



Bible Reading Blog Week 21 — After the Fire

by Joshua Kirk

1 Kings 18–19; 2 Kings 1–7; Acts 12–16; Romans 11; Ephesians 4:14

The famous picture of Elijah is the one on Mount Carmel. Fire from heaven. The prophets of Baal silenced. A whole nation falling on its face. We have built stained glass for that scene.

But the same prophet, two chapters later, is alone in the wilderness asking the Lord to take his life. He had Carmel and he had this. The miracle did not hold him together. What is striking, and what most of us miss when we read it, is that the Bible does not handle Elijah here the way our pity tends to. It is asking him a question.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:9)

“I, Even I Only, Am Left”

Elijah said it three times. He said it on Carmel before the contest even began, when he gathered the people and announced, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord” (1 Kings 18:22). He said it again under the broom tree to the Lord. He said it a third time

