



Daily Reflections

June 21, 2018

Scripture

Siracusa 48: 1-16

Like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah
whose words were as a flaming furnace.

Their staff of bread he shattered,
in his zeal he reduced them to straits;

By the Lord's word he shut up the heavens
and three times brought down fire.

How awesome are you, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!

Whose glory is equal to yours?

You brought a dead man back to life
from the nether world, by the will of the LORD.

You sent kings down to destruction,
and easily broke their power into pieces.

You brought down nobles, from their beds of sickness.

You heard threats at Sinai,
at Horeb avenging judgments.

You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance,
and a prophet as your successor.

You were taken aloft in a whirlwind of fire,
in a chariot with fiery horses.

You were destined, it is written, in time to come
to put an end to wrath before the day of the LORD,
To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons,
and to re-establish the tribes of Jacob.

Blessed is he who shall have seen you
And who falls asleep in your friendship.
For we live only in our life,
but after death our name will not be such.
O Elijah, enveloped in the whirlwind!
Then Elisha, filled with the twofold portion of his spirit,
wrought many marvels by his mere word.
During his lifetime he feared no one,
nor was any man able to intimidate his will.
Nothing was beyond his power;
beneath him flesh was brought back into life.
In life he performed wonders,
and after death, marvelous deeds.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Scripture text could easily be entitled "An Ode to Elijah." Elijah was God's champion in the Old Testament and He was expected to reappear by many in the New Testament period as they longed for the coming of the Messiah. Elijah was God's messenger, in fact, he was the last great messenger before John the Baptist appeared to proclaim the coming of Our Lord Jesus as both Messiah and Savior.

Food for your Journey

Folk literature would often introduce Elijah as the savior in all-too-frequent situations when communities of Jews were in dire straits. Out of nowhere and often disguised, Elijah would appear and foil the wicked plot. Again, why Elijah? Because he was the hero who could call down miracles; he was the intimate of God who never died; and he was the intercessor who would zealously plead the cause of his people. And so, Jews continue to venerate him -- at every meal, at the end of every Sabbath, at circumcisions, and, most famously, at the Passover seders.

--Simeon J. Maslin, "Passover: The Mystery of the Fifth Cup,"

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, Even when Your people turned away from You and got themselves in trouble over and over again, You never abandoned them. Elijah and all Your prophetic messengers came to speak during times of trouble. In the fullness of time You sent Your only Son not just to speak to us but to show us the way. Make us humble, Lord. May we always be open to Your Son Who is The Way and The Truth. Amen