12. The Eternal One said to Moses, “Ascend these heights of Abarim and view the land that I have given to the Israelite people. 13. When you have seen it, you too shall be gathered to your kin, just as your brother Aaron was. 14. For, in the wilderness of Zin, when the community was contentious, you disobeyed My command to uphold My sanctity in their sight by means of the water.” Those are the Waters of Meribath-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin. 15. Moses spoke to the Eternal, saying, 16. “Let the Eternal One, Source of the breath of all flesh, appoint someone over the community 17. who shall go out before them and come in before them, and who shall take them out and bring them in, so that the Eternal’s community may not be like sheep that have no shepherd.” 18. And the Eternal One answered Moses, “Single out Joshua son of Nun, an inspired individual, and lay your hand upon him. 19. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community, and commission him in their sight. 20. Invest him with some of your authority, so that the whole Israelite community may obey.
He answered, “Eternal One, God of heaven’s hosts, I have always been devoted to You, only to You. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with You, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets. I am the only one left—and now they are trying to kill me!”

And God said, “Go out and stand before [Me], the Eternal, on the mountaintop.” Then the Eternal passed by. A furious wind split mountains and shattered rocks in the presence of the Eternal, but the Eternal was not in the wind. After the wind, an earthquake—but the Eternal was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, fire—but the Eternal was not in the fire. And after the fire, a still, small voice.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his mantle about his face and went out, standing at the entrance of the cave. A voice came to him saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He said, “I have been full of zeal for the Eternal, the God of heaven’s hosts. The people of Israel have broken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars and killed Your prophets; I am the last one left, and they are looking to take my life, too.”