

1 Kings 19

Verses 1-4

Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” ³ And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. ⁴ But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.”

Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

As far as we know, only the 450 prophets of Baal showed up at Mount Carmel. The 400 prophets of Asherah were mentioned in chapter 18 but nothing is said about them after that point.

See 1 Kings 18:19

¹⁹ Now then, send *orders and* gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, *together with 450 prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.*

Maybe Jezebel suspected a negative outcome and told them not to go but Elijah and Ahab never questioned their absence.

² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.”

After hearing what had happened Jezebel could have renounced her faith in Baal but instead she decided to ignore the great miracle and double down on her pagan ways.

Some hearts are so hardened against the truth that no evidence can reach them

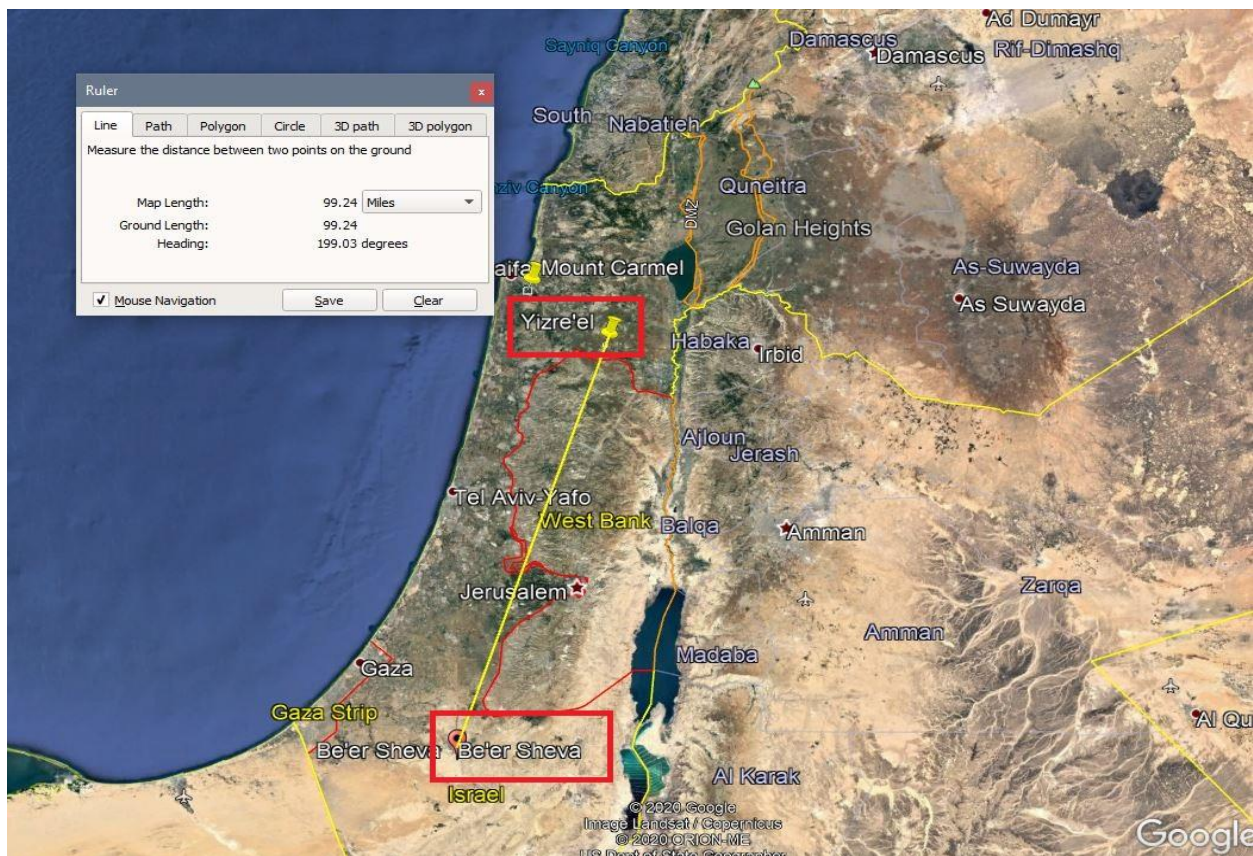
See 2 Cor. 4:3 – 4

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

³ And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

In the last verse of chapter 18 Elijah left Mt Carmel and outran Ahab's chariot to Jezreel (a 20 mile run). Then he leaves Jezreel and escapes to Beersheba which is a trip of 99 miles as the crow flies. It is quite likely he traveled closer to 120 miles.

See Map 1905 Jezreel to Beersheba



Google earth is a valuable tool for measuring distances; however, we have to remember that people do not travel in a straight line, particularly in areas like Palestine that have a number of different topographies within a narrow area.

Before he fled to Beersheba he should have consulted with God. If Jezebel did try to kill Elijah, God could have protected him.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

A day's journey would vary depending on the person and the circumstances but he probably traveled about 25 miles.

Elijah is so distraught that he is ready to die but it will be another 20 years before he will be taken to heaven in a whirlwind.

See 2 Kings 2:11

¹¹ And as they were walking along and talking, behold, a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and they separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

Verses 5-8

He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat."⁶ Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake *baked on* hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.⁷ The angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you."⁸ So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat."⁶ Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake *baked on* hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

Emotional experiences, both good & bad, can exhaust anyone. The great spiritual victory at Mt. Carmel was followed by a message from Jezebel that Elijah would not survive another day.

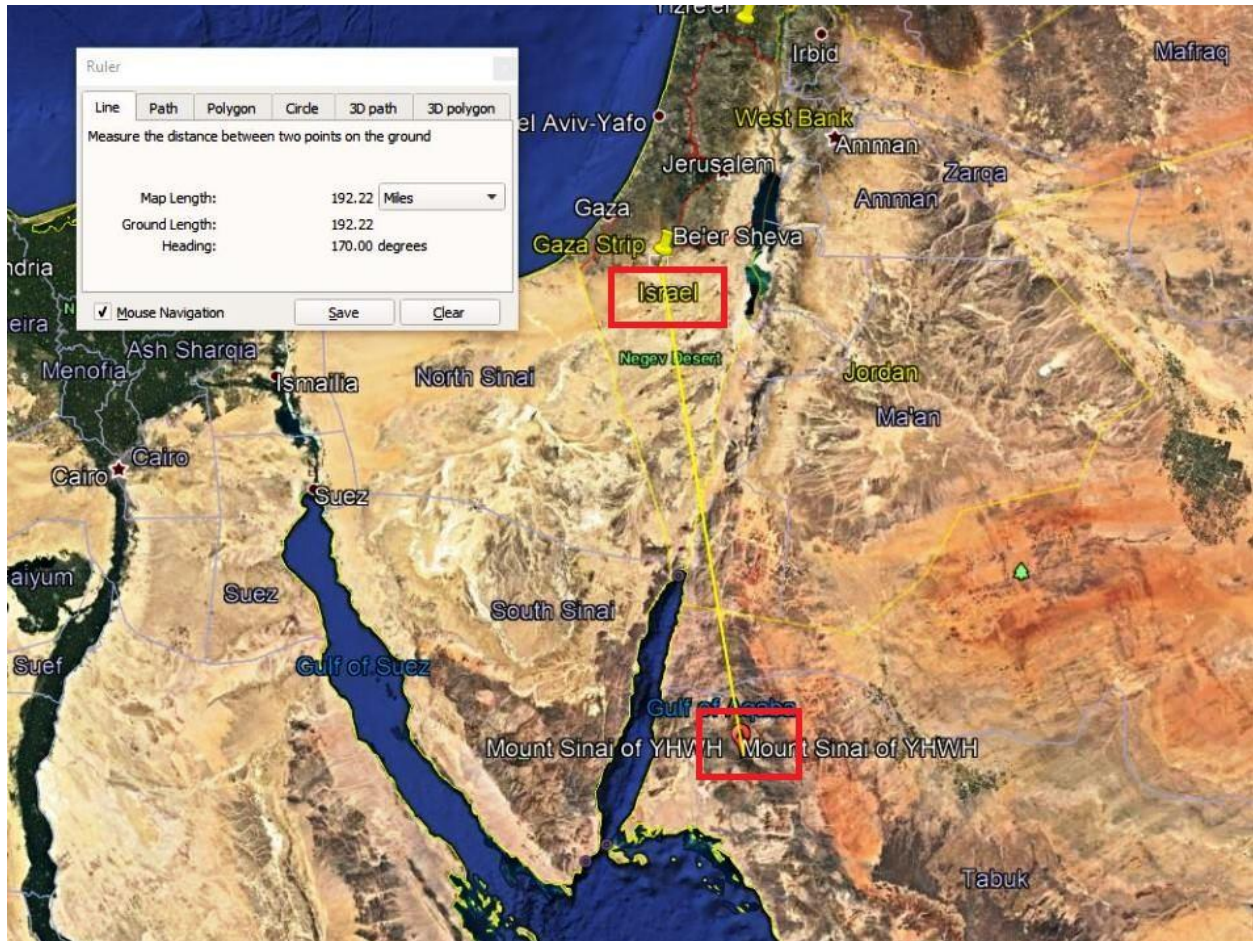
Add to those experiences the physical strains of the marathon like run to Jezreel followed by a 120 mile journey to Beersheba and another 25 mile journey into the wilderness.

The life of a prophet was rewarding but it was no cakewalk.

⁸ So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

His next journey was from the wilderness to Mount Horeb.

See Map 1920 Mt Horeb



The distance from the wilderness (25 miles past Beersheba) to Mount Horeb was about 167 miles as the crow flies.

All total, he traveled over 300 miles.

The majority of bible maps still have Mount Sinai in the Sinai Peninsula but we now know that that site could never have been the correct site because Paul says that Mount Sinai is in Saudi Arabia.

See Galatians 4:25

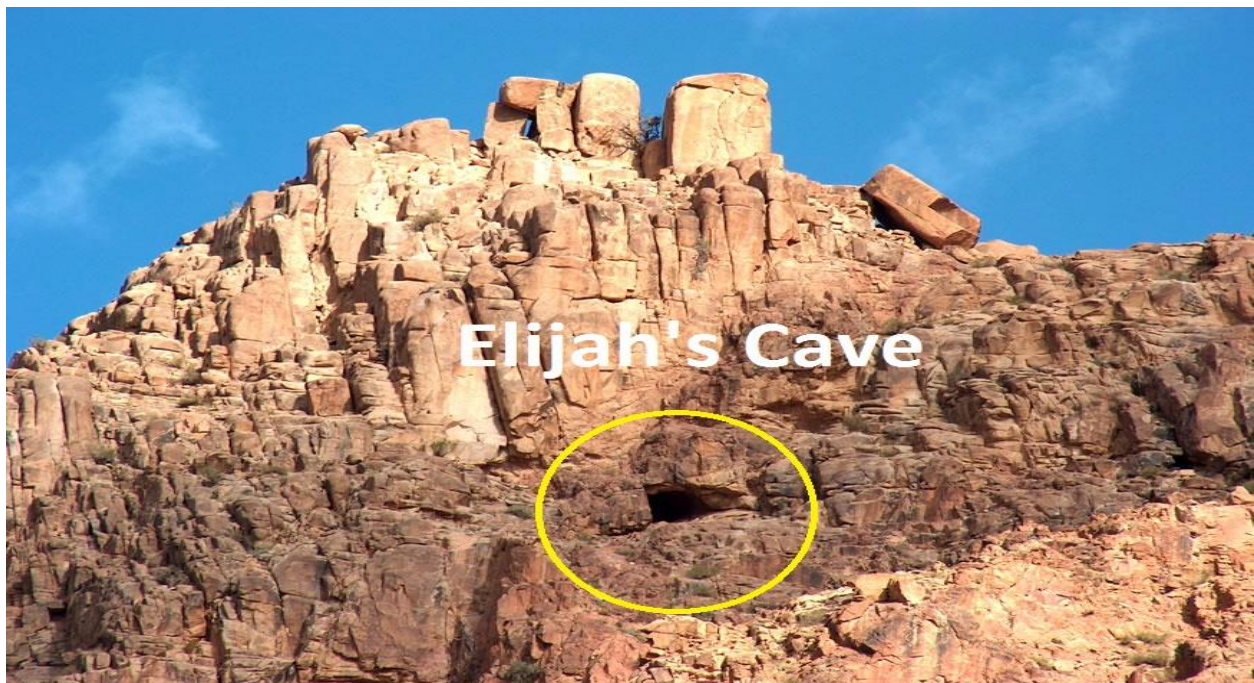
²⁵ Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is enslaved with her children.

Verses 9-14

Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks 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. ¹² After the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. ¹³ When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ Then he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

See Pic 1915



See Video 1920 9.27 Elijah's travels

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.27.html>

¹⁰ He said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

When Elijah was asked why he had traveled down to Mt Saini he said that all of Israel had rejected the Lord and they were now seeking to kill him. However, that was the same situation he was in before the Mount Carmel experience and he did not leave Israel at that time. It seems he feared Jezebel more than he feared King Ahab.

¹¹ So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks 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. ¹² After the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

God had used a spectacular event at Mount Carmel to change the minds of the people of Israel but God's work is not accomplished in one day or by one event. As we have seen the Israelites had a history of forgetting what God had done for them but God does not do a spectacular miracle for every generation. God needs his people to do the quiet follow up work (teaching and ministering) so the people don't forget what God has done for them in the past.

¹³ When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

God asks Elijah the same question that He had asked him before these three signs were given and Elijah gave God the same answer he had given before seeing the wind, earthquake and fire.

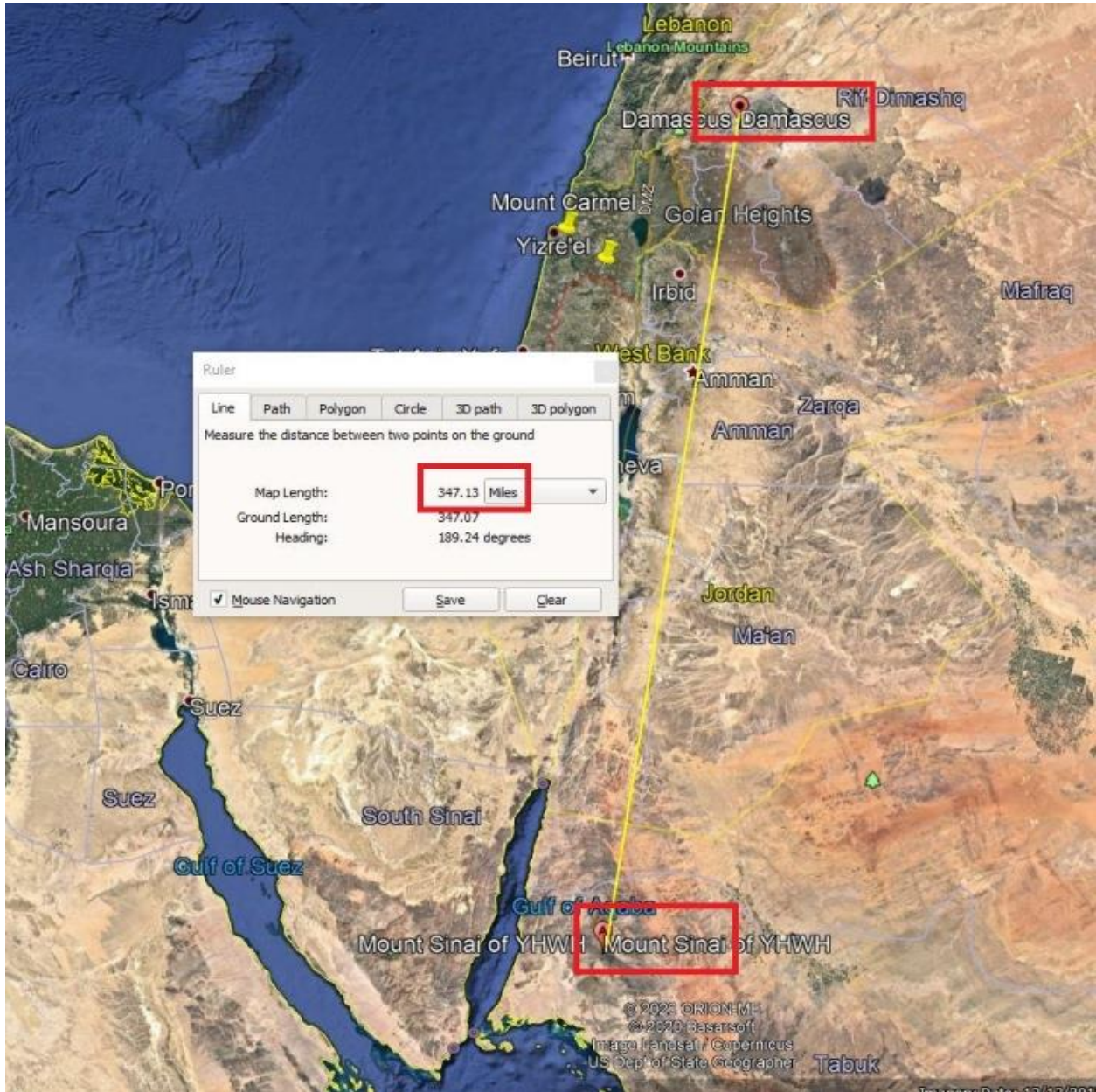
It seems Elijah didn't understand what God was trying to tell him and he needed more time to process what had just happened.

Verses 15 - 16

The Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; ¹⁶ and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

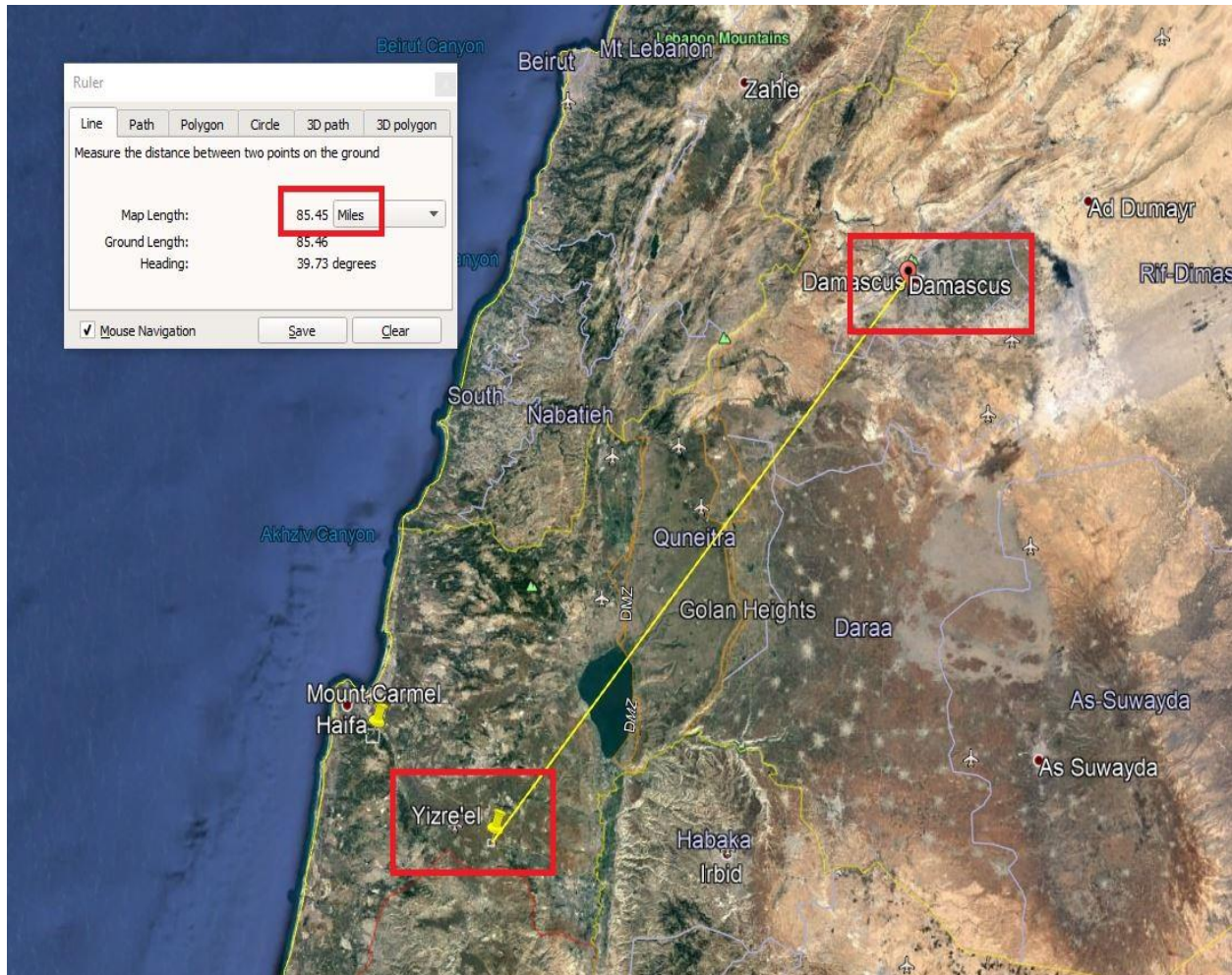
Elijah had escaped far to the south of Israel and now God was telling him he must go to the far North of Israel.

See Map 1925 Damascus



We don't know exactly what part of the wilderness is referred to here so the distance is measured to the city of Damascus. Nevertheless it was a trip of nearly 350 miles. It would have been a much shorter trip from Jezreel if Elijah had consulted with the Lord before he took off to Mount Sinai.

See Map 1930



Elijah could have traveled 85 miles (from Jezreel to Damascus) instead of 550 miles (200 miles from Jezreel to Sinai and 350 miles from Sinai to Damascus).

When Elijah arrived he was to do the following:

1. Anoint Hazael king over Aram
2. Anoint Jehu king over Israel
3. Anoint Alisha as prophet in his place

1. Hazael becomes king in 842 BC

See Chart 1935

King	Reign
Ben-Hadad I	885-865 BC
Hadadezer (Ben Hadad II)	865 - 842 BC
Hazael	842–805 or 796 BC
Ben-Hadad III	796 to 792 BC
Rezin	754 BC–732 BC

2. Jehu becomes king of Israel in 841 BC

See chart 1940

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	

This brings up an interesting question.

It is currently some year between 874 and 853BC because Ahab is the king of Israel. See chart 1940 above. Let's say it is 864BC

Why would God want Jehu anointed now (864 BC) since he will not become king until 841BC? One theory is that God has already rejected the reigns of Ahab and his two sons and is looking ahead to the reign of Jehu. However, why would Hazael be anointed king of Syria long before he would become king?

David was anointed king long before he became king of Judah and even longer before he was made king of all Israel so it could be that God is revealing who will be the next king before it actually takes place in order to demonstrate once again that he knows and controls the destiny of all nations.

In the case of Jehu he will be anointed king in 2 Kings 9 and it was not done by Elijah or Elisha, but by a son of the prophets. However, the anointing done at the time a person becomes king is not the same as an anointing done at an earlier time as a sign from God. This same principle was used in the life of David.

3. Elisha was anointed in 864BC and became the servant of Elijah but he won't take the place of Elisha until 852BC.

See chart 1945

1st Kings timeline			
Ch.	Event	Other	Year
16	Ahab king of Israel	7n	874
17	Elijah fed by Ravens	m1	
18	Fire of the Lord / Baal prophets killed	m4	
19	The call of Elisha		864?
20	Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria		
21	Naboth's vineyard		
22	Ahaziah	8n	853
22	Jehoram king of Judah	5s	848

2nd Kings timeline			
Ch.	Event	Other	Year
1	Ahaziah king of Israel	8n	853
1	Joram king of Israel	9n	852
2	The water divided	m8	
2	Elijah taken up to heaven		
2	The water divided	m1	

Verses 17 - 18

¹⁷ It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Elijah was not the only one left as he has stated. God had 7,000 in Israel that had not worshipped Baal. We don't know what the population of Israel was at this point in time but let's say it was 3.5 million. This would mean only .2% of the population trusted in the Lord. ☹

It is possible that the 7000 might be one of those numbers meaning completeness much like the 144,000 of Revelation but in the context it appears to be a number that reflects the actual count.

Pagan worship often included kissing the idol of their god.

See Hosea 13:2

And now they sin more and more, and make for themselves cast metal images, idols skillfully made from their silver, all of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the people who sacrifice kiss the calves!”

Verses 19-21

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him. ²⁰ He, Elisha, left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” ²¹ So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave *it* to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.

The 24 oxen indicate that Elisha's father was a man of wealth.

²⁰ He, Elisha, left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”

Elisha was willing to follow Elijah but he wanted to have a farewell banquet with family and friends before he left. Elijah had given his cloak as a symbol that Elisha would be taking over his ministry but there was no indication that they must leave right away. The farewell party was no great delay, perhaps a few days.

²¹ So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

It seems that Elijah had been a loner most of his life but that was not the case with Elisha. He had family and friends that he wanted to say goodbye to before he left.