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# **The Questions God Asks**

Bible Study Series – Part III

September 2020

# The Questions God Asks – Recap

## Question

## What we learn about God

## What we learn about ourselves

### Where are you? (Genesis 3)

- The God who created the universe longs for a special relationship with His people

- What "trees" do we allow ourselves to come in between us & God; take a regular, honest assessment of our spiritual state

### What is that in your hand? (Exodus 4)

- The almighty God looks for ordinary instruments to accomplish His extraordinary purposes

- Reconsider our resources; trust and allow the Lord to use them to fulfill His calling for us; availability not capability

# 1 Kings 19:1-18

- <sup>1</sup> And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.
- <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.”
- <sup>3</sup> And when he saw *that*, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.
- <sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!”
- <sup>5</sup> Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise *and* eat.”

# 1 Kings 19:1-18

- <sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.
- <sup>7</sup> And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you.”
- <sup>8</sup> So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.
- <sup>9</sup> And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
- <sup>10</sup> So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

# 1 Kings 19:1-18

- <sup>11</sup> Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake;
- <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.
- <sup>13</sup> So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
- <sup>14</sup> And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

# 1 Kings 19:1-18

- <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael *as* king over Syria.
- <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi *as* king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint *as* prophet in your place.
- <sup>17</sup> It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.
- <sup>18</sup> Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

# Getting to here



# Elijah's Journey

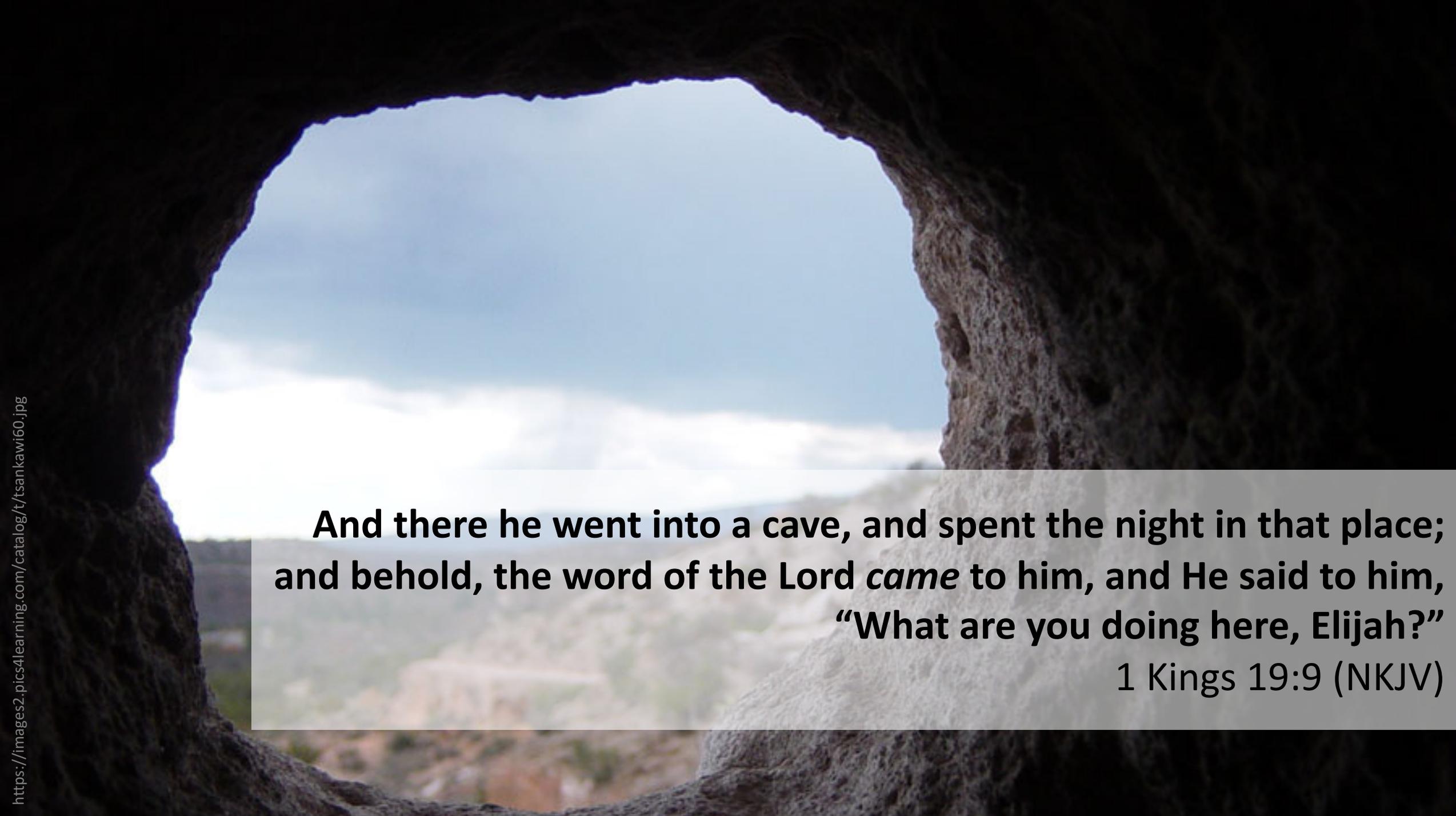
**Cherith**  
(1 Kings 17:1-7)

**Zarephath**  
(1 Kings 17:8-24)

**Carmel**  
(1 Kings 18)

# When God leads

- **Cherith:** “Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “**Get away from here** and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.”” (1 Kings 17:2-3)
- **Zarephath:** “Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “**Arise, go** to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there.”” (1 Kings 17:8-9)
- **Carmel:** “And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “**Go, present yourself** to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”” (1 Kings 18:1)
- **Now:** “And when he saw *that*, **he arose and ran** for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.” (1 Kings 19:3)



**And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place;  
and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him,  
“What are you doing here, Elijah?”**

1 Kings 19:9 (NKJV)

# God's renewed purpose for Elijah (1 Ki 19:15-16)

**1**

**Anoint a new king of Syria**

**2**

**Anoint a new king of Israel**

**3**

**Anoint his successor - Elisha**



**What are you doing here?**

1 Kings 19:9 (NKJV)

# Reflection & Application

- What are you doing here? How can you honestly answer today?
- Where is God calling you to go/serve? Are you there? Or waiting here with an excuse?
- What steps can you take this week to face difficult circumstances you've been avoiding, with the help and strength of the Lord?

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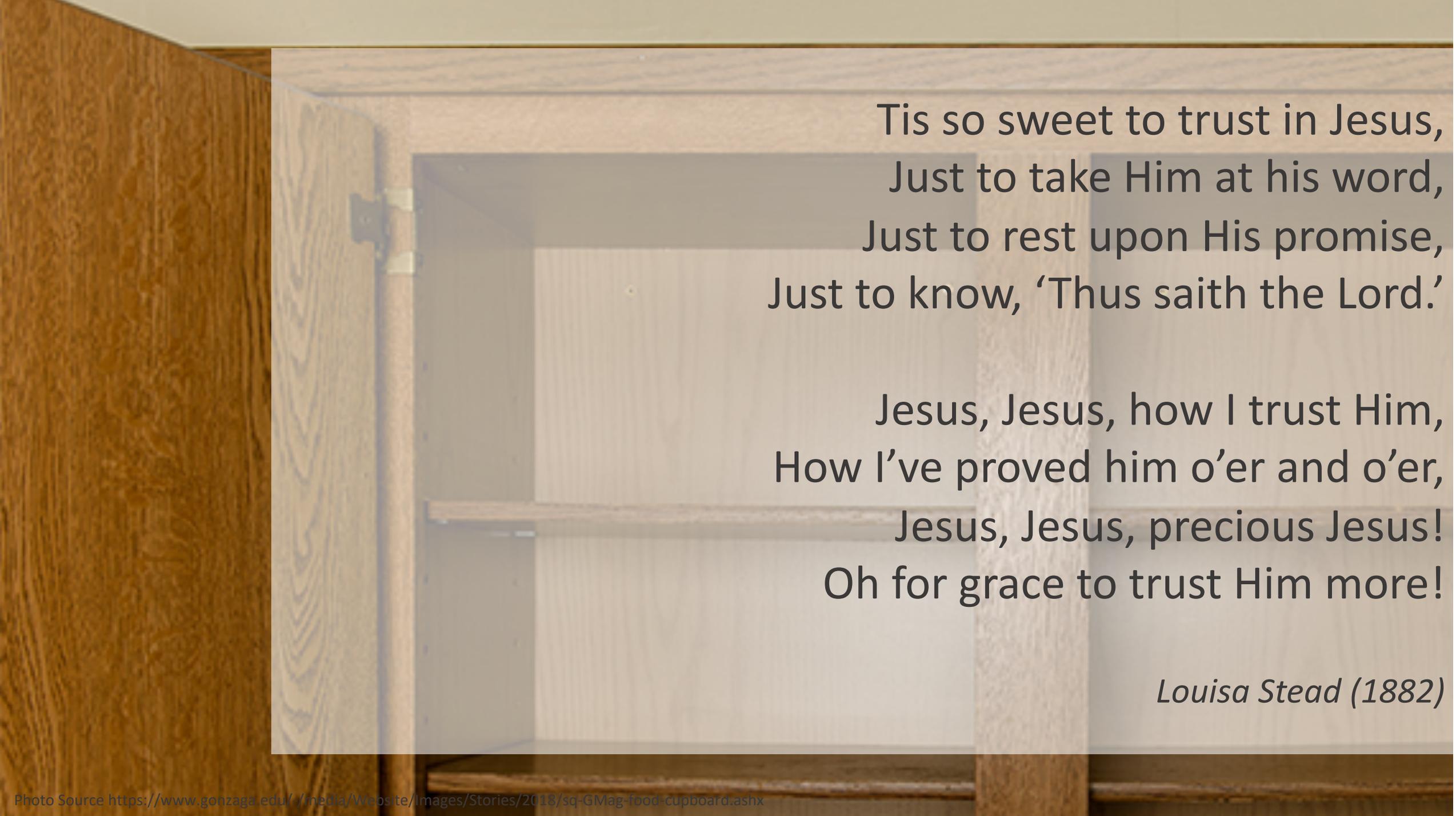
- Reconsider our resources; trust and allow the Lord to use them to fulfill His calling for us; availability not capability

### What are you doing here? (1 Kings 19)

- God's care and mercy reach His people even in their deepest distress; He cares about our emotional state

- Where are we retreating in our lives, forgetting His provision; open our hearts to Him and allow Him to lead us to His place of purpose



An open wooden cabinet with empty shelves. The cabinet is made of light-colored wood with a visible grain. The door is open to the left, revealing two empty shelves inside. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at his word,  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
Just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.'

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er,  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh for grace to trust Him more!

*Louisa Stead (1882)*

**What are you doing here?**

1 Kings 19:9 (NKJV)

# The Questions God Asks – Coming Up

Where are you? (Genesis 3)

What is that in your hand? (Exodus 4)

What are you doing here? (1 Kings 19)

**Is it a time for you yourselves to be living  
in your paneled houses, while this house  
remains a ruin? (Haggai 1)**



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