

Date: 24 March 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Prophet of Fire: Man of Like Passions

Scripture text: 1 Kings 19:1-18

1. Elijah was a man who faced the struggles of the flesh even though he was a prophet of Jehovah. Elijah received a death threat from Jezebel, the king's wife, and it caused him emotional distress and depression. He was fearful of his life and fled into the wilderness which was very far from where he was. He allowed depression to take over his life for forty days and forty nights until God restored him.

2. God's first answer to Elijah, the despondent, is that He will sustain his life. The pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, who was also the Angel of the LORD gave Elijah food and water to sustain his physical body because He knew that the journey ahead would be very arduous. Even though Elijah asked God to end his life on earth, God who is the giver and taker of life remained merciful to him. The Lord is omniscient and knows our every need and will surely provide and sustain us in order to serve Him.

3. God's second answer to Elijah, the despondent, is that He is in control of all things. Elijah was discouraged and lamented twice that he was the only follower of Jehovah and the remaining Israelites had turned their hearts away from Jehovah. They hardened their hearts even after witnessing the miracle of God when fire came down from heaven. The still small voice of God comforted him that his fruits of labour is ultimately in God's hand by the Holy Spirit working in man's heart. May we remain faithful in our service and trust that God is sovereign.

4. God's third answer to Elijah, the despondent, is that He preserves a remnant to witness for Him. Elijah was not alone. God preserved the faith of at least 100 prophets and 7,000 witnesses of Jehovah in the midst of idolatry and wickedness. We are not alone, for we have the Holy Spirit and the Bible as our comforter and guide and Jesus Christ as our intercessor.