

Church of God Sunday School

ELIJAH RUNS AWAY

1 Kings 19:1-18

On Mount Carmel God had proved to the Israelites and to King Ahab that He was the true God. He had answered Elijah's prayer by sending fire to consume the sacrifice! Baal had not answered, for, after all, he was only an idol made by men's hands.

After this, you would think that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel would have quit worshiping their idols and turned the nation back to God. Instead, when King Ahab returned and told Queen Jezebel all that Elijah had done (not what *God* had done), she was very angry. She sent a messenger to Elijah, telling him that she was going to kill him by the next day!

Elijah had just faced 450 of the false prophets of Baal, and God had been with him. But when Elijah heard the threats of Jezebel, he fled for his life. He went to Beersheba (*bee-uh-SHEE-buh*) in Judah and left his servant there. From there Elijah traveled a day's journey into the wilderness and sat down to rest under a juniper tree.

Elijah was very depressed and discouraged. He asked God to let him die. Elijah said, "O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." And then he fell asleep.

As Elijah slept, God sent an angel to him. The angel woke him and said, "Arise and eat." Elijah opened his eyes and saw a cake, baked on the coals of a fire. A water pot was beside his head. Elijah ate and drank; then he laid down again.

But the angel came a second time. He said to Elijah, "Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee." (Elijah would travel a distance of about 150 miles.) So Elijah got up and ate again and drank more water. He was able to go without eating again for forty days and forty nights.

Elijah traveled to the mountain of God, Mount Horeb, otherwise known as Mount Sinai. He came to a cave, and there he stayed. While Elijah was at the cave, the Lord came to him and asked him, "What doest thou here,

Elijah?" Elijah told the Lord all that happened. He said that the people of Israel had turned away from God's Law, torn down His altars, and killed His prophets.

Then Elijah said, "I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." God knew Elijah needed to be encouraged. God told Elijah to stand on the mountain before the Lord.

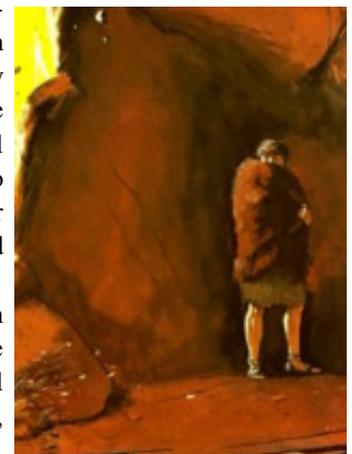
As "the Lord passed by," a great strong wind blew over the mountain, breaking rocks into pieces, but the Lord was not in the wind. Then, as Elijah stood there, no doubt trembling, an earthquake shook the ground around him, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire either.

At last, Elijah heard a still small voice. "He wrapped his face in his mantle [cloak]." When Elijah went to the entrance of the cave, the voice of God asked him, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

Elijah's answer was the same answer as before. This time God told Elijah to go to Damascus. There he was to "anoint Hazael [*HAZ-uh-el*] to be king over Syria: And Jehu . . . shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel." These men were to be God's instruments of judgment against Israel for worshiping idols (1 Kings 19:17; 2 Kings 8:12).

God also told Elijah to anoint Elisha to be the next prophet. Then God encouraged Elijah by telling him that he was not the only servant of God. There were 7,000 people who still loved God and were true to Him. They had never bowed to Baal nor kissed him in worship.

So Elijah was much encouraged by all that the Lord had told him. He still had work to do in Israel, and he was not alone!

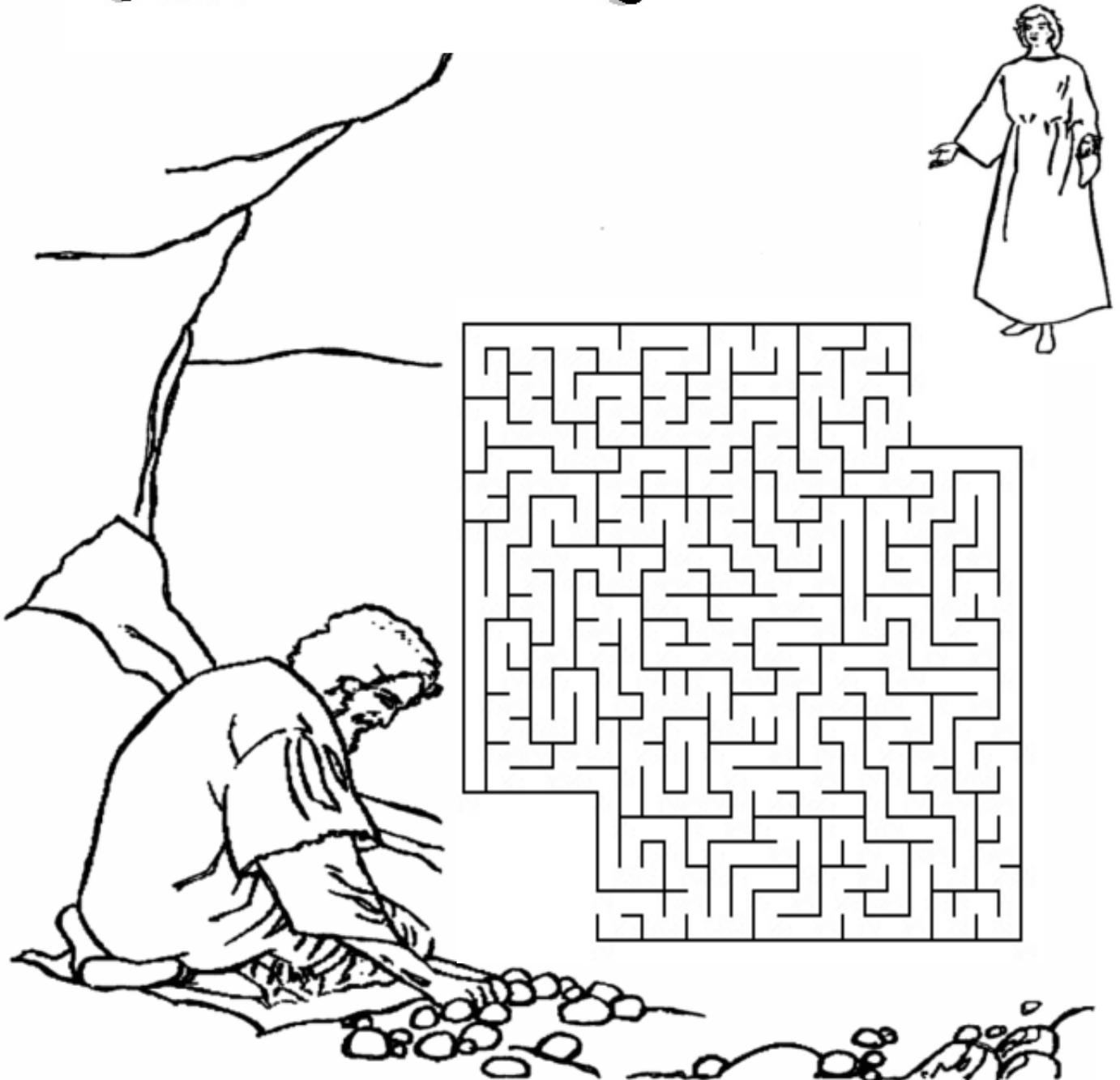


MEMORY VERSE:

"Yet I have left me seven thousand . . . which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."

—1 Kings 19:18

Guide the Angel to Elijah



How Many?

Elijah had faced

_____ prophets of Baal.

150

After seeing the angel, Elijah

traveled about

_____ miles.

40

2

The angel came to Elijah

_____ times.

450

Elijah was able to go

without eating for

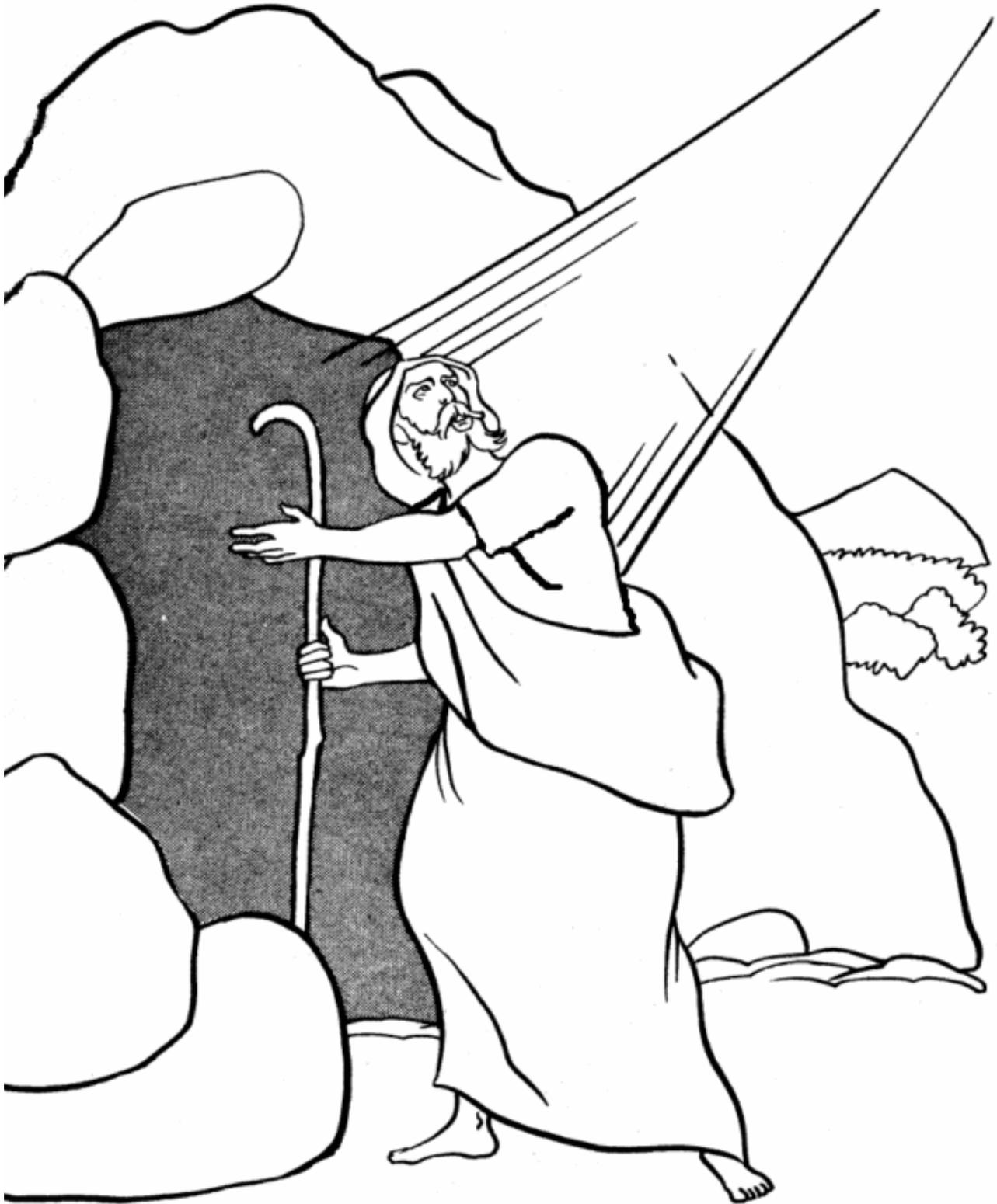
_____ days and

_____ nights.

40

7,000

There were _____
people besides Elijah who still
loved God.



Elijah Hears a Still, Small Voice