

Reflection for Friday week 10 – 2020

Elijah's encounter with God in the mountains is one of the most moving stories of the Old Testament. So often in the Old Testament, God is presented as a fearsome and all-powerful god or a god who avenges his rights and destroys his enemies. The God whom Elijah encounters is completely different. God reveals his presence in a gentle breeze not a storm, or fire, or earthquake – a gentle breeze. The danger is to mistake gentleness for weakness, timidity, lacking in courage and passion. However, this gentle breeze weakens the barriers we set before it. It relaxes us and eases our pressures and stresses. It cools us down so that we are more open to whatever comes next. It is a breeze that helps us discover more clearly the way ahead and that allows us to choose the way for ourselves while knowing this is the path God wants us to take. It is a gentleness that reassures and encourages. It helps us along without our even being aware of it. It recognises our fragility, how easy it is for us to break, so it doesn't push us or make us move more quickly than we are able. It seems to affirm and support us. It treats us with dignity and respect and honour. It is no wonder therefore that God chose this way to reveal himself – a gentle breeze!

My Great God Poet: Greta Zwaan, ©2002

God, I see your tender love in all the things around me,
I feel your comfort when I'm down, and know that you surround me.
With blessings that I cannot count, with grace beyond all measure,
With mercy that I don't deserve, with things that bring me pleasure.

Would I be brazen, Lord, to ask, why I deserve attention?
Do I have merits of my own, a virtue you could mention?
I feel indebted to your love, so privileged, so accepted,
I want to show my gratitude and somehow feel respected.

But I am but a puny one, a selfish, sinful spirit,
And you are oh, so holy God, such grace no one can merit.
You make the clouds your chariot, you walk upon the mountains;
You speak and all the earth is stilled; fierce storms become still fountains.

O, God, instil in me a faith that spans my every hour,
And let me know how great you are; reveal your holy power.
May I be used in some small way to teach your grace and glory.
Help me to show the world your love, to spread salvation's story.

A few more questions

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Q: What did the duck say when he bought lipstick? | A: "Put it on my bill." |
| Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it? | A: Envelope. |
| Q: Did you hear about the kidnapping at school? | A: It's okay. He woke up. |