

Still Small Voice - Shavuot 5782

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1) I Kings 19:1-12 - The Still Small Voice

(א) וַיַּגֵּד אַחְזָבֵל לְאִיזֶבֶל אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהֵיוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר הָרַג אֶת־כָּל־הַנְּבִיאִים בַּחֶרֶב: (ב) וַתִּשְׁלַח אִיזֶבֶל מַלְאָךְ אֶל־אֱלֹהֵיוֹ לֵאמֹר כֹּה־יַעֲשֹׂן אֱלֹקִים וְכֹה יוֹסִפוֹן כִּי־כַעַת מַחֲרֵאֲשִׁים אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ כְּנַפֵּשׁ אֶתְדִּמָּה: (ג) וַיֵּרָא וַיִּקָּם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־נַפְשׁוֹ וַיֵּבֶא בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע אֲשֶׁר לַיהוָה וַיִּנַּח אֶת־נַעֲרָו שָׁם: (ד) וְהוּא־הָלַךְ בַּמִּדְבָּר דֶּרֶךְ יוֹם וַיֵּבֶא וַיֵּשֶׁב תַּחַת רֶתֶם אַחַת [אַתְּדָ] וַיִּשְׁאֵל אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ לֵמֹות וַיֹּאמֶר | רַב עֲתָה ה' קָח נַפְשִׁי כִּי־לֹא־טוֹב אֲנִכִּי מֵאַבְתָּי: (ה) וַיִּשְׁכַּב וַיִּשָּׁן תַּחַת רֶתֶם אַחַד וְהִנֵּה־זֶה מַלְאָךְ נֹגֵעַ בּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ קוּם אֲכֹל: (ו) וַיֵּבֶט וְהִנֵּה מֵרָאשֵׁיתוֹ עֵגֶת רִצְפִּים וְצִפְחַת מִיָּם וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשְׁתַּ וַיֵּשֶׁב וַיִּשְׁכַּב: (ז) וַיִּשְׁבֹּ מַלְאָךְ ה' | שִׁנִּית וַיִּגַּע־בּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר קוּם אֲכֹל כִּי רַב מִמֶּךָ הַדֶּרֶךְ: (ח) וַיִּקָּם וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשְׁתֶּה וַיֵּלֶךְ בִּכְחַן | הָאֲכִילָה הָיָא אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה עַד תַּר הָאֱלֹקִים חֶרֶב: (ט) וַיֵּבֶא־שָׁם אֶל־הַמַּעְרָה וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם וְהִנֵּה דְבַר־ה' אָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מִה־לֶּךָ פֹּה אֱלֹהֵיוֹ: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר קָנָא קָנָא תִּי לֵה' | אֱלֹקֵי צְבָאוֹת כִּי־עֲזָבוּ בְרִיתְךָ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־מִזְבְּחֹתֶיךָ הָרָסוּ וְאֶת־נְבִיאֶיךָ הָרְגוּ בַּחֶרֶב וְאַתָּה אֲנִי לְבַדִּי וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ אֶת־נַפְשִׁי לְקַחְתָּהּ: (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר צֵא וְעַמְדַת בְּהַר לְפָנַי ה' וְהִנֵּה ה' עֹבֵר וְרוּחַ גְּדוּלָּה וְחֹזֶק מִפְּרֻקֵּי הָרִים וּמִשִּׁבְרֵי סִלְעִים לִפְנֵי ה' לֹא בְרוּחַ ה' וְאַחֲרֵי הָרוּחַ רֶעַשׁ לֹא בְרֶעַשׁ ה': (יב) וְאַחֲרֵי הָרֶעַשׁ אֵשׁ לֹא בָאֵשׁ ה' וְאַחֲרֵי הָאֵשׁ קוֹל דְּמָמָה דְּקָה: (יג) וַיְהִי | כִּשְׁמַנֵּעַ אֱלֹהֵיוֹ וַיֵּלֶט פָּנָיו בְּאֶדְרֵתוֹ וַיֵּצֵא וַיַּעֲמֵד פָּתַח הַמַּעְרָה וְהִנֵּה אֱלֹהֵיוֹ קוֹל וַיֹּאמֶר מִה־לֶּךָ פֹּה אֱלֹהֵיוֹ:

(1) When Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had put all the prophets to the sword, (2) Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “Thus and more may the gods do if by this time tomorrow I have not made you like one of them.” (3) **Frightened, he fled at once for his life.** He came to **Beer-sheba**, which is in Judah, and **left his servant there**; (4) he himself **went a day’s journey into the wilderness.** He came to a broom bush and sat down under it, and **prayed that he might die. “Enough!” he cried. “Now, O LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”** (5) He lay down and fell asleep under a broom bush. Suddenly **an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.”** (6) **He looked about; and there, beside his head, was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water!** He ate and drank, and lay down again. (7) The angel of the LORD came a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.” (8) He arose and ate and drank; and with the strength from that meal he walked forty days and forty nights as far as the mountain of God at Horeb. (9) There he went into a cave, and there he spent the night. **Then the word of the LORD came to him. He said to him, “Why are you here, Elijah?”** (10) He replied, “I am moved by zeal for the LORD, the God of Hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and put Your prophets to the sword. I alone am left, and they are out to take my life.” (11) “Come out,” **He called, “and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And lo, the LORD passed by. There was a great and mighty wind, splitting mountains and shattering rocks by the power of the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind—an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake. (12) After the earthquake—fire; but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire—a soft murmuring sound.** (13) When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his mantle about his face and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

2) Genesis 21:9-20 - The Banishment of Hagar

(ט) וַתֵּרָא שָׂרָה אֶת־בֶּן־הָגָר הַמִּצְרִית אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה לְאַבְרָהָם מִצְחָק: (י) וַתֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָהָם גֵּרְשָׁהּ הָאֵמָּה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת־בְּנָהּ כִּי לֹא יִירָשׁ בֶּן־הָאֵמָּה הַזֹּאת עִם־בְּנֵי עַם־יִצְחָק: (יא) וַיָּרַע הַדָּבָר מְאֹד בְּעֵינֵי אַבְרָהָם עַל אֹדֶת בְּנוֹ: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹקִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אֲלֵי־יָרֵעַ בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל־הַנָּעַר וְעַל־אִמָּתְךָ כֹּל־אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֶיךָ שָׂרָה שְׁמַע בְּקוֹלָהּ כִּי בִיצְחָק יִקְרָא לָהּ זָרַע: (יג) וְגַם אֶת־בֶּן־הָאֵמָּה לִגְוִי אֲשִׁימְנוּ כִּי זָרַעָהּ הוּא: (יד) וַיִּשְׁכֶּם אַבְרָהָם | בְּבֶקֶר וַיִּקְח־לָחֶם וְחֹמֶת מַיִם וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הָגָר שָׁם עַל־שֹׁכְמָהּ וְאֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּתֵּן בְּמַדְבַּר בְּאֵר שָׁבַע: (טו) וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן־הַחֲמָת וַתִּשְׁלַךְ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד תַּחַת אֶתֶּד הַשִּׁיחִים: (טז) וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתָּשֶׁב לָהּ מִנְּגִד הַרְחָק כְּמַטְחֵי קֶשֶׁת כִּי אָמְרָה אֶל־אַרְאֶה בְּמֹות הַיֶּלֶד וַתָּשֶׁב מִנְּגִיד וַתִּשָּׂא אֶת־קֶלֶה וַתִּבָּר: (יז) וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹקִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנָּעַר וַיִּקְרָא מִלֵּאךְ אֱלֹקִים | אֶל־הָגָר מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַה־לָּךְ הָגָר אֶל־תִּירָאִי כִּי־שָׁמַע אֱלֹקִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנָּעַר בְּאֲשֶׁר הוּא־שָׁם: (יח) קוּמִי שְׂאִי אֶת־הַנָּעַר וְהַחֲזִיקִי אֶת־יָדָךְ בּוֹ כִּי־לִגְוִי גָדֹל אֲשִׁימְנוּ: (יט) וַיִּפְקַח אֱלֹקִים אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרָא בְּאֵר מַיִם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּמְלֹא אֶת־הַחֲמָת מַיִם וַתִּשָּׂק אֶת־הַנָּעַר: (כ) וַיְהִי אֱלֹקִים אֶת־הַנָּעַר וַיִּגְדֹּל וַיִּשֶׁב בְּמַדְבַּר וַיְהִי רֹבֵה קֶשֶׁת:

(9) Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing. (10) She said to Abraham, "Cast out that slave-woman and her son, for the son of that slave shall not share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." (11) The matter distressed Abraham greatly, for it concerned a son of his. (12) But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed over the boy or your slave; whatever Sarah tells you, do as she says, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be continued for you. (13) As for the son of the slave-woman, I will make a nation of him, too, for he is your seed." (14) Early next morning Abraham took some bread and a skin of water, and gave them to Hagar. He placed them over her shoulder, together with the child, and **sent her away**. And she wandered about in the wilderness of **Beer-sheba**. (15) When the water was gone from the skin, **she left the child under one of the bushes**, (16) and **went and sat down at a distance**, a bowshot away; for **she thought, "Let me not look on as the child dies."** And sitting thus afar, she burst into tears. (17) God heard the cry of the boy, and an **angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar?** Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is. (18) Come, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him." (19) Then **God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water, and let the boy drink**. (20) God was with the boy and he grew up; he dwelt in the wilderness and became a bowman.

3) Genesis 22:9-18 - The Akeidah

(ט) וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אָמַר לּוֹ הָאֱלֹקִים וַיָּבִין שָׁם אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַמַּזְבֵּחַ וַיַּעֲרֶה אֶת־הָעֵצִים וַיַּעֲקֹד אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּשֶׂם אוֹתוֹ עַל־הַמַּזְבֵּחַ מִמָּעַל לַעֲצִים: (י) וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֹת לְשַׁחֵט אֶת־בְּנוֹ: (יא) וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מִלֵּאךְ ה' מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם | אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־תִּשְׁלַח יָדְךָ אֶל־הַנָּעַר וְאֶל־תַּעֲשֵׂה לוֹ מֵאֹמָה כִּי | עֲתָה יִדְעֵתִי כִּי־יִרָא אֱלֹקִים אֹתָהּ וְלֹא חֲשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יְחִידָה מִמֶּנִּי: (יג) וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא וְהִנֵּה־אֵיל אַחֵר נֶאֱתַז בְּסַבָּר בְּקֶרְנוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֵיל וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ לְעֹלָה תַּחַת בְּנוֹ: (יד) וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם שְׁם־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא ה' | יִרְאָה אֲשֶׁר יֹאמַר הַיּוֹם בְּתֵר ה' יִרְאָה: (טו) וַיִּקְרָא מִלֵּאךְ ה' אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׁנֵית מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם: (טז) וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־ה' כִּי יָעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא חֲשַׁכְתָּ אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יְחִידָה: (יז) כִּי־בָרַךְ אַבְרָם | וְהָרְבָה אַרְבֶּה אֶת־זָרַעְךָ כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחֲלֹל אֲשֶׁר עַל־שִׁפְתֵי הַיָּם וַיִּרָשׁ זָרַעְךָ אֶת שְׁעַר אֲבִיבּוֹ: (יח) וְהַתְּבָרַךְ בְּזָרַעְךָ כָּל גִּוִּי הָאָרֶץ עֲלֵיב אֲשֶׁר שְׁמַעַת בְּקִלִּי:

(9) They arrived at the place of which God had told him. Abraham built an altar there; he laid out the wood; he bound his son Isaac; he laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. (10) And Abraham picked up the knife to

slay his son. (11) Then an angel of the LORD called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am." (12) And he said, "Do not raise your hand against the boy, or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your favored one, from Me." (13) When Abraham looked up, his eye fell upon a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son. (14) And Abraham named that site Adonai-yireh, whence the present saying, "On the mount of the LORD there is vision." (15) The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (16) and said, "By Myself I swear, the LORD declares: Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your favored one, (17) I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore; and your descendants shall seize the gates of their foes. (18) All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, because you have obeyed My command."

4) Exodus 19:14-20 - At the Foot of Mount Sinai

(יד) וַיֵּרֶד מֹשֶׁה מִן־הָהָר אֶל־הָעָם וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֶת־הָעָם וַיַּכְבְּסוּ שְׂמֹלֵתָם: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעָם הֵינִי נֹכְחִים לְשִׁלְשֵׁת יָמִים אֶל־תִּגְשׁוּן אֶל־אִשָּׁה: (טז) וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בִּהְיוֹת הַבֹּקֶר וַיְהִי קָלֹת וּבִרְקִים וַעֲנָן כָּבֵד עַל־הָהָר וְקֹל שֹׁפָר חֲזָק מְאֹד וַיַּחֲרֹד כָּל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר בְּמַחֲנֶה: (יז) וַיּוֹצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם לִקְרַאת הָאֱלֹקִים מִן־הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיִּתְּצוּ בְּתַחֲתִית הָהָר: (יח) וְהָרְסוּ סִינִי עֵשָׂן כָּלֹּ מִפְּנֵי אֲשֶׁר יֵרֶד עָלָיו ה' בָּאֵשׁ וַיַּעַל עֲשָׂנוֹ כְּעֵשָׂן הַכֹּבֶשֶׂן וַיַּחֲרֹד כָּל־הָהָר מְאֹד: (יט) וַיְהִי קוֹל הַשּׁוֹפָר הוֹלֵךְ וְחֲזָק מְאֹד מִשְׁנֵה יְדִבֹּר וְהָאֱלֹקִים יַעֲנֶנּוּ בְּקוֹל: (כ) וַיֵּרֶד ה' עַל־הָרְסוּ סִינִי אֶל־רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיִּקְרָא ה' לְמֹשֶׁה אֶל־רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה:

(14) Moses came down from the mountain to the people and warned the people to stay pure, and they washed their clothes. (15) And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day: do not go near a woman." (16) On the third day, as morning dawned, **there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled.** (17) Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain. (18) Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for the LORD had come down upon it in fire; the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently. (19) The blare of the horn grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder. (20) The LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went up.

Still Small Voice

Written by: Sam Blustin and Eliana Light

When Hagar called out to you in the desert
After being banished from her home
Her son in need of water, her heart about to break
Feeling so dejected and alone
You sent them an angel
Who lifted them out of despair
Yes, You sent them an angel, Lord,
And I don't even know if You are there

[Chorus]

Are You the sound of the thunder, are You the crash of the lightning,
Are You the wind blowing through the trees, are You the fog that's surrounding
Are You even in the river, or on top of the mountain, Lord
Are You the still small voice, in the silence

When Abraham was up on the altar
About to sacrifice his only son
Torn between a father's love and his love for You
Fearful of what he might have done
You sent them an angel
Who cast his knife into the air
Yes, You sent them an angel, Lord,
And I don't even know if You are there

[Chorus]

At Sinai, they all stood together
And heard Your voice calling from afar
It was all so clear, it was all so real,
And here I'm left to wonder where you are....

[Chorus]