they escaped from Egypt. Think about the reason for this that is recorded in Exodus 13:17. Besides protecting them from the Egyptians when they were not yet ready for war, God also had an appointment for them at Mt. Sinai for worship in fulfillment of His promise to Moses in Exodus 3:12, and to prepare them to live as His people. Look at some of your zigzag routes again, identifying how God used them to protect and prepare you. Thank Him for each specific action of protection and preparation you see.

**Thursday.** While God leads you on zigzag routes, some of which are long, difficult and dark, remember that He never leaves you on your own. Review the Bible references in the outline about this. As you look back, try to identify some of the evidence that God has never left you alone. As you look at the present and future, be grounded in the certainty that God will never leave you alone. So then, always listen to and obey God.

**Friday–Saturday.** On Sunday we plan to continue the series on Elijah with *Passing The Mantle*. Read 1 Kings 19:15-21 and 2 Kings 2:1-14 as part of your preparation for our time of worship together.