

THE 3 VOICES OF NATURE

I Kings 19:11-12

Elijah was a great soul-won victory over pagan Priest on (Mt. Carmel).
Weariness in mind and spirit. The wicked queen threatened his life. Days
journey - (Juniper) tree - Fed - Hard voices.

Nothing forceful - speaking of natures voices.

Some - nature has ~~no~~ divine purpose.

Nature has ~~no~~ divine warning.

All can learn something from - other than strictly (scientific).

Some - experiment station.

Voices in nature that man can use to his advantage.

Have to be deaf not to hear.

Have to be blind not to see work of nature thousands of years.

Nature is nature for a purpose. Fulfillment and purpose of man.

Man has (3) fold relation to nature -

1. Practical

2. Emotional

3. Intellectual

4. Spiritual Side ✓
There might be 4, 5, or more.

We speak of strong tie man has with nature.

Elijah - lingered in Jezebel in hope of (reformation) after Mt. Carmel experience - hope the king would follow up.

Bitter disappointment - weak king.

Jezebel - remove all contact with king - threatening death.

Elijah took (immediate flight) - hasty without divine direction.

Utterly broken in body and spirit - conflict of life and death.

V. (4) - Entreaty to be released.

V. (5) - God (careth for the body) - felt the need of His People. God had fed his fathers in this wilderness for 40 years. Sent food and angel to persuade him to eat. Holy man under the tree. Shepherd of Israel sends goodness. God supports those who do his work.

V. (8) - Symbolic 40 days. Meal miraculously provided and sustained.

Israel broke covenant of Carmel and 40 days wilderness before liberty and light granted.

He came to the Mt. of God - perhaps the very "clift of the rock". Where Moses had first been permitted to hear the revelation of God. Purpose.

Wonderful place to spend the night.

QUESTION - What doest Thou here, Elijah?

- V. 10 - Ans. 1 - Accusation against children of Israel.
2 - Vindication of his conduct.

V. 14

Romans 11:2,3

The impulses that come to man because of the ords that bind him to nature.

The system of things form a part of his being. Voices in wilderness cry prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The (Wordless)Voices

Psa. 19 - "The Heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament.

Day unto day is --

Night unto night --

No voice but goes forth over all earth.

Heb. - Prophet - 1st listened voice of N.

I. WIND - V. 11 (The storm rends)

Symbol - appeal to practical side of man.

What it says is endeavor - silence on the desert, tremendous tempest

breaks forth - desert is like raging sea tossing.

Wind tells the sailor to furl and unfurl his sails!

" husbandman to go gather harvest but be scattered.

" builder lay foundation well - square - stand storms.

Natures loudest voice - watched the whirlwind breaking. Rocks to pieces. Fierce lightning. Peals of thunder.

Voice of struggle for existence.

Millions of years sifting and masterful. Storm burst upon the unrepentant people.

Struggle for existence more than a life and death.

N. 1st voice is struggle - endeavor. - *Practical side* -

What is worth gaining must be fought for.

Life is not idle.

| Disease - hard times.

| Ants struggle - slave.

Nothing we can substitute for struggle. Must heal the sick. Save the children. Prevent waste of life.

Nicodemus had the miracle of a changed life explained to him by Jesus who illustrated with the wind.

✓ II. EARTHQUAKE - V. (11) (Shakes the foundations).

Mountains and rocks, threaten to fall, hills sink, valleys rise, deep places open.

(Symbol) - emotional voice.

Something moves the depth of man. Ground ~~trembled~~ beneath his feet.

Voice says be still - reverent - wonder - enjoy. Astounding sense of saving grace of God.

Overflowing beauty.

Overflowing awesome.

Mystery of mountains.

Sea-eternally new.

Eagle in the sky.

Look of a dogs eye.

Butterfly by wayside.

Wonder changes from (age to age) Childhood - sunbeam dancing on the wall.

Leaves, polished - evergreens. Later - light itself.

Rainbow - heart leaps when see one in sky. Blue sky.

What is purpose of all this.

Endless music.

Moon and stars.

Every cloud is of interest.

Love.

Whitman wrote about - grass - the wren on her eggs - a cow crunching.

Old sailor - 40 years - sailed 7 seas. What was greatest wonder that impressed him. Hands of a baby.

Chicks scrambling out of eggs in incubator.

He had come back to the old places where God brought comfort and help in the past. Now the old earth is ruling in terror as tempests of Heaven are let loose.

✓ III. FIRE - V. 12 (Consumes)

Shades of night turn into spectacle.

(Symbol) - Inquire and divine wrath. - Intellectual side

Burns up rubbish.

Melts fine gold.

Reduces things to common denominator.

Nets in sea - fish - thing of beauty.

Clears eyes of understanding. The flame of fire wrapping the bush in Horeb - attention of Moses.

Man must press beyond these limits.

✓ IV. STILL - V. 12 (Gentle - soft whisper God is love).

Spiritual Side

Still small voice - Heard when all is quiet. Understood afterwards that God had been in the other experiences as well - wrapping himself in his mantle he comes forth, stands entrance of the cave.

The spirit of God is around you. All of God's Glory had passed by. God was merciful and gracious.

Acts 4:31 - The time when the Kingdom of Christ was manifested by a rushing mighty wind and the earthquake shaking the place and the Apostles were assembled in one place and then came the fire (Holy Spirit) and the word of God was spoken in voices that could be understood.

Repeat of the experience of Elijah - wind - earthquake - fire - voice word of God!

Prophet Isaiah - Chapter 6 - Shaking experience of seeing God, fire from the altar applied, and a voice said "who will go for us? Here am I!"

Elijah was alone yet not alone - desolate - spot - away from duty - despondency.

"I alone" said he "am left". He had forgotten many others and there was the one above!

Is your foundation broken?

Have you been cast down.

You may hear a sermon on the (narrow way) and think it is broader than the word describes it.

Shaken by your sins.

"Wrapped his face in his mantle" - emblem of a Christian - veils his face with humility.

His work not in vain - Lord help my unbelief.

Given (3) fold commission ->

1. Anoint Hazael, King over Syria - Hand to punish Israel.
2. Anoint Jehu, King over Israel - End of Ahabs house.
3. Anoint Elisha, Prophet in Israel - Not alone - someone to help with work.

Thank God for work to do! For strength to do it problems are not solved in the shadow of the Juniper Tree or in the cave - Go forth with fresh minds.

Do you remember the time God laid you on a bed of sickness. Broke up, in

a moment, your dream of earthly happiness - brought you to the brink of the tomb, and you felt unprepared to die, standing on the edge of eternity.

Your mind filled with despair - past visions - unforgiven sins.

Remember how conscience became a Horeb!

Trumpet voice.

He spared you - Mercy spared you.

Still small voice - whispered in your ear - arise from the dead, Christ shall give you life!

Elijah not wrap his face when wind storm. Earthquake - fire - but when he listened to the still small voice.

Transforming "word of God."

Goodness of God leads to repentance.

If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me.

Miracles do not convince people - resurrection of Lazarus failed to do so.

But still voice.

Still have the sweet tones of Gospel voice. Hope and peace.

✓ (Power) - Rome, symbol - the eagle, bird of prey, keen eyes, strong talons.

Babylon - symbol as beast.

Greece - symbol of intellect.

What have they done to solve problems of man? Nothing. Never dry a tear or soothe a sorrow.

God is giving warning here to sinners of terror of law.

What could he have done more for you than he has done?

V. 11 - Solemn - "The Lord passed by".

Soon he will have passed altogether.

Privileges ended - Day of grace fled.

What doest thou here? Question of each person - careless sinner - unconverted - unsaved.

Hebrews 1:1 - Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our Father through the prophets, in visions, dreams, and even face to face, telling them little by little about his plans, but now in these days he has spoken to us through his son to whom he has given everything.

There is a story - old man crossing a mountain one stormy night. It was so cold that in order to shelter his hands from the biting wind, he put the lantern under his cloak, and as he could see a trace of the path by the dim light of the moon - he thought he could make his way without the lantern.

All at once a great gust of wind blew aside his cloak. The light shone forth, and suddenly revealed the edge of a large slate quarry, over which, in another moment, he would have fallen and have been dashed to pieces.

He soon retraced his steps, but he did not hide the lantern under his cloak again that night.

There are many who think that they can go through life - dark and dangerous as the way often is - without this lamp of God's truth.

They hide it out of sight, or neglect to trim it by constant prayer.

In many instances they do not find out their mistake until it is too late.

Others have had this light unexpectedly cast upon their paths - revealed to them some danger - and they have learned never to go on without the light.

Elijah learned this lesson.

/ Samuel - 3: