

# 1st KINGS



11 Lessons Prepared By Charles Brian Knight  
CENTRALCOCNSB.COM

## 1<sup>ST</sup> KINGS LESSON INDEX

Index .....	(1)
Introduction to First Kings .....	(2)
Map of Solomon's Kingdom .....	(3)
Solomon's Temple .....	(4)
Lesson 1: The Spiritual Strength of David Endures .....	(5-6)
Lesson 2: The Growth & Development of King Solomon .....	(7-10)
Lesson 3: The Rise & Fall of King Solomon .....	(11-20)
Lesson 4: A Kingdom Divided: Rehoboam .....	(21-24)
Lesson 5: A Kingdom Divided: Jeroboam I .....	(25-30)
Lesson 6: Abijah/ Abijam: Courage & Power .....	(31-34)
Lesson 7: Asa: Stay Humble .....	(35-40)
Lesson 8: Five kings of Israel: A Throne Should be Established in Righteousness .....	(41-50)
Lesson 9: Ahab: The Tragedy of Israel.....	(51-60)
Lesson 10: Elijah: The Lamp in Israel .....	(61-70)
Lesson 11: Jehoshaphat: "Some good is found in you." .....	(71-80)



## Introduction to 1<sup>st</sup> Kings

First Kings testifies to God's presence among Israel, but also shows just how far a nation can fall when He is ignored. First Kings begins at the end of David's reign, as his son Adonijah attempts to usurp the throne. Solomon however, is crowned king and he builds a temple for God. But after Solomon, the once-prosperous nation splits into two kingdoms.

Most of the kings on both sides fail to follow

God and allow idolatry to flourish. Meanwhile, prophets, most notably Elijah, boldly call unfaithful kings to account. The author of First Kings is unknown.



### Background

The books of 1–2 Kings originally formed a single work, which was probably divided because its length required two scrolls. The division between 1–2 Kings is not based on a natural break in the text; it splits the story of Elijah between the two books.

The whole work of 1–2 Kings deals with the period from 971 BC (the transition from David to Solomon) to 586 BC (the Babylonian exile). First Kings covers about 120 years of that span, starting just before Solomon's accession and ending shortly after Ahab's reign over the northern kingdom (853 BC).

### Key Lessons

First Kings profoundly illustrates how a lack of faith and fear of God, in national identity and leadership leads to failure.

First Kings presents: 1) leaders (on different levels) who, struggle for power rather than the will of God. 2) The consequences and results of a nation whose leaders fail to pursue and maintain a strong relationship with God.

First Kings leads us to reflect on what kind of people we will turn out to be. We can choose to stand nearly alone like Elijah, proclaiming righteousness in an unjust time, or we can choose to follow after failed leaders—or worse, become like them. The choice to follow the Lord—or not—is *ours* to make.

### Key Scriptures To Consider Throughout This Study

Proverbs 16:12, *"It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness."*

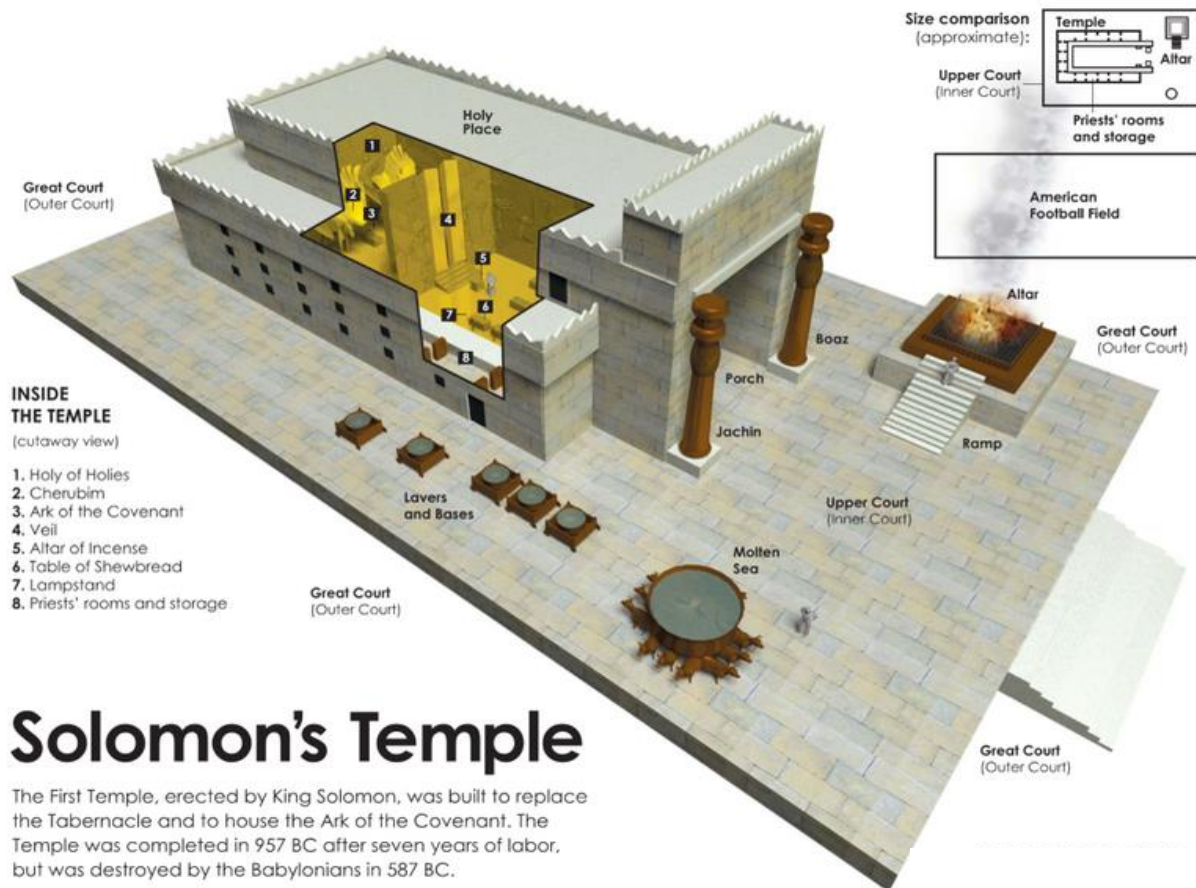
Psalms 33:12, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD..."*

Psalms 9:17, *"The wicked shall return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God"* (NASB).

**SCRIPTURES AND QUESTIONS IN THIS LESSON MATERIAL ARE BASED UPON  
THE ESV (English Standard Version), UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

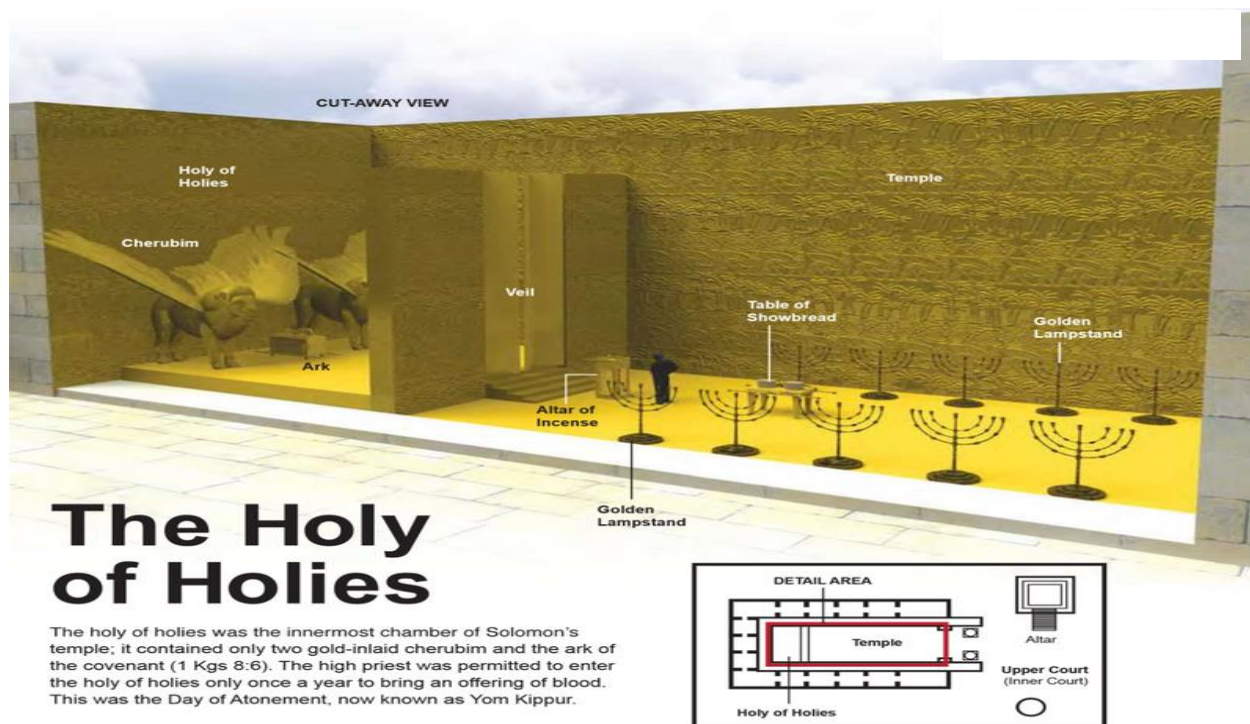






# Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.



## LESSON 1: *The Spiritual Strength of David Endures.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 1:1-53; 2:1-10).

**Key Passage:** “And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him” (**1 Kgs** 1:20).

### I) **David, The Old Man (1Kgs 1:1-4)**

- A) David was old and advanced in years. In fact, he was about \_\_\_\_\_ years old (**2 Sam** 5:4; **1 Kgs** 2:10-11).
- B) Moses said the average life span was about \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ years (**Psa** 90:10) and because of this short span, we should learn to (**Psa** 90:12).
- \_\_\_\_\_
- C) David was certainly aware of this (**Psa** 39:4-6). So, what did he decide to do with his life? (**Psa** 39:7). \_\_\_\_\_

### II) **The Foolishness of Adonijah (1 Kgs 1:5-10).**

- A) Adonijah assumed that because his father David was old and nearing death that the time was ripe for him to take the throne.
- 1) He had three brothers older than himself, why would Adonijah think he could pass over them to the throne? (see **2 Sam** 13:23-29; 18:13-15).
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) He used self-exaltation as a means to achieve greatness. This is foolish because whoever \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be \_\_\_\_\_. But Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ (**Mat** 23:12).
- Also, One’s pride will \_\_\_\_\_, but He who is lowly in spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ (**Pro** 29:23).
- 3) He may have been spoiled from his youth up, getting most things he wanted and assumed that his father would not have refused him the throne (**1 Kgs** 1:6). Parents should consider the evil results of being over indulgent toward their children (see **Pro** 29:15, 17).

### III) David Keeps His Commitments To God and His Family (1 Kgs 1:28-48)

A) Nathan & Bathsheba inform the king of Adonijah's treachery and remind him of the oath he swore concerning Solomon becoming king (1 Kgs 1:11-27).

- 1) David swore to Bathsheba that Solomon would reign after him, not because he felt sorry for her, since their first child died as a consequence of their sin (see 2 Sam 12:13-24),  
But because \_\_\_\_\_ (see 1 Chr 28:5-6).
- 2) Upon assuring Bathsheba that he would make Solomon king that very day, what did David remember about the Lord? (1 Kgs 1:29).

\_\_\_\_\_

### IV) David Prepares King Solomon (1 Kgs 2:1-9)

A) David said that he was about to go \_\_\_\_\_ (1 kgs 2:2). Who else said this (Jos 23:14, and what did he remind the people about God?

\_\_\_\_\_

B) David told Solomon to be \_\_\_\_\_ and show himself a \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2)

- 1) Paul told the Christians at Corinth to be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 16:13).

\_\_\_\_\_

C) According to David, how would Solomon be able to prosper? (1 Kgs 2:3-4).

\_\_\_\_\_

- 1) As king and spiritual leader of Israel, what was Solomon's main duty? (De 17:18-20).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D) According to David, how should Solomon serve the LORD? (1 Chr 28:9) Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E) Do not Neglect the Execution of Justice (1 Kgs 2:5-9).

- 1) Joab (1 Kgs 2:5-6; 2 Sam 2-3).
- 2) Sons of Barzillai (1 Kgs 2:7; 2 Sam 17:27-29; 19:31-40).
- 3) Shimei (1 Kgs 2:8-9; 2 Sam 16:5-13).



## LESSON 2: *The Growth & Development of King Solomon.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 2:13-46).

**Key Passage:** “But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever.” (**1 Kgs** 2:45).

### I) **The Demise of Adonijah.**

#### A) Adonijah’s second plot:

- 1) Queen-Mother Bathsheba asked Adonijah if he was approaching her peacefully, to which he replied, “\_\_\_\_\_.” But his was a ruse to which Bathsheba was unaware.
- 2) Adonijah begins his scheme by acknowledging Solomon’s divine right to the throne (**1 Kgs** 2:14-15). He continues his scheme by appearing to concede to Solomon’s rule and by making only “one” request (v 16, 17). Bathsheba was unaware of the greater plot behind Adonijah’s request. Such an act, according to Eastern notions, was criminal and of dangerous consequence to the state because, sexual relations with the king’s concubines amounted to a claim to the throne (v 22); and although Abishag was not strictly a concubine, she was intimately associated in people’s minds with David.
- 3) Solomon wasn’t fooled by Adonijah’s deceit—Solomon had pardoned Adonijah’s former conspiracy, but this new attempt sealed his fate (**1 Kgs** 2:22-25).
  - a. Solomon said that he wouldn’t put Adonijah to death if Adonijah  
 proved himself \_\_\_\_\_. But if  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is found in him, he will die (**1 Kgs** 1:52).
  - b. David said that the wicked are like  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (**Ps** 1:4).
  - c. David said that the wicked should  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (**Ps** 141:10).
  - d. David said that the way of the wicked  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (**Ps** 1:6).



## II) Solomon's Judgment of Abiathar (1 Kgs 2:26-27)

- A) Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest and banished him to his home. But, according to Solomon, Abiathar deserved \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 2:26-27) Because he sided with Adonijah instead of God's choice—Solomon. He chose to follow the crowd instead of the will of God.

1) Abiathar was spared death because \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 2:26).

- B) What we know about Abiathar:

1) 1 **Sam** 22. Abiathar, son of high priest Ahimelech, was one of two high priests during the reign of King David. The other high priest was Zadok, who evidently was appointed by David after his conquest of Jerusalem. Only Abiathar escaped when the priestly families at Nob were massacred at the instigation of King Saul. The priests of Nob had given food and Goliath's sword to David during David's escape from the wrath of Saul, thus bringing Saul's enmity on themselves (1 **Sam** 21-22).

2) In making this decision, what prophecy was fulfilled? (1 **Kgs** 2:27; 1 **Sam** 2:27-36).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) As a High Priest, Abiathar should have been more committed to inquiring accurate information from God and king David instead of just going along with the plans of Adonijah (1 **Kgs** 1:7). Unlike High Priest Abiathar, we must learn not to love

\_\_\_\_\_ rather than  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 12:43).

4) Being the chief mediator between God and Israel, could a High Priest afford to be ignorant of God's will?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) Was it characteristic of the High Priest to act presumptuously for God's will? (see **Exo** 28:30; **Num** 27:18-21; 1 **Sam** 23:7-14).

\_\_\_\_\_

### III) Solomon's Judgment of Joab (1 Kgs 2:28-34)

#### A) Joab's Brief History.

- 1) Joab was David's military commander during most of David's reign. He was the son of Zeruiah (**2 Sam** 8:15-16; **1 Kgs** 1:7). Joab had two brothers (Abishai and Asahel) who were also leaders in David's military (**2 Sam** 2:18). Joab was loyal to David and ruthless in achieving his objectives.

#### B) Joab's Wickedness.

- 1) During a battle-contest with Israel's forces, Joab's brother, Asahel, was killed by Abner. Abner was the military commander of Israel. Before his death, Asahel was warned several times by Abner to

\_\_\_\_\_ (See **2 Sam** 2:8-23).  
But he refused. How did Joab respond to this? (**2 Sam** 3:1-39; consider **Lev** 19:18)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) David's son Absalom stole the hearts of the people and conspired against David. David and his servants were forced to flee once they realized what was going on (**2 Sam** 15:1-14). Absalom's conspiracy was short lived—as David's forces defeated Absalom's in battle (**2 Sam** 18:6-7). But before Joab and Abishai led David's army into battle, what command did David give them? (see **2 Sam** 18:5).

\_\_\_\_\_

While fleeing from David's forces on his mule, Absalom's head got caught in a tree and he was suspended between heaven and earth. When Joab discovered this, what did he do? (**2 Sam** 18:9-14; consider **Pro** 12:15).

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) After Absalom was defeated, David removed Joab from being commander of his army and appointed "Amasa" (**2 Sam** 19:13) who had briefly been Absalom's military commander (**2 Sam** 17:25). How did Joab respond to this? (see **2 Sam** 20:1-13; consider **Pro** 6:34).
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Joab fled to the Lord's tent (a holy place) and grasped the horns of the altar, he was attempting to seek asylum. What did the Lord say about such circumstances? (see **Ex** 21:12-14). What did Solomon do about this? (**1 Kgs** 2:29-34).
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Is **Pro** 21:7 a fitting Scripture to conclude Joab's end? \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV) Solomon's Judgment on Shimei (1 Kgs 2:36-46).

##### A) The Folly of Shimei

- 1) Shimei was a Benjamite and the son of Gera from the house of Saul. He met King David at the village of Behurim during the king's journey from Jerusalem to Mahanaim, while fleeing from Absalom. Here Shimei bitterly opposed David, cursing him for the ruin of Saul's house (2 Sam 16:5-13).

- a. Shimei's actions were foolish, disrespectful and actually unlawful. Ex 22:28 says,

---



---



---

- 2) What happened between David and Shimei upon Absalom's defeat and David's return to Jerusalem? (see 2 Sam 19:16-23).

---



---

- a. Shimei recognized that he had \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam 19:20).

- b. Our Lord said, "If your brother sins, \_\_\_\_\_. And if he repents, \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 17:3).

- 3) Later in life, Shimei may have had a change of heart towards David's rule—and may have been seen by David as a possible threat or form of trouble towards Solomon's reign. After listening to his father's counsel concerning Shimei, Solomon decided to test for himself, what kind of a man Shimei would prove to be. (1 Kgs 2:36-45).

- a. Shimei swore by the name of the Lord (1 Kgs 2:42-43). "If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge...

---



---

- b. A vow was considered a very serious matter—especially when they were made to God or in His name.  
In fact, it is better not to \_\_\_\_\_ then to vow and \_\_\_\_\_ (Eccl 5:5, NKJV).

- c. Jesus taught that integrity doesn't need to be propped up by swearing or vowing.  
He said, "Let what you say be simply \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, anything more than this comes from evil." (Mat 5:37).

## LESSON 3: *The Rise & Fall of King Solomon.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 3-11).

**Key Passage:** "...if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" (1 **Kgs** 9:4-5).

### I) **The Rise of King Solomon (1 Kgs 3-10)**

#### A) Solomon seeks the Lord (1 **Kgs** 3:1-15)

- 1) Before he genuinely sought the Lord, Solomon sought an alliance of peace between Israel and Egypt. Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh (3:1). This was the beginning of his downfall, for while Solomon's reign represented a period of peace (4:24-25), foreign marriage alliances eventually caused the kingdom to crumble from within.
- 2) Although he was not perfect, Solomon \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (1 **Kgs** 3:3a). Although no house had yet been built for the Lord (3:2-4), why did Solomon and the people worship God at a high place? (see **2 Chr** 1:1-6).

---

- 3) Although God seems to have tolerated this, what did His law teach about this? (**Deu** 12:1-4).

---



---

- 4) Solomon often had enormous amounts of sacrifices made to the Lord (1 **Kgs** 3:4, 8:62-63), this no doubt, was an expression of Solomon's devotion and honor to God. But, God was not so much impressed with the number of sacrifices and offerings as He is about obedience and commitment to His will. What do these passages teach us about this?

- a. **1 Sam** 15:22 \_\_\_\_\_

---

- b. **Psa** 51:16 \_\_\_\_\_

---

- c. **Pro** 21:3 \_\_\_\_\_

---



## B) Solomon's Request (1 Kgs 3:5-15)

## 1) As a new king, Solomon showed great promise by:

- a. **Acknowledging** and appreciating the power and deeds of the LORD through his father, David (3:6). We should always show God gratitude, David said' "Let us come into His presence with \_\_\_\_\_" (Psa 95:2).
- b. **Humbling** Himself (3:7-8). Solomon would later write: "...to the humble He gives \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro 3:34).
- c. **Asking** for wisdom and understanding as opposed to long life, wealth and the destruction of his enemies (3:9-11). The Lord was pleased and impressed with Solomon's request (3:10). Solomon understood that wisdom is better than (Pro 8:11).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2) God not only granted Solomon's request, but he also granted to him (10:13).

- a. How wise was Solomon? (1 Kgs 3:12; 4:29-31, 33-34; 10:1,3, 23).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. How many Proverbs did he speak? \_\_\_\_\_. How many songs did he write? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 4:32).
- c. Who copied the proverbs of Solomon? \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro 25:1).
- d. **Think.** Since God granted Solomon superior knowledge and wisdom, why would the Lord have to warn such a knowledgeable king, to walk in all His ways and to keep His statutes and commandments? (3:14).

## Consider the following passages:

1 Co 8:1 teaches us that, "knowledge \_\_\_\_\_." Ro 2:13 teaches that "It is not the

\_\_\_\_\_ of the law who are \_\_\_\_\_

before God, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law who will be justified."

Jas 4:17 teaches, "...whoever \_\_\_\_\_ the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

- e. The following passages above expose the responsibility of choice. We may never be as knowledgeable as Solomon. But like Solomon, we each have the personal obligation to \_\_\_\_\_ (Jos 24:15). The possession of knowledge in and of itself does not automatically make us do what is right, we must personally determine (with the knowledge we have) to do what is right in God's sight.
- f. "Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he \_\_\_\_\_" (Psa 25:12, NASB).

C) Solomon's Wealth (1 Kgs 10:1-29)

- 1) Solomon was so wealthy, that he made silver...
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (1 Kgs 10:27; 2 Chr 1:15).
  - b. All his drinking vessels were of gold. None were silver, because silver...  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 10:21).
- 2) Solomon's throne room with the golden ivory throne and lion stairway was so spectacular that,  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (1 Kgs 10:18-20).
- 3) Upon hearing his knowledge and wisdom and beholding the glory of his immense wealth and accomplishments, what was the Queen of Sheba's reaction?
  - a. 1 Kgs 10:4-5; 2 Chr 9:3-4.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 1 Kgs 10:6-8; 2 Chr 9:5-7.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Seeing that Solomon was blessed beyond what was normal, what did she conclude about the Lord? (1 Kgs 10:9; 2 Chr 9:8).  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How did Israel live during the days of Solomon? (1 Kgs 4:20;25).  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Solomon and the people of Israel didn't live in peace and prosperity because of the wealth and power of Solomon. But, because of the obedience and devotion of Solomon to the Lord. Consider the following passages below, what blessings do we find when we (like Solomon) fear God and commit our lives faithfully to Him?



a. **Ps 5:12.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. **Ps 112:1-3.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. **Ps 128:1-3.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. **Pro 10:27.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. **Pro 12:7.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f. **Pro 14:11.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

g. **Pro 16:3.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D) Solomon Builds the Lord's Temple (**1 Kgs** 5-7)

- 1) The temple was truly a magnificent structure, unique in all the ancient world. But what did Solomon acknowledge about the Lord and His house/ temple? (**1 Kgs** 8:27).

---



---

- 2) What does this teach us about the greatness of God? (consider also **Isa** 66:1).

---

- 3) Recognizing that God is too great to be confined to a house/ temple, what was the purpose of building it? (**2 Chr** 2:6; **Deu** 12:5-6, 10-11).

---

- 4) The temple of the Lord was without a doubt a crowning achievement of Solomon's reign. But, did the Lord ever personally ask for a temple to be built for Himself? \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Sam** 7:1-7).

- 5) As emphasized before, the temple construction and completion were truly a grand wonder to behold—expertly designed and furnished, expensive—made only with the finest and most precious elements. The temple was a work of unparalleled art!

- 6) Although Solomon's construction of the temple was in accordance with God's will and He approved of Solomon's work (**1 kgs** 8:10; 9:1-3), what is the Lord more impressed with?

- a. **1 Kgs** 6:11-12. The Lord is impressed with those who walk in His...

\_\_\_\_\_, obey His \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- b. **1 Kgs** 9:4-9. The Lord is impressed with those who walk before Him like

\_\_\_\_\_, with \_\_\_\_\_ of heart  
and \_\_\_\_\_, doing all that He commands.

- c. **Isa** 66:2. The expensive elements of the temple didn't impress God—because He said, "All these My hand has \_\_\_\_\_, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit and \_\_\_\_\_ at My word."

- d. No matter what the Lord allows us to acquire or accomplish in life, we must always give Him the glory and avoid the snare of self-elevation (**De** 8:11-17).



E) Solomon's Dedication of the Temple (**1 Kgs** 8:1-66).

## 1) The Ark of the Covenant.

- a. How many sacrifices were offered at the dedication of the temple? (**1 Kgs** 8:5).

---

- b. Would even that many be enough? (**1 Kgs** 5:2,5-6. compare with, **Isa** 40:16).

---

- c. Upon completion of the temple, Solomon had the Ark of the Covenant brought into the Most Holy Place, along with all the other furnishing. Immediately after, a cloud filled the temple forcing the priests to exit (**1 Kgs** 8:10-11). What was the significance of the cloud? (**1 Kgs** 8:12; **Ex** 25:21-22; **Lev** 16:1-4).

---

2) Solomon Blesses the Lord (**1 Kgs** 8:13-20)

- a. During his dedication speech, Solomon exalted the Lord by confirming the promises which God had previously made to David. Why is it important to acknowledge the works and promises of God, how does acknowledging and celebrating them benefit the one who follows God?

1. **Psa** 9:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

---

2. **Psa** 78:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

---

3. **Psa** 119:38 \_\_\_\_\_

---

4. **Psa** 119:49-50 \_\_\_\_\_

---

5. **2 Cor** 1:20 \_\_\_\_\_

---

6. What promise does God still keep to this day? In fact, He gives a universal reminder quite frequently. (**Gen** 9:8-17).

---



---

3) Solomon's Prayer (**1 Kgs 8:22-53**).

- a. Solomon began his prayer request by praising God. What key things do we learn about God, in Solomon's introduction? (**1 Kgs 8:22-23**).

---

---

- b. After reading **1 Kgs 8:28-52**, what kind of a God is Solomon asking the Lord to be toward Israel?

---

---

---

4) Solomon Blesses Israel (**1 Kgs 8:54-60**).

- a. What key thing did Solomon want the people of Israel to know about God? (**1 Kgs 8:56**).

---

---

- b. Solomon repeated God's promise to Joshua by stating that God was with them, and would not forsake them (**1 Kgs 8:57**), why did he mention this...? (see **1 Kgs 8:58**).

---

---

- c. Through Solomon and Israel's devotion to God, what did Solomon desire the world to know? (**1 Kgs 8:59-60**).

---

---

- d. At the end of his blessing, what did Solomon command that the people of Israel should do? (**1 Kgs 8:61**).

---

---

---

## II) The Fall of King Solomon (1 Kgs 11-1-43).

A) As Solomon busied himself with various building projects, he neglected to set aside time to build and strengthen his personal walk with God.



- 1) Think... How can being wrapped up in the enjoyment of our blessings become a spiritual vanity? (consider **Rev 3:14-17**).

---



---



---

- 2) Solomon's spiritual downfall occurred because he failed to hold fast to the foremost commandment in all the law of Moses...

- a. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall \_\_\_\_\_  
The LORD your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_ and with all your  
\_\_\_\_\_ and with all your \_\_\_\_\_." (**Deu 6:4-5**).

- 3) The Bible says that Solomon loved many foreign women and that he clung (*dabaq: to catch by pursuit—abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.*) to them in love (11:1-2).

- a. Joshua told the Reubenites and the Gadites,  
"Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and to \_\_\_\_\_ to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul." (**Jos 22:5**).
- b. When Joshua was old and God had given rest to all Israel, Joshua told the people and their leaders,  
"But you shall \_\_\_\_\_ to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day." (**Jos 23:8**).
- c. In his distress, David told the Lord, "My soul \_\_\_\_\_ to You, You right hand upholds me." (**Psa 63:8**).
- d. We will not be put to shame if we \_\_\_\_\_ to God's  
\_\_\_\_\_. (**Psa 119:31**).

- B) Why did God, in His law to Moses, forbid the children of Israel from intermarrying with foreigners? (**1 Kgs 11:2**; **Deu 7:1-5**; **Neh 13:23-27**).

---



---



---



---



---



- 1) Solomon built several temples and shrines for his wives—who worshiped Canaanite deities. Two of the most abominable practices associated with the Canaanite religion was cult prostitution and child sacrifice.
- 2) Before they were driven out of their land, what happened to Canaanite society as a result of tolerating these religious practices? (**Lev 18:24-27**).

---



---

- 3) Solomon's actions not only put his own soul at risk, but his entire nation's—for his father wrote,

"The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who

\_\_\_\_\_." (**Psa 9:17**, NASB).

- 4) "So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD..." (**1 Kgs 11:6**). Ironically, Solomon himself once said,

"It is an abomination to kings to do \_\_\_\_\_, for the throne is established by

\_\_\_\_\_. (**Psa 16:12**).

- 5) "For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God..." (**1 Kgs 11:4**). "A poor yet wise lad is better than an \_\_\_\_\_ king who no longer knows how to receive instruction." (**Eccl 4:13**, NASB).

- 6) After considering Solomon's downfall, what wisdom can be learned from **2 Cor 6:14-18**?

---



---



C) God Raises Adversaries Against Solomon (**1 Kgs 11:9-42**).

- 1) Despite warnings from the Lord, Solomon hardened his heart and embraced a lifestyle which he knew was contrary to the will of the God. What do you think it is that causes a person with clear and intimate knowledge of God, His will and the consequences for disobeying Him—to disobey Him anyways?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) What can we learn from the passages below, to avoid Solomon's error?

a. **Psa 97:10** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. **Psa 119: 133** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. **Rom 13:14** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. **1 Cor 10:12** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. **1 Cor 10:14** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f. **Heb 11:25** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Identify the three individuals whom the Lord supported in revolt against Solomon.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Kgs 11:14-22**).

b. \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Kgs 11:23-25**).

c. \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Kgs 11:26-39**).

- 4) How did Solomon respond towards God's judgment upon him? (**1 Kgs 11:40**).

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Do you think things would have turned out differently if Solomon had practiced **Deuteronomy 17:18-20**?

\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 4: *A Kingdom Divided: Rehoboam.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 12:1-24; **2 Chr** 11:5-23; **2 Chr** 12:1-12).

**Key Passage:** “So the king did not listen to the people...” (**1 Kgs** 12:15).

### I) **The Incident at Shechem (1 Kgs 12:1-15)**

A) Solomon’s son, Rehoboam went to Shechem, because all Israel came there to

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs **12:1**).

B) Shechem was a town situated about 40 miles north of Jerusalem. It is unclear why the Israelites held Rehoboam’s coronation at Shechem instead of Jerusalem, the capital. However, Shechem did hold special significance to the people of Israel because...

1) **Gen** 12:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

2) **Gen** 33:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_

3) In **Jos** 8:30-35, Joshua built \_\_\_\_\_ on Mount Ebal (which was in the vicinity of Shechem) and led the people in its building, renewing their commitment to the law of Moses.

4) **Jos** 20:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

5) **Jos** 24:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_

6) **Jos** 24:32 \_\_\_\_\_

### C) Interesting Observation of the people (**1 Kgs** 12:3-7).

1) When Rehoboam was about to be crowned, there was dissatisfaction among the people. Jeroboam and the leaders of the ten northern tribes asked Rehoboam to lighten the burdens that were causing so much hardship for the people. They were calling for some relief from the heavy tax burdens (**1 Kgs** 4:22-28), and from the drafting of men into labor (**1 Kgs** 5:13-18). The people from the North did not produce a long list of grievances, nor did they threaten to secede. They were not refusing to pay taxes, nor were they refusing to volunteer for some service projects, but they wanted Rehoboam to make their heavy yoke lighter. If he would do so, they would continue to function under his leadership.

## D) The Foolish Decisions of King Rehoboam

1) After three days, how did Rehoboam respond to the people?

a. **1 Kgs 12:13** \_\_\_\_\_

b. **1 Kgs 12:15** \_\_\_\_\_

2) What did Samuel warn the people of Israel about, when they insisted on having a king—like all the other nations? (**1 Sam 8:11-19**).

---



---



---



---

3) Rehoboam failed to value the fact that...

a. “a \_\_\_\_\_ answer turns away \_\_\_\_\_, but a  
\_\_\_\_\_ stirs up anger.” (**Pro 15:1**).

4) Upon hearing Rehoboam’s words, did Israel feel that there was anything to gain under his leadership? (**1 Kgs 12:16**).

---

a. What was the result of his decision (**1 Kgs 12:17**).

---

b. “In a multitude of \_\_\_\_\_ is a king’s honor, but in the  
lack of people is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a prince (**Pro 14:28, NKJV**).

5) How did Rehoboam attempt to keep Israel under his rule? (**1 Kgs 12:18-20**)

---

a. When the \_\_\_\_\_ increase, the people rejoice, but when the  
\_\_\_\_\_ rule, the people \_\_\_\_\_ (**Pro 29:2**).

6) When that did not work, what did he attempt? (**1 Kgs 12:21-24**).

---



---

E) The Consequences of Rehoboam's Decisions.

- 1) Rehoboam's answer to the people of the northern tribes lacked tactfulness and compassion. His foolish choice had several tragic consequences:
  - a. The nation split, and hostilities between the north and south persisted for many years. For over two hundred years, Israel (in the North) and Judah (in the South) went their separate ways, always suspicious of each other, and filled with hostility toward each other.
  - b. Rehoboam was left with a diminished southern kingdom of Judah. Rehoboam's reign overall was a very depressing period.
  - c. Jeroboam, the new king of the North, insisted on setting up a rival religion that would keep his people away from worshiping God in Jerusalem (which was in the South).



- 2) Rehoboam made a bad choice and there were bad results. Like Rehoboam, our choices have ramifications for us and for others. Every day we are bombarded with dozens of messages advising us what to buy, how to be successful, where to find fun and pleasure, etc. By way of television advertisements, newspaper articles, internet, social media and conversations with friends—we are pushed to follow certain lines of conduct. We must determine to choose wisely. (**Pro** 3:5-8; 4:26).

## F) The Beginning of Rehoboam's Reign

- 1) What was the first thing king Rehoboam did as he began to reign over Judah? (**2 Chr** 11:5-12).

---



---

- a. This was a wise decision on his part—being king, it was his responsibility to provide for and protect the those under his leadership and rule (**Ps** 82:3).
- b. We should always look to God first for our defense. Rehoboam's grandfather said, "The LORD is my light and my \_\_\_\_\_ whom shall I fear? The LORD is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my life whom shall I dread? (**Ps** 27:1, NASB).
- 2) Judah's Religion under Rehoboam
- a. Why did the Levites migrate from the north to Jerusalem? (**2 Chr** 11:13-15).

---

- b. Who else migrated to Jerusalem? (**2 Chr** 11:16).

---

- c. What did this do for spiritual and moral health of Judah under Rehoboam's reign? (**2 Chr** 11:17). How long did it last?

---



---

## G) The Fall of Rehoboam

- 1) When Rehoboam was established and he was strong, what did he and all Israel (Judah) decide to do? (**2 Chr** 12:1).

---

- a. Who was Rehoboam's mother? (**2 Chr** 12:13-14; **1 Kgs** 11:1-2,5)
- b. We should never feel that we are so fortunate that we no longer need to lean on the Lord. King David said, "O LORD, in \_\_\_\_\_ strength the \_\_\_\_\_ rejoices and in Your salvation how greatly he exults!" (**Ps** 21:1).
- 2) How did God respond to Rehoboam and Israel spiritual failure? (**2 Chr** 12:2-5, 9-11).
- 3) How did Rehoboam and Judah's leaders respond to God's prophet (12:5-8).
- 4) What was the result? (**2 Chr** 12:12).

---

## LESSON 5: *A Kingdom Divided: Jeroboam I.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 12:25-33; 13:1-34; 14:1-19).

**Key Passage:** “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough” (**1 Kgs** 12:28)

### I) **The Beginning of Jeroboam’s Reign (1 Kgs 12:25-33).**

A) Jeroboam’s story begins with promise and ends in tragedy, both for Israel and Jeroboam.

1) Jeroboam is first described as (**1 Kgs** 11:28).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Jeroboam’s reign was foretold by (**1 Kgs** 11:29-37).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) What conditions were given to Jeroboam for a successful reign? (**1 Kgs** 11:38)

Listen \_\_\_\_\_

Walk \_\_\_\_\_

Do what is right \_\_\_\_\_

Observe/ keep \_\_\_\_\_

B) Applying Jeroboam’s conditions to ourselves for success.

1) Concerning the wisdom of God: “\_\_\_\_\_ is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting daily beside my doors.” (**Pro** 8:34).

2) “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. No good thing does He withhold from those who \_\_\_\_\_.” (**Psa** 84:11).

3) “Be \_\_\_\_\_ to obey all these words that I command you, that it may \_\_\_\_\_ with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the LORD your God.” (**Deu** 12:28).

4) “Give me \_\_\_\_\_, that I may keep your law and observe it with \_\_\_\_\_” (**Psa** 119:34).

II) Jeroboam & Israel's Downfall (**1 Kgs** 12:26-32).

A) Jeroboam squandered a golden opportunity to lead the majority of God's people in righteousness. His first mistake was acting out of panic and suspicion instead of soberly seeking the counsel of God. Instead, he sought human counsel (12:28) and in a hurried attempt to cement the grip of his rule, he compromised his spiritual beliefs.

- 1) Compromising our faith for personal pursuits or desires begins the domino effect of toppling down our most sacred values—which serves as pillars of our character, family, community and nation.
- 2) In an instant, Israel went from being a God-based nation, protected and guided by the power, knowledge and wisdom of almighty God, to a human-based nation, poised to be guided by the flaws and weakness of ungodly and unprincipled men.

B) The Aftermath of Jeroboam's Folly (**1 Kgs** 12:28-33).

- 1) It is disappointing that Jeroboam would follow the example of King Solomon, in whom God stripped the Kingdom from because of his idolatry (**1 Kgs** 11:29-33).
- 2) People often look to their leaders to set an example for the rest of their nation, their words often shape the attitudes of everyone else. What did king Jeroboam say to his people about going to Jerusalem? (12:28).

---



---

- 3) Because of his poor decisions, Jeroboam not only compromised his own faith, but the faith of his entire nation (12:28-30).

a. What lie did king Jeroboam seduce his people to believe in? (12:28; **Ex** 32:1-5).

---



---

- 4) Where did king Jeroboam set up the golden calves? (12:29; compare **Lev** 26:1).

---

- 5) These locations were important to Jeroboam's plans because Dan (to the north) kept the people far away from Judah, while Bethel was located to the south, just before one enters the territory of Judah.

a. What else was so special about the location at Bethel? (see **Gen** 28:10-19).

---



---



---



---



6) What did the Psalmist say about idols and those who worship them? (**Ps** 135:15-18).

- a. They are made of \_\_\_\_\_
- b. They have mouths \_\_\_\_\_
- c. They have eyes \_\_\_\_\_
- d. They have ears \_\_\_\_\_
- e. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ in their mouths.
- f. Those who make them and trust in them \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) What did king Jeroboam do on the high places? (12:31, consider **Lev** 26:27-33).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8) Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah (12:32; **Num** 29:12-13). No doubt, this was done to rival their southern neighbors. What was the source of Jeroboam's religious practices? (12:33).

\_\_\_\_\_

9) Long ago, what did Moses tell God's people they were *not* allowed to do? (**Deu** 12:8)

\_\_\_\_\_

10) Give some reasons why you think it so important for spiritual leaders on all levels to embrace this? (Consider also, **John** 6:38).

### III) Jeroboam Judged

#### A) Destruction of Jeroboam's Religion Foretold (1 Kgs 13:1-7).

- 1) Who came from Judah to confront king Jeroboam? (13:1).

---

- 2) Consider the timing of his arrival. Was this an appropriate time to confront such a leader? Why so?

---

- a) What should happen to leaders who continue to sin? (1 Tim 5:19-20).

---

- b) What's better than concealed or hidden love? (Pro 27:5).

---

- c) If we have the truth (2 Tim 4:1-2),

1. What must we do? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When should we do it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How should we do it? \_\_\_\_\_

---

- 3) Although the judgment was against Jeroboam's religious institutions as a whole, why does the man of God cry out against the altar (13:2-3) and not Jeroboam directly? (Consider the role that an altar played in an ancient religious system).

---



---

- 4) How did Jeroboam respond to this? (13:4a) What happened to Jeroboam as a result of his response to the man of God's message? (13:4b).

---



---

- 5) When Jeroboam experienced the displeasure of God and could not move his arm, why do you think he didn't request help from his gods, to restore his arm? (13:6).

## B) The Fall of Jeroboam's Dynasty Foretold (1 Kgs 14:1-19).

1) What happened to Jeroboam's son? (14:1).

---

2) Interestingly again, Jeroboam seeks the help of God over his own gods. In spite of the events of ch. 13, Jeroboam still thinks he can control his world, using religion to his own advantage. He apparently believes that he can fool the old prophet Ahijah into giving him a positive message about his son (14:2-4). But like Jeroboam, we must understand that God, not the king, will determine the course of events.

a) God wasn't fooled by Jeroboam's deception, he prepared Ahijah for the queen's arrival (14:5). Once the queen arrived, what kind of news did the prophet Ahijah say he had for her? (14:6). 

---

3) How was David different from Jeroboam? (14:7-8).

---



---



---

4) What had Jeroboam done? (14:9).

a) Evil 

---

---

b) Made for himself 

---

---

c) Provoked 

---

d) Cast the Lord 

---

5) What kind of God was Jeroboam dealing with? (**Exo** 20:5).

---



---

6) How did **Exodus** 20:5 play a role in Jeroboam's judgment? (14:10-14, 17).

---



---

7) How much of an impact would Jeroboam's actions have on the future of the nation of Israel? (14:15-16).

---



---

**IV) The Rise and Fall of the Man of God (1 Kgs 13:7-32)**

- A) Jeroboam's invitation to the man of God (13:8) to dine and receive a reward was not to do him honor or show his gratitude for the restoration of his hand, but more than likely an attempt to buy the man of God's loyalty—perhaps hoping for the curse on the altar to be reversed. What was the man of God's response? What does this say about his character in the midst of such temptations?

---

---

---

- 1) Who else displayed a similar courage at first? (**Num** 22:1-18). What his response?

---

---

---

- 2) Why do you think the Lord forbade him to tarry in Bethel?

---

---

- 3) What important lessons can we learn from the conclusion of the man of God's story in **1 Kings** 13:11-34?

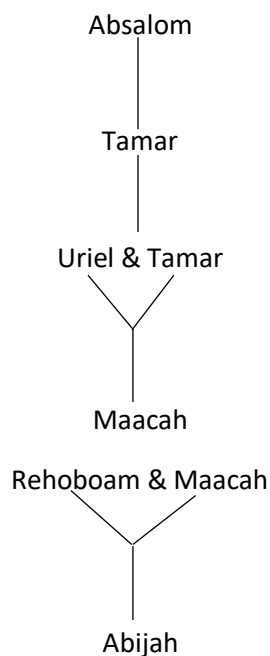
## LESSON 6: *Abijah/ Abijam: Courage & Power.*

(Read: **2 Chr** 13:1-22; **1 Kgs** 15:1-8 ).

**Key Passage:** “But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him.” (**2 Chr** 13:10)

### I) Key Info Concerning Abijah and His Family

- A) Abijah (**2 Chr** 13:1), was also known as Abijam (**1 Kgs** 15:1). (Not to be confused with Jeroboam’s son (**1 Kgs** 14:1, 17).
- 1) Abijah means, “Yahweh (God) is my father.”
  - 2) Abijam means, “My father is Yam” (or sea), possibly a reference to Canaanite god.
  - 3) **2 Chr** 13 covers the good of the king (Abijah) and **1 Kgs** 13 covers the bad of the king (hence his name changed to, Abijam)
- B) Abijah’s mother was known as Maacah (**1 Kgs** 15:2) and as Micaiah (**2 Chr** 13:2), probably altered from the one to the other on her becoming queen, as was very common under a change of circumstances.
- 1) She is identified as both the mother of Abijam and the mother of Asa (v. 10), Abijam’s son (v. 8). The nature of their relationship is unclear since the Hebrew word for “mother” also can mean “grandmother.” In **1 Kgs** 15:13, Maacah seems to have had the role of queen mother, a role she still may have had as grandmother to the reigning king.
  - 2) She is called the daughter (prob. granddaughter) of Abishalom, or Absalom (**2 Chr** 11:21), of Uriel (**2 Chr** 13:2). Hence, it has been thought probable that Tamar, the daughter of Absalom (**2 Sa** 14:27; 18:18), had been married to Uriel, and that Maacah was their daughter.



## II) The Courage of Abijah (2 Chr 13:1-14).

### A) Abijah's Bold Spiritual leadership (13:4-14).

- 1) Who did king Abijah war with and for how long? (13:1-2; **1 Kgs** 15:6).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Abijah stood up on Mt. Zemaraim, which is a place/ name meaning "twin peaks." It was a town allotted to the tribe of Benjamin (**Jos** 18:22), located about five miles northeast of Bethel. As Abijah began his speech, what did he want Jeroboam and all his army to understand about the kingdom/ kingship? (13:5. Consider also, Num 18:19).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) In Ethan, the Ezrahite's (**1 Kgs** 4:31) song, God said of David, "I have made a \_\_\_\_\_ with my chosen one; I have \_\_\_\_\_ to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for \_\_\_\_\_'" (**Ps** 89:3-4).
- 4) Abijah courageously exposed two weaknesses in Israel's confidence. What were they? (13:8). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Jeroboam's army was doomed because of the idols they carried with them. Like the army of Israel, we must understand that loving anything more than God becomes idolatry—leading to destruction because it snares us into a false sense of security. We must determine to let go of anything that interferes with our relationship with God (consider **Mat** 18:7-9).
- 6) Abijah courageously attacked the process of Jeroboam's priestly appointments (13:9). Ironically, Jeroboam appointed worthless people to manage a religion based upon worthless idols. God's priests were driven out: This showed that Jeroboam had no regard for \_\_\_\_\_ (**Jn** 17:17).
  - a) When we refuse to live by God's truth what are we living by (**Ro** 1:25; **Isa** 28:14-15). \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What will God do to those who heartily reject truth for a lie? (**2 Thes** 2:9-12).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) It is always a bad idea to employ low standards when appointing leaders on any level. To represent the Lord and His principles, leaders must courageously live by God's standards. Leaders must not be selected merely because they volunteered, are talented in a specific area, highly educated, or popular. Instead, they must demonstrate a sincere commitment to justice, accountability, genuine dedication to God and His word and strong spiritual character. (**Ex** 18:13-27; **1 Ti** 3:1-7).

8) Abijah courageously declared that the kingdom of Judah had not forsaken the Lord (13:10a). What evidence did Abijah give to support this (13:10-11).

a) The kinds of priests \_\_\_\_\_

b) Who the priests ministered to \_\_\_\_\_

c) What they offered to the LORD \_\_\_\_\_

d) When they offered it \_\_\_\_\_

9) What gave Abijah the courage to warn an army twice the size of his own not to engage in battle, because they would not succeed? (13:12).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10) How did Judah respond to Jeroboam's ambush? (13:13-14).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a) Abijah's great-grandfather once said, "Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not \_\_\_\_\_; though war arise against me, yet I will be \_\_\_\_\_." (Ps 27:3).

### III) The Power of God (2 Chr 13:15-20)

A) This was one of the greatest military victories in Biblical history. Judah was outnumbered two-to-one, they defeated impossible odds and cut the opposing armies' forces to less than 100,000 of their own (13:3, 17).

1) Why was Judah able to accomplish this? (13:16, 18).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Because of the courage of Abijah and the power of God, what else did Jeroboam lose?

a) 13:19 \_\_\_\_\_

b) 13:20 \_\_\_\_\_

### IV) Abijah's Downfall (2 Chr 13:21; 1 Kgs 15:1-8).

A) What was Abijah's mistake after he grew mighty? (2 Chr 13:21; Deu 17:14-15, 17).

1) How did the rest of his rule turn out (1 Kgs 15:3-4).

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Interestingly.... whose leadership example did he follow? (2 Chr 12:1).

\_\_\_\_\_



**V) Learning from Abijah/ Abijam**

A) Abijah is a classic example of failing to go the distance.

- 1) Read **Mat 13:1-22**. Identify which depiction of the heart probably best describes Abijah's.

- 
- a) Leaders must constantly prepare themselves, in order to remain wholly committed to God. A leader cannot afford to be conflicted in his spiritual beliefs, values, morals, responsibilities and duties.
  - b) Peter encouraged scattered Christians and their leaders to Grow (**2 Pe 3:18**). Personal growth is imperative to the wellbeing of one's own spiritual life and the lives of those whom he leads. If we're not growing, we are stagnant or declining. In either case, we make ourselves useless to the Lord and those we lead (**2 Pe 1:8**).
  - c) Identify key ways leaders can grow:

1. What kept Daniel strong in his spiritual relationship with God? (**Dan 6:1-23**). How can this help leaders grow?

---

---

---

---

---

2. How can Paul's admonition to the Christians at Corinth contribute to greater spiritual growth? (**1 Cor 15:58**).

---

---

---

---

---

3. How can exercising this type of attitude and approach towards life help us to grow in our leadership efforts? (**Philp 2:1-7**).

---

---

---

---

---

## LESSON 7: *Asa: Stay Humble.*

(Read: **2 Chr** 14-16).

**Key Passage:** “For the eyes of Yahweh roam throughout all the earth to strengthen those whose heart is fully devoted to him.” (**2 Chr** 16:9, LEB).

### I) **Asa’s Spiritual Commitment To God**

A) He heeded the words of God’s prophet (**2 Chr** 15:1-8a).

1) According to Azariah (God’s prophet), what three promises can those who are truly for God expect from Him? (**2 Chr** 15:1-2).

a. “The Lord is with you \_\_\_\_\_.”

b. “If you seek Him \_\_\_\_\_.”

c. “But if you forsake Him \_\_\_\_\_.”

2) Israel’s national conditions had been very tragic (**2 Chr** 15:4-6). How did it happen? (**2 Chr** 15:3).

\_\_\_\_\_

3) In order to be rewarded from the Lord, what two leadership challenges did Azariah present to Asa? (**2 Chr** 15:7).

\_\_\_\_\_

a) In your own words, briefly describe how each form of courage is vital for successful leadership.

**Personal Courage** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (**Mk** 15:43-47)

**Religious Courage** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (**Dan** 1:8-20)

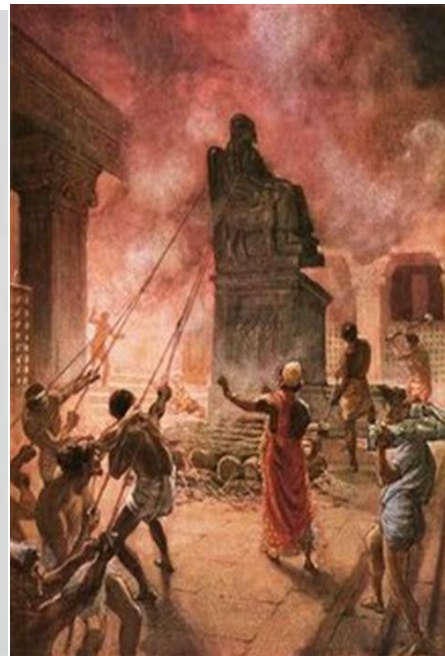
**Moral/ Ethical Courage** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (**Isa** 1:23)

- B) Asa responded favorably to the prophet of God's message:
- 1) His heart was wholly committed to God (**2 Chr 15:17b**).
  - 2) He took courage to do what was good and right in God's sight (**2 Chr 14:2**).
  - 3) He began to purge his kingdom (**2 Chr 15:8**; **2 Chr 14:4**).
    - a. He took away the foreign altars and high places (**2 Chr 14:3**). Probably built during Rehoboam's reign.
    - b. He broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim (**2 Chr 14:3**). Asherahs: Typically refers to sacred poles or trees used to worship the Canaanite goddess Asherah (**Deut 16:21**), was associated with sexual fertility and sacred prostitution (**2 Kgs 23:7**). Asherah often is mentioned alongside Baal (**Jdg 3:7**; **1 Kgs 18:19**).
    - c. He took the high places and the incense altars out of all the cities of Judah (**2 Chr 14:5**).
    - d. He removed Maacah, his mother (grandmother) from being "queen-mother," and destroyed her idol (**2 Chr 15:16**).
    - e. He repaired the LORD'S altar (**2 Chr 15:8**) and brought sacred gifts into the LORD'S temple (**2 Chr 15:18**).
  - 4) How far are you willing to go, to secure your devotion to the Lord?
    - a. **Mat 10:34-39** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. **Mat 19:16-22** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - c. **Rom 8:35-39** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## C) The Impact of Asa's Strong Spiritual Leadership

- 1) Asa displayed tremendous courage in leading his nation to pursue spiritual righteousness with God. What affect did his spiritual leadership have upon those who weren't natural residents of Judah? (**2 Chr** 15:9-15).

---



---



---

- a. They sacrificed \_\_\_\_\_ (15:11)
- b. They entered a covenant to seek \_\_\_\_\_  
with all their \_\_\_\_\_ and with all their \_\_\_\_\_  
(15:12).
- c. And whoever would not seek the LORD, should be \_\_\_\_\_  
whether \_\_\_\_\_ (15:13).
- d. Was this punishment taking their covenant a little too far? (Consider **Deu** 13:6–11; 17:2–7).

---



## II) The Wisdom of Asa's Commitment

A) Asa didn't drop the ball during a period of national peace:

- 1) *"And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around."* (2 Chr 15:15). Recognizing the source and reasonings of their rest and peace—how was Asa able to use it in a positive way to benefit his kingdom (2 Chr 14:7-8).

---

---

---

---

- 2) Like Asa, how can we take advantage of times of calm and peace, to strengthen ourselves?

---

---

---

---

---

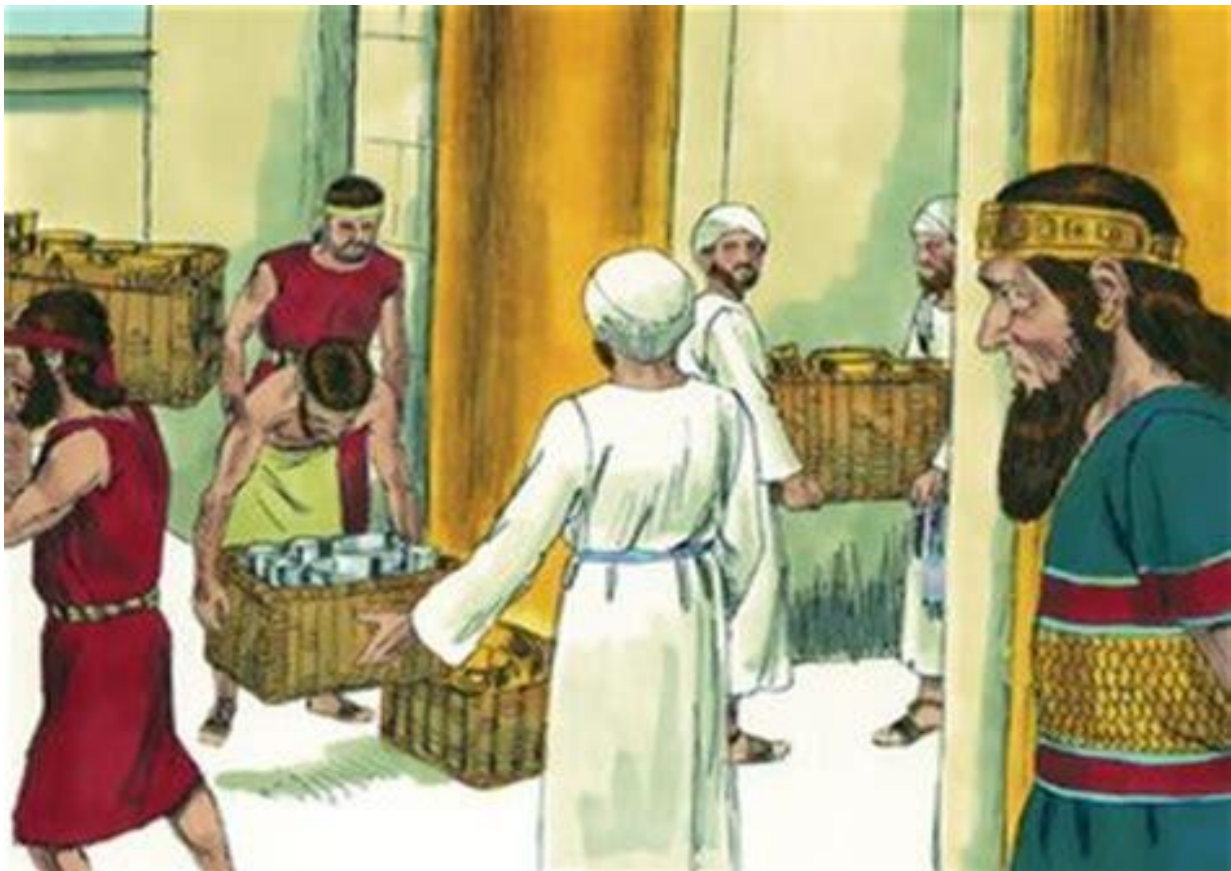
B) Asa Displayed Great Humility & Spiritual Courage During Trials (2 Chr 14:9-15).

- 1) He displayed unwavering leadership in the face of overwhelming odds:
  - a. He met the opposing forces even though victory for his nation was physically impossible (2 Chr 14:9-10. Consider 1 Sam 17).
  - b. He relied on God (2 Chr 14:11).
  - c. Judah prevailed over their enemies, plundered them, and returned home victorious (2 Chr 14:12-15).
- 2) Asa was victorious because his faith in God was so strong—it provided him with the courage necessary to lead confidently, in the face of certain defeat. Is my faith this strong?
- 3) Even though the circumstances were different, Abraham had the same strength of faith as Asa:
  - a. "He did not \_\_\_\_\_ in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.  
No unbelief made him \_\_\_\_\_ concerning the promise of God, but he \_\_\_\_\_ in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness." (Rom 4:19–22).

### III) Asa's Fall (2 Chr 16:1-14).

A) Asa becomes more carnal and less spiritual.

- 1) Baasha, king of Israel moves against Judah (**2 Chr 16:1**). By setting up fortified cities as roadblocks into Judah. Perhaps the freedom and purity of religious worship, and the fame of the late national covenant in Judah were regarded with great continuing interest throughout Israel and attracted a constantly increasing number of emigrants to Judah (**2 Chr 11:13-17; 2 Chr 15:9**).
  - a. Baasha, alarmed at this movement, determined to stem the tide and as the high road to and from Jerusalem passed by Ramah, he made that town (which was about six miles north of Asa's capital) a military station, where the vigilance of his army would effectually prevent all passage across the boundary of the kingdom.
- 2) From the beginning, Asa had always sought the favor and protection of God. Now after he has enjoyed much success and his kingdom is established, Asa looks to a foreign nation for help before looking to God first (**2 Chr 16:2-5**).
  - a. He bribed a foreign ruler at the expense of striping God's Holy temple (16:2-5). This definitely displayed a decline in his morals.
  - b. Is it worth it to compromise or give up even the most sacred of things—just to avoid personal embarrassment, possible loss, or failure? (consider **Heb 12:15-16**).



B) Asa was no longer humble and became a cruel ruler (**2 Chr 16:7-10**).

1) Who came to rebuke Asa? What is a “seer?” (**2 Chr 16:7; 1 Sam 9:9**).

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Because Asa relied on the King of Syria and did not rely on the LORD...

a. Who would escape Asa? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Chr 16:7**).

b. He had done \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Chr 16:9b**).

c. From now on he would have \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Chr 16:9b**).

3) Why do the “eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth?” (**2 Chr 16:9a**).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Contrast **2 Chronicles 16:9** with **2 Chronicles 15:1-2**. Has Asa’s heart changed? If so, how?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What consequence did Azariah promise, should Asa change? (**2 Chr 15:2**).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a. Who warned about this, years in advance? (**1 Chr 28:9**).

\_\_\_\_\_

6) What was Asa’s response to the prophet of God’s rebuke? (**2 Chr 16:10**).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C) Asa hardened his heart toward God, even until his death (**2 Chr 16:11-14**).

1) What happened to Asa in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of his rule? (**2 Chr 16:12a**).

\_\_\_\_\_

2) As his condition worsened, who did Asa rely on instead of God? (**2 Chr 16:12b**).

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Did he receive a funeral that was worthy of his spiritual example? (**2 Chr 16:13-14**).

\_\_\_\_\_



## LESSON 8: *Five Kings of Israel: A Kingdom Should Be Established in Righteousness*

(Read: **1 Kgs** 15:25-32; 16:1-28)

**Key Passage:** “It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.” (Pro 16:12).

### I) **Nadab: A Leader Who Failed To Open His Eyes (1 Kgs 15:25-27).**

- A) As the new leader of Israel, it is surprising that Nadab chose to follow in the footsteps of his father's failures. Nadab displayed an unwillingness either to perceive or accept the truth concerning the judgments of God upon his family (see **1 Kgs** 14). As the new king, Nadab only promised *more of the same*. As a new ruler and leader of Israel, what was Nadab's big mistake? (**1 Kgs** 15:26).

- 1) What two things did the “way of his father” cause? (15:26, 30).

a) “He made Israel to \_\_\_\_\_”

b) He provoked the LORD to \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Nadab's spiritual blindness brought further wrath upon the people of Israel. Although the nation of Israel had become a separate Kingdom from Judah, Israel remained God's people and were still required to live according to the Covenant. The further Israel plummeted into sin, the more ignorant they became and the more ignorant they became of God's expectations and commandments, the more doomed they became as a society and nation.

a) The way of the wicked is like \_\_\_\_\_;  
they \_\_\_\_\_ over what they stumble. (**Pro** 4:19).

b) “For my people are \_\_\_\_\_; they know me not; they are stupid children; \_\_\_\_\_. They are ‘wise’—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not.” (**Jer** 4:22).

c) “In just a little while, the wicked will \_\_\_\_\_;  
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. (**Psa** 37:10).

- 3) How long did Nadab's wicked rule last? (**1 Kgs** 15:25, 27).

- 4) Although Jeroboam had great influence over his son's moral and spiritual life (**1 Kgs 15:26**), why is Nadab ultimately to blame for his demise? (Read **Ezekiel 18:1-32**).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- a) "If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be \_\_\_\_\_"  
(**Pro 29:12**).

- 5) Leaders mustn't fail to realize that any endeavor in life that involves disregarding God's will is foolish. Like Jeroboam and Nadab, some foolishly believe they can follow the wrong example and still come out successful. Instead of following the failed examples of others, we should look to the wisdom of God to establish righteous and successful leadership:

- a) "No one is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_,  
but the root of the righteous will never be moved. (**Pro 12:3**).

- b) "My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that \_\_\_\_\_ is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ will not be cut off." (**Pro 24:13-14**).

- 6) We must give careful and sober thought to the paths we will take in life because:

- a) **Pro 4:26** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- b) **Pro 5:21** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- c) **Pro 16:20** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- d) **Pro 16:25** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**II) Baasha: A King Who Ruled By Violence (1 Kgs 15:27-34; 16:1-7).**

A) Baasha proved to be a horrible leader at the outset, for he gained the throne of Israel by ruthless violence. Baasha's actions certainly violated **Pro 16:12**. And while the spiritual and moral identity of Israel's society had significantly declined under Nadab's leadership, Baasha's actions plunged Israel further into moral and spiritual decline.

1) What was Baasha's first act as the new leader of Israel? (**1 Kgs 15:29**).

---



---

2) Although Ahijah, the prophet of God foretold of the actions of Baasha (**1 Kgs 15:29**), Why does God show disappointment with Baasha? (see **1 Kgs 15:33-34; 16:1-7; 14:10, 14; Jer 17:9-10**).

---



---



---



---



---

3) Through his actions, Baasha proved himself to be nothing more than a murderer—who had his own interests in mind, instead of God's.

a) "you shall not \_\_\_\_\_" (**Exo 20:13**).

b) Let us not forget that, "Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ his brother is a \_\_\_\_\_, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." (**1 Jn 3:15**).

4) Who else failed to follow God's instructions and brought shame on the name of the LORD?

a) **1 Sam 15:1-35**. \_\_\_\_\_

---

b) **2 Sam 12:13-14; Rom 2:24** \_\_\_\_\_

---

5) What is God prepared to do when others shame and profane His name? (**Eze 36:20-23**).

---

B) Out of greed, Baasha ruled from violence.

1) Violence is simply unrestrained physical or verbal force designed to hurt others, or to gain mastery over them.

a) God destroyed the earth long ago because all flesh had corrupted its way, and the earth was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ (**Gen 6:11-13**).

b) This was particularly troubling to God because mankind was (**Gen 1:26**)

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Those who desire violence are considered (**Pro 13:2**).

\_\_\_\_\_

d) How does God feel about those who love violence? (**Psa 11:5**)

\_\_\_\_\_

e) We should never \_\_\_\_\_ (**Pro 3:31**).

f) What does God say about nations who are accepting of violence within their communities (citadels, strongholds)? (**Amos 3:9-11**).

1. "They do not know how to \_\_\_\_\_" (v10).

2. Their land shall be \_\_\_\_\_ by an adversary. Their defenses will be \_\_\_\_\_ and their strongholds will be \_\_\_\_\_ (v11).

e) "The violence of the wicked will \_\_\_\_\_, because they refuse to do what is \_\_\_\_\_. (**Pro 21:7**).

### III) Elah: The Drunken King (1 Kgs 16:8-10).

A) Nothing is specifically said about the nature of Elah's spirituality or leadership. However, since God knows the hearts of all, it is safe to assume that Elah was wicked. This is based upon the prophecy against king Baasha (1 Kgs 16:3-6). Unfortunately, Elah will be forever remembered as the leader who lost his crown and life because of drunkenness.

1) Leaders have the duty of proving themselves to be capable and self-disciplined. Heightened soberness of mind, body and spirit are imperative for good leadership. King Lemuel's mother warned her son to understand—that as a responsible leader in whom people put their trust, he should not give his ways to those who destroy kings (Pro 31:1-3).

a) "It is not for kings to \_\_\_\_\_, or for rulers to take \_\_\_\_\_. Lest they drink and \_\_\_\_\_ what has been decreed and \_\_\_\_\_ the rights of all the afflicted." (Pro 31:4-5).

2) Identify other leaders who neglected restraint from drunkenness, what was the result?

a) **Gen 9:20-22; Lev 18:1-7** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) **Gen 19:30-36** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) **1 Sam 25:36-38** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) **Est 1:10-12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e) **Isa 28:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## B) Followers of God, Especially Leaders, Must Remain Sober

## 1) Who was told to remain sober and why?

a) **Lev 10:8-9; Eze 44:21** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) **Num 6:1-4; Jdg 13:2-5** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) **1 Tim 3:1-3** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d) **1 Tim 3:8-10** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) We Must Beware of the Folly of Drunkenness and everything associated with it (**Pro 23:29-35**).

a) "Wine is a \_\_\_\_\_, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is  
 \_\_\_\_\_ by it is not \_\_\_\_\_."  
 (**Pro 20:1**).

b) "Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may  
 \_\_\_\_\_ drink, who tarry late into  
 the evening as wine inflames them! They have lyre and harp, tambourine and  
 flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not  
 \_\_\_\_\_, or see the work of  
 his hands. (**Isa 5:11-12**).

c) "Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies  
 and \_\_\_\_\_, not in sexual immorality and  
 sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and  
 make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." (**Rom 13:13-14**).

d) "Or do you not know that the \_\_\_\_\_ will not  
 inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral,  
 nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves,  
 nor the greedy, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor revilers, nor  
 swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." (**1 Cor 6:9-10**).

e) "And do not get \_\_\_\_\_, for that is debauchery,  
 but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and  
 spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart"  
 (**Eph 5:18-19**).

**IV) Zimri: A Wicked King Overcome By His Sinful Deeds (1 Kgs 16:8-20).**

A) 7 Days of Horror: Zimri was the military commander of king Elah's chariot forces (1Kgs 16:9). We are not given the reasoning behind Zimri's conspiracy to overthrow king Elah. Even though his actions were foretold by the prophet Jehu (1Kgs 16:3-4, 12), it was a murderous plot nonetheless (1 Kgs 16:11; Hab 2:12).

1) Zimri's reign was short-lived because his actions were doomed from the beginning. He reigned only \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 16:15).

2) What was the response upon hearing of Zimri's actions? (1 Kgs 16:16-17).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Once Zimri realized that his actions were unwelcomed and that he was about to pay for his deeds, what did he do? (1 Kgs 16:18)

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Although his rule was extremely short, who's religious path did he follow and lead by? (1 Kgs 16:19)

\_\_\_\_\_

5) According to **Numbers** 32:23, we can be sure that our sins will...

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Although his sins were great and inexcusable, the other great tragedy of Zimri's life is that he was so overcome with the consequences of his sins that it led him to a horrible death, instead of repentance.

a) "For the \_\_\_\_\_ that is according to the will of God produces a \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_, leading to \_\_\_\_\_, but the sorrow of the world produces death." (2 Cor 7:10, NASB).

7) Zimri failed to learn from the sins of Jeroboam, Nadab, and Baasha. He did not stop to think that his actions would not go unpunished. We must be certain to learn from the past experiences and mistakes of others.



## B) The Weight of One's Sins Can Be Overwhelming.

- 1) Out of bitter jealousy, Cain murdered his innocent brother, Able. What did Cain say about God's punishment for him? (**Gen 4:13**).

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) David said, "For my iniquities have \_\_\_\_\_;  
Like a heavy \_\_\_\_\_, they are too heavy for me." (**Psa 38:4**).

- 3) "How I hated \_\_\_\_\_, and my heart despised reproof!  
I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.  
I am at the brink of \_\_\_\_\_." (**Pro 5:12–14**).

- 4) Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "\_\_\_\_\_ by betraying innocent blood."  
They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (**Mat 27:3–6**).

## C) Guilt Should Lead To Repentance, Not More Tragedy

- 1) "When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the LORD, and that person realizes \_\_\_\_\_,  
he shall \_\_\_\_\_ that he has committed.  
And he shall make \_\_\_\_\_ for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong." (**Num 5:6–7**).

- 2) "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah  
I \_\_\_\_\_ my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said,  
'I will \_\_\_\_\_ to the LORD,' and you  
forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah  
Therefore, let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found..." (**Psa 32:3–6**).

## V) Omri: The King Who Elevated Israel's Wickedness (1 Kgs 16:16-28).

### A) Omri's Physical Accomplishments:

Like Zimri, Omri was also a military official in king Elah's administration. But Omri was of much higher rank—Zimri only being a commander of Chariots (16:9), while Omri was

the commander of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 16:16).

- 1) A Mighty Ruler With A Strong Dynasty. By human standards, Omri actually proved himself to be a very capable and mighty ruler (1 Kgs 16:27).
  - a) After the split of the united kingdom, the northern kingdom of Israel experienced political instability and civil war until Omri established a powerful dynasty at the beginning of the ninth century BC. He and his successors—Ahab, Ahaziah, and Jehoram (Joram)—ruled for nearly 40 years and made the northern kingdom a prosperous and powerful nation.
  - b) From Assyrian records it is evident that Omri must have been an impressive ruler, because generations later, Assyrians still spoke of Israel as the "land of Omri."
- 2) A Central Capital Established (1 Kgs 16:24). Being the perceptive leader that he was, Omri recognized that the nation needed a capital that was centrally located and militarily defensible. Located about 7 miles northwest of Shechem on the main road leading to Galilee and Phoenicia, it sat on a free-standing hill which rose some 300 to 400 feet above the surrounding plain, making it quite easy to defend.
- 3) A Great Conqueror. Omri's expansionist activities are not mentioned in 1 Kings, but Scripture is supplemented by discovery of the Moabite Stone in 1868 at Dibon, east of the Jordan River. On this stela, Mesha, king of Moab tells that Omri conquered Moab. Israel had continued to subjugate the land in the days of Ahab, but after his death Mesha successfully rebelled against Israel (2 Kgs 3:4-5). That Omri could mount a successful war against Moab soon after becoming king shows that he was a capable ruler, because previously the kingdom of Israel had been greatly weakened by insurrection and political instability.
- 4) His Alliances. From History, Omri also reestablished the friendly relations with Phoenicia that had been initiated in the days of David and Solomon. Presumably he made a full alliance with King Ethbaal of Tyre and then sealed it with the marriage of his son Ahab to the Phoenician princess Jezebel (1 Kgs 16:31). Such an alliance would have been mutually beneficial, for it would have brought cedar, beautifully crafted goods, and Phoenician architectural or technical expertise to Israel; and it would have provided Israelite grain and olive oil to Phoenicia. Moreover, it would have linked their forces against the threat of the rising power of Assyria. This pact was destined to corrupt Israel, however, for it brought Baal worship into the land (1 Kgs 16:31-33). This is what the writer of Kings had in mind when he said that Omri "did worse" than the other kings of Israel before him (1 Kgs 16:25-26) while walking in the idolatrous ways of Jeroboam. (Cont. on page 50)

(Cont, from page 49).

Baal worship was regarded as more degrading than the calf worship Jeroboam had introduced. Omri and his son Ahab after him, subscribed to both.

B) Building Meaningful & Lasting Legacies.

- 1) While Omri proved himself to be a capable leader physically, he was a horrible leader spiritually. His Religious practices not only caused the further decline of his nation but the demise of the southern Kingdom as well. The prophet Micah told the people of Judah,  
 “For you have kept the statutes of \_\_\_\_\_, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you  
 a \_\_\_\_\_, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people.” (**Mic 6:16**).
  
- 2) Whether we realize it or not, every day we make decisions and take actions that ultimately contribute to the building up of our legacy. We must consider whether or not these decisions and actions are motivated from selfish ambition or from godly wisdom. The way we conduct our personal and public lives, our interactions with family friends and strangers, all contribute to our legacy. We must pay careful attention to what we’re building:
  - a) “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in \_\_\_\_\_” (**Psa 127:1**).
  
  - b) “Woe to him who builds his house by \_\_\_\_\_, and his upper rooms by \_\_\_\_\_” (**Jer 22:13a**).
  
- 3) What thoughts come to your mind as you consider the legacies of each person below?
  - a) Moses \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - b) Judas Iscariot \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - c) Nabal \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - d) John the Baptizer \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 9: *Ahab: The Tragedy of Israel*

(Read: **1 Kgs 16:29-33; 1 Kgs 17:22**)

**Key Passage:** “Come, strengthen yourself, and consider well what you have to do...” (**1 Kgs 20:22**).

### I) **Ahab Background Info**

A) Ahab was the Son of Omri. Ahab Reigned \_\_\_\_\_ years in Samira. (**1 Kgs 16:29**).  
The days of Ahab in Samaria were days of growing wealth and spiritual apostasy.

1) How evil was king Ahab? (**1 Kgs 16:30**).

---



---

2) Who did Ahab take as his wife? (**1 Kgs 16:31**). What did the law of Moses say about this? (**Deu 7:1-6**).

---

3) Since it was a light thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, how did he take his idolatrous practices to another level?

a) He went and served \_\_\_\_\_ and worshiped him (**1 Kgs 16:31**).

b) He erected an \_\_\_\_\_ for Baal in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Baal, which he built in Samaria. And he made an Asherah (**1 Kgs 16:32-33**).

c) He built an \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Kgs 22:39**), the remains of which were discovered in the Harvard excavations at the site. Rooms and furniture were decorated with ivory inlay that in many cases featured Egyptian deities.

d) There was none who \_\_\_\_\_ himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab (**1 Kgs 21:25**).

e) How far back did Ahab’s pursuit of idolatry go? (**1 Kgs 21:26; Gen 15:13-16; Deu 12:29-31**).

---



---



---

B) How did Jezebel play a role in Ahab's wickedness? (1 Kgs 21:25)

---

---

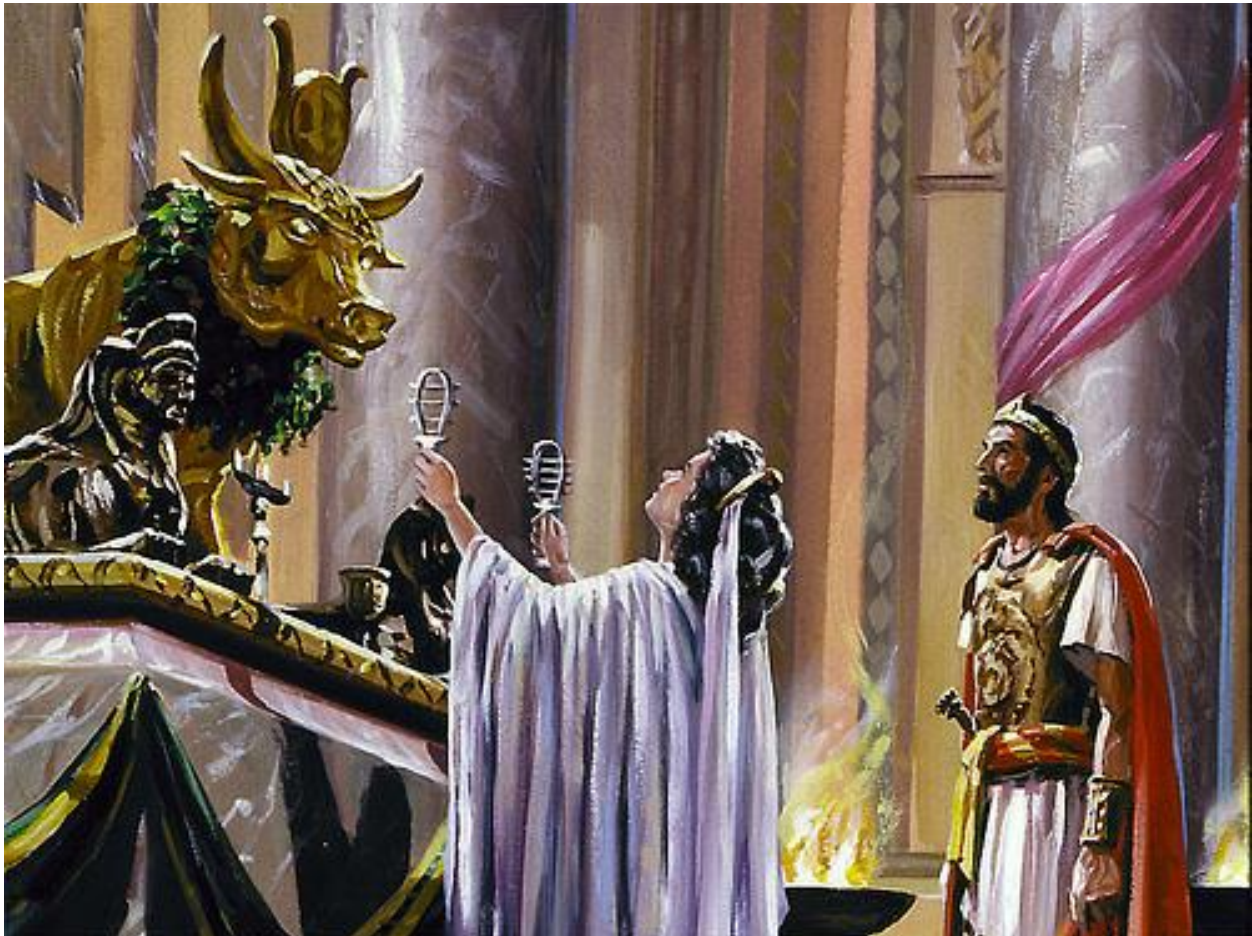
1) What did Ahab allow Jezebel to do? (1 Kgs 18:3-4; 13)

---

2) "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman  
without\_\_\_\_\_." (Pro 11:22).

3) "An \_\_\_\_\_ wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings  
shame is like \_\_\_\_\_ in his bones." (Pro 12:4).

4) "The wisest of women builds her house, but \_\_\_\_\_ with  
her own hands \_\_\_\_\_." (Pro 14:1).



## II) A Weak Leader With Sparks of Promise (1 Kgs 20:1-43).

### A) Ahab's Wars

- 1) Who came to make war against Israel? What did he come for? (1 Kgs 20:1-3).

---



---



---



---

- 2) How did the King of Israel respond to this? (1 Kgs 20:4).

---



---

- a) Should leaders give up so quickly?

---

- b) As a leader facing troubles, can you think of some reasons why Ahab's response was unwise?

---



---



---



---

- 3) Only when he felt that his enemies went too far, did Ahab show some courage (1 Kgs 20:5-12).

- a) How does this show weak leadership on his part?

---



---

- b) It takes courage to be a leader of others. Every leader needs a solid source of courage. The leaders of God's people were supposed to look to Him as their main source of strength and courage. This wasn't just a covenantal responsibility, it was also a covenantal blessing. But if they forsook God, they would have no genuine reason for hope. (consider **Deu 7:24; Jgs 10:10-15**).

- 4) Interestingly, God provided help to King Ahab. According to the Lord Himself, why did He do this? (**1 Kgs 20:13**).

---

---

- a) Why do you think it was important for Ahab to know this (consider **Isa 46:9**)

---

---

- b) Why is it important for every leader/ person of authority to know this? (consider the following passages below).

**Rom 13:1-5** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**1 Cor 11:3** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Col 4:1** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**1 Pet 5:1-5** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

- c) Which great leader learned this the hard way (**Dan 4:28-33**)? What did he conclude about Yahweh? (**Dan 4:37**).

---



---



---

- 5) After the defeat of Ben-Hadad, the prophet of God warned Ahab that Ben-hadad would return in the spring. What did God's prophet tell Ahab to do about this? (**1 Kgs 20:22**).

---



---



---

- a) The position of leadership isn't without temptations. Leaders must always stand ready and prepared to face them. Even our Lord Jesus was confronted with temptations. While at His lowest point physically, He had prepared Himself spiritually (**Lk 4:1-12**). When the devil realized Jesus was too strong for his temptations, he decided to depart, until when? (**Lk 4:13**).

---

- 6) As the Syrians gathered for battle in the plains of Aphek with a massive army (**1 Kgs 20:26-27**), they believed the God of Israel to only be powerful in the hills. The prophet of God returned and informed Ahab that God would again give Israel a victory and after the battle Ahab would know what? (**1 Kgs 20:28-29**).

---



---

- 7) Despite everything God had done for Ahab, what foolish decision did Ahab make? (**1 Kgs 20:30-43**).

---



---

- 8) Another of Ahab's battles took place at Qarqar in the summer of 853 BC. A record of the event was preserved in an Assyrian stela, but not in the biblical narratives. This battle took place near the Orontes River in northern Syria, and was between the armies of Assyria, led by Shalmaneser III, and a coalition of armies led by Hadad-ezer (Ben-Hadad) of Damascus. As part of the coalition, Ahab led 2,000 chariots and 10,000 troops from Israel. The coalition brought upwards of 50–60,000 troops, 3,000 cavalry, and 4,000 chariots. The outcome of the battle was not very favorable for Shalmaneser; in his own account he claims only many enemy losses, not a decisive victory. Assyrian aggression was halted, at least temporarily. This perhaps emboldened Ahab.



### III) Ahab's Further Decline & Humility (1 Kgs 21:1-29)

A) King Ahab & Naboth, the Jezreelite. The city of Jezreel dwelt in a fertile valley with the same name; it was about 25 miles north of Samaria, Israel's capital. Starting with Ahab, Jezreel was the location of the Israelite king's winter residence.

- 1) Why was Ahab's request for Naboth's vineyard unwise? (1 Kgs 21:1-3). (consider Lev 25:23-28; Num 36:7).

---



---



---

- 2) Hardly the behavior of a leader, let alone an adult—to what would you liken the response of Ahab (1 Kgs 21:4).

---



---

- a) "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 13:11).

- b) "Brothers, do not be \_\_\_\_\_ in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be \_\_\_\_\_." (1 Cor 14:20).

- 3) What was Jezebel's response to Ahab's behavior? (1 Kgs 21:5-7).

- a) "Do you not \_\_\_\_\_ all Israel?

- b) *"This is not so much a question as an exclamation—a sarcastic taunt; 'A pretty king thou art! Canst thou not use thy power and take what thy heart is set upon?'" -Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible (Vol. 1, p. 228).*

- 4) Jezebel wrongly assumes that a king should use government power for personal gain. What was she willing to do? (1 Kgs 21:8-14).

---



---



---



---

a) “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, a heart that \_\_\_\_\_, feet that make haste to run to \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” (**Pro 6:16–19**).

b) Being a Queen, what was Jezebel's concept of the power of leadership?

---



---

c) According to Jezebel, what is the value of human life when compared to the personal ambition of a leader?

---

5) Upon hearing the news of Naboth's demise, what did Ahab do? (**1 Kgs 21:15-16**).

---

a) What did this say about His conscience? (consider **Eph 4:17-19**).

---



---

b) Even though Ahab did not initiate the events that caused Naboth's murder, can you list some reasons why he deserves to be considered guilty?

---



---



---



---



---



---



6) Ironically, how does Ahab respond when seeing Elijah, God's prophet? (**1 Kgs 21:20a**)

---

7) Why had Elijah "found" Ahab? (**1 Kgs 21:20b**)

---



---

8) What was God's judgment upon Ahab?

a) Ahab, himself (**1 Kgs 21:19**) \_\_\_\_\_

---

b) His house/ Family & Dynasty (**1Kgs 21:21-22, 24**) \_\_\_\_\_

---



---

(consider **2 Kgs 9:14-26; 10:1-17**).

c) His wife, Queen Jezebel (**1 Kgs 21:23**) \_\_\_\_\_

---

(consider **2 Kgs 9:30-37**)

9) Upon hearing God's condemnation and judgment, how did Ahab respond? (1 Kgs 21:27)

---

---

10) How do we know his humility was genuine? (1 Kgs 21:28-29)

---

---

---



**IV) The Fall of Ahab (1 Kgs 22:1-40)**

A) The peace that followed the battle of Aphek (**1 Kgs 20:26–34**) lasted three years. Even after such a crushing defeat, the king of Syria was able to hold on to the strategically important city of Ramoth-gilead in Transjordan, which was situated on a major trade route running from the Red Sea to Damascus.

- 1) Determined to retake possession of Ramoth-gilead, king Ahab secured the support of Judah's king, Jehoshaphat (**1Kgs 22:1-4**). When Jehoshaphat said that they should first inquire of Yahweh (**1 Kgs 22:5**), through whom did Ahab seek to inquire of God? (**1 Kgs 22:6-7**).

---



---

a) What did the false prophets tell Ahab? (**1 Kgs 22:6, 10-12**).

---

b) According to Ahab, why did he not seek the counsel of a true prophet of Yahweh? (**1 Kgs 22:7-8**).

---

c) After summoning God's prophet Micaiah, what was commanded of him? (**1 Kgs 22:9, 13**). What was Micaiah's response to this command? (**1 Kgs 22:14**)

---

d) Ironically, what did Micaiah tell Ahab to do? (**1 Kgs 22:15**)

- 2) Ahab was defiant to the end. Upon hearing of God's plan to destroy Ahab by going into battle, what did Ahab decide? (**1 Kgs 22:16-29**)

- a) In an attempt to avoid the Lord's judgment, what did Ahab do in the battle? (**1 Kgs 22:30-33**). Did it work?

---

- b) Who did God use to bring judgment upon king Ahab? (**1 Kgs 22:34-37**).

- 3) Ahab was a weak and wicked king who lived in disgrace. How was his death a disgrace? (**1 Kgs 22:38**).

## LESSON 10: *Elijah: The Lamp In Israel.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 17-19; **2 Kgs** 1:1-17; 2:1-12).

**Key Passage:** “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth” (**1 Kgs** 17:24).



### I) **Elijah's Background**

- A) **HIS NAME:** Elijah's name means “my God is Yahweh [the Lord]” (eli = “my God”; yah = “Yah[weh]”), which is fitting since most of his efforts are aimed at proving that the Lord, Yahweh, is superior to the false god Baal.
- B) **HIS ORIGINS:** The Scriptures give no information regarding his family background except that he was a Tishbite who probably came from the land of Gilead on the east bank of the Jordan River (**1 Kgs** 17:1).
- C) **HIS IMPORTANCE.**
  - 1) Although his message did not include the coming Messiah (like Isaiah's), Elijah is considered by many as the most famous of God's prophets. Jesus Himself said that John the baptizer was the greatest of the prophets (**Lk** 7:28) and yet, it is very interesting that John is reckoned as a type of Elijah (**Mal** 4:5-6; **Lk** 1:11-17; **Mat** 17:10-13; **Mat** 11:12-14; **2 Kgs** 1:1-8; **Mat** 3:1-4).
  - 2) Elijah was present at Jesus' transfiguration, holding a conversation with Moses and the Lord (**Lk** 9:28-31).
- D) **HIS MISSION.**
  - 1) As the Baal worship of Sidonia traveled to Israel through Jezebel, Elijah was sent to confront its spread by emphasizing again that Israel's true God was the only God of the whole earth.
  - 2) Elijah had been called primarily to minister to Israel, but he also delivered God's word of warning to Jehoram, king of Judah, rebuking him for following Israel in its idolatry and for not walking in the godly ways of his father and grandfather (**2 Chr** 21:12–15).
  - 3) Miracles were prominent in Elijah's ministry, given as a sign to confirm him as God's spokesman and to turn Israel's kings back to God. Some scholars have rejected these miracles or tried to explain them away. The OT, however, clearly testifies to their validity, and the NT affirms them (**Lk** 4: 22-26; **Jms** 5:17-18).

**II) Elijah had the courage to answer God's call and serve faithfully.**

A) This was significant—given the spiritual depravity of the nation to whom he was called to preach to: (**1 Kgs 16:29-33**).

1) Elijah was walking into a mess. He must have felt the same way Noah did.

a) Every spiritual foundation in Israel had been compromised... Consider **Psalms 11:3**... What can we do?

\_\_\_\_\_ (Psa 26:4-7)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Psa 46:1-3)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Psa 119:23)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Psa 119:141)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 2:10)

2) When Elijah first comes on the scene, how does he show himself to be genuinely courageous for the LORD? (**1 Kgs 17:1**).

\_\_\_\_\_

3) How did Elijah survive the drought while living east of the Jordan River? (**1 Kgs 17:2-7**).

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What does this say about the faith and spiritual commitment of Elijah to continue serving God under such living conditions? (consider **Mat 4:1-4**; **Heb 13:5-6**).

\_\_\_\_\_



## B) Elijah Sent to a Gentile (1 Kgs 17:1-24)

- 1) *"Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."* (1 Kgs 17:9). Sidon was one of the centers of Baal worship in the ancient Near East (1 Kgs 16:31-32), and it was also experiencing famine (1 Kgs 17:12). God sends Elijah there and further demonstrates that He alone controls life and death, rain and drought.
- 2) During such difficult times, what hope did Elijah provide for the pagan Gentile widow and her son? (1 Kgs 17:13-16).

---



---

- 3) How was the Gentile woman's faith in Elijah's hope tested? (contrast with Mat 6:31-34).

---



---

- 4) What caused the Gentile woman to be convicted of her sins? (1 Kgs 17:17-18).

---



---

- 5) How did the resurrection of her son cause the Gentile woman to reflect spiritually? (1 Kgs 17:19-24).

---



---

- a) Through this miracle God not only proves his power over Baal but provokes Israel to return to Him. Jesus Himself indicates in Lk 4:26 that during the famine God sent Elijah to a Gentile widow rather than any of the Israelite widows, and God said in Deu 32:21-22 that He will make Israel jealous of other nations when Israel makes Him jealous by turning to idols. In the same act the Lord proves His infinite superiority to Baal and calls His people to return to Him. This miracle also demonstrates that the Lord's mercy extends far beyond the people of Israel. He welcomes all from around the world who turn from idols and put their trust in Him.
- b) "Truly I understand that God shows no \_\_\_\_\_, but in every nation \_\_\_\_\_ who fears him and does what is right is \_\_\_\_\_ to him." (Acts 10:34).



- c) From this first account of Elijah we learn two things about how God treats His people in exile. **First**, God will always provide for His people, even by extraordinary means—with ravens or poor widows from foreign countries. **Second**, exile is not the final word when it comes to the Lord's dealings with His people. As the resurrection of the widow's son demonstrates, God is able to fully restore His people no matter the circumstances (consider **Eze 37**).
- d) The hope represented by Elijah is also applicable to the Christian life. We live in exile on this earth as aliens and sojourners (**Heb 11:13; 1 Pet 2:11**), but the Lord is able to provide for our every need (**Mat 6:25–30; 1 Tim 6:17**).

### III) **Elijah Returns & Boldly Confronts A Wicked King & His Kingdom (1 Kgs 18:1-2, 17-18).**

- A) Again, we see the unfailing courage of Elijah in accepting a difficult task from the Lord (**1 Kgs 18:1-15**).

- 1) Ironically, who does Ahab blame for Israel's troubles? (**1 Kgs 18:17-18**).

---

- 2) In what two ways does Elijah show boldness toward Ahab? (**1 Kgs 18:18-20**).

---



---



---

- a) Like Elijah, we must not only demonstrate boldness in telling others about their sins, we must also be courageous in telling them what they must do (Consider the example of John the Baptizer and how his example of boldness affected others (**Lk 3:1-20**)).

- b) List possible reasons some neglect reproving others

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

B) Yahweh vs Baal, Part 1 (**1 Kgs** 18:20-29).

- 1) After commanding the king to call a national meeting, Elijah personally and publicly confronts the people's religious practices. What question did he put before all the people? (**1 Kgs** 18:21). How did the people respond?

---



---



---

- a) Why do you think they responded in this way?

---



---



---



---

- 2) What essential lessons can we learn from Jesus' message? (**Mat** 6:24).

---



---



---

- 3) What else made the people's religious situation egregious? (**Jer** 2:10-12).

---



---



---

- 4) Although he was outnumbered, Elijah seems to have no regrets about being the lone representative of Yahweh (**1 Kgs** 18:22).

“Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore,  
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal (Hallelujah), He's  
The Lilly of the valley, the bright and morning star, He's  
The fairest of ten thousand to my soul”

*-The Lily of The Valley, Hymns for Worship (Revised), pg. 594.*

- 5) What challenge did Elijah put before the people of Israel? What did the people say after hearing Elijah's challenge? (**1 Kgs 18:23-24**).

---

---

---

---

- 6) What was the one prohibition of the challenge (**1 Kgs 18:25**).

---

- 7) What did the prophets of Baal do in an attempt to summon Baal?

- a) 18:26 \_\_\_\_\_

---

- b) 18:28 \_\_\_\_\_

---

- c) 18:29 \_\_\_\_\_

---

- 8) How long did they do these things?

---

- 9) Did Baal ever answer? \_\_\_\_\_

- 10) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

(consider **Jer 10:3-5**; **Isa 44:10-20**)

## C) Yahweh vs Baal, Part 2 (1 Kgs 18:30-40)

- 1) What did Elijah do after calling the people closer to himself? (**1 Kgs 18:30-32**).

---

---

- 2) What did he command to be done to the prepared sacrifice? (**1 Kgs 18:33**). How many times was this done? (**1 Kgs 18:34-35**).

---

---

- 3) What major things would Yahweh's answering by fire prove (**1 Kgs 18:36-37**)

---

---

---

- 4) How long did it take Yahweh to answer by fire and what did His fire do? (**1 Kgs 18:38**).

---

---

---



## D) The Aftermath of Yahweh vs Baal

- 1) Upon witnessing the power of the one true God, how did the people finally respond? (**1 Kgs 18:39**).

---



---

- 2) It had been many years since Yahweh had been feared and worshiped like this by the people of Israel (18:39). How were they worshiping? (**1 Kgs 19:18**).

---



---

- 3) How spiritually depraved would they eventually become? (**Jer 11:13**).

---



---

- 4) Once the people of Israel realized Baal was false and Yahweh was the one and only true God, what did they do to the prophets of Baal? (**1 Kgs 18:40**).

---



---

IV) **Elijah Flees For His Life (1 Kgs 19:1-18).**

- A) After the defeat of the prophets of Baal, the Lord God sent rain on the earth (**1 Kgs 18:41-46**). Elijah miraculously outran Ahab as Ahab traveled back to his royal palace in Jezreel (**1 Kgs 21:1**) to tell queen Jezebel about what happened on Mt. Carmel (**1 Kgs 19:1**). The fact that Elijah also went to Jezreel suggests that he thought his war with Baal worship was over and that all Israel would suddenly turn back to Yahweh. This of course did not happen.

- 1) What was Jezebel's response to what Elijah had done? (**1 Kgs 19:1-2**).

---



---

- 2) After showing great courage and boldness up to this point, how did Elijah react to Jezebel's message? (**1 Kgs 19:3**).

---



---



---

- 3) Once Elijah realized that his efforts would not change the heart of Ahab and Jezebel, or have any significant lasting effect on Israel, what did he request of God? (**1 Kgs 19:4a**).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What was Elijah's explanation for asking such a request? (**1 Kgs 19:4b**).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Why was Elijah's request nonsense?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Like Elijah, can you think of some reasons why some Christians today give up so quickly in their efforts to share the gospel with others?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What do verses 5-8 teach us about the love and grace of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Elijah travels to Mt. Horeb. Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai, where God first spoke the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel (**Exo 19–20**). The forty days and forty nights of Elijah's travels recall Israel's own wandering in the wilderness (**Num 14:33–34**) and Moses' first sojourn on this same mountain (**Exo 24:18**; see also **Exo 3:1; 19:3**). Will Elijah, like Moses, see God (**Exo 33:12–23**); and if so, will it make any difference to his current attitude? This journey from near Beersheba to Mount Horeb was about 250 miles.
- 9) As Elijah reached a cave on Mt. Horeb, what did God ask him? (**1 Kgs 19:9, 13**).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Being a prophet of God Almighty, was Elijah's explanation excusable? (**1 Kgs 19:10–14**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) After commanding him to depart, what final three things did God commission Elijah to do? (**1 Kgs 19:15–17**).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**V) Elijah: His Last Act of Courage & Departure (2 Kgs 1:1-17; 2:1-12).**

A) After the death of king Ahab, his son Ahaziah reigned in his place. How was Ahaziah's rule compared to his father's? (**1 Kgs 22:51-53**).

1) After falling from the lattice of his roof, Ahaziah became sick (possibly from infections). As his sickness worsened, whom did he appeal to? (**2 Kgs 1:1-2**).

a) Ekron was one of five major Philistine cities on the border of ancient Israel, about 25 miles west of Jerusalem.

2) How did Elijah show courage once again? (**2 Kgs 1:3-6**).

3) Obviously, Ahaziah was aware of who Elijah was (**2 Kgs 1:7-8**). And no doubt Ahaziah was familiar with what Elijah had done on Mt. Carmel. Taking no chances, who all did Ahaziah send to arrest Elijah? (**2 Kgs 1:9**).

4) What happened to the soldiers attempting to capture God's prophet? (**2 Kgs 1:10-12**).

5) How were the last band of soldiers able to fare better than the previous bands? (**2 Kgs 1:13-15**).

6) What was Elijah final act of spiritual and moral courage? (**2 Kgs 1:16-17**).

7) How did Elijah depart the earth? (**2 Kgs 2:1-12**).

a) As our nation and its leaders become more corrupt, we must have the courage like Elijah to make a stand! Never forget, you are not alone. Even though a majority of people reject God, He will never reject a faithful remnant (**Rom 11:1-5**).

## LESSON 11: *Jehoshaphat: "Some Good Is Found In You."*

(Read: **1 Kgs** 22:41-46; **2 Chr** 17-20; **2 Kgs** 3).

**Key Passage:** "...some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asheroth out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God." (**2 Chr** 19:3).

### I) **King Jehoshaphat was an excellent leader because his heart was genuinely committed to putting God first.**

#### A) A King Devoted To God.

- 1) According to the chronicler, why was the LORD with Jehoshaphat? (**2 Chr** 17:3).

---



---

- 2) What are the "ways of David?"

**1 Kgs** 9:4 

---

---



---

**1 Kgs** 11:4 

---

---



---

**1 Kgs** 11:38 

---

---



---

- 3) Although he made mistakes, David was described as a man after God's heart (**1 Sam** 13:14; **Acts** 13:22). What set David apart from other kings (who also made mistakes) was the fact that David never hesitated to feel remorse, repent, seek God's forgiveness and change. David obeyed God's prophets (**1 Sam** 22:5) and relied on God's advice first (**1 Sam** 23:1-4; 30:1-7). David was a leader who was truly in pursuit of a lasting relationship with Yahweh. Not since his rule had Judah experienced a leader like this. Jehoshaphat was a leap back to David.

- 4) As a man and a king, who did Jehoshaphat seek to have in his life (**2 Chr** 17:4).

---



## B) The heart of Jehoshaphat

1) What kind of courage did Jehoshaphat display? (2 Chr 17:6a).

---



---

2) Why is this important for God's people today?

a) 1 Cor 9:19-27

---



---



---



---

b) 2 Cor 6:14-18

---



---



---



---

c) Philp 3:7-14

---



---



---



---

d) "Only be \_\_\_\_\_ and very \_\_\_\_\_, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have

\_\_\_\_\_ wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall

\_\_\_\_\_ on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way \_\_\_\_\_, and then you will have good

\_\_\_\_\_." (Jos 1:7-8).

- 3) How was Jehoshaphat's heart similar to his father's, King Asa? (**2 Chr** 17:6b; **2 Chr** 14:2-3; **2 Chr** 15:8; **1 Kgs** 22:46).

---



---



---

**II) Jehoshaphat: He led his people to know God and His ways**

- A) As a spiritual leader it was Jehoshaphat's responsibility to protect his people from religious error. He boldly fulfils this duty by removing idolatry from Judah (**2 Chr** 17:6; **1 Kgs** 22:46). How did Jehoshaphat go further in proving true concern for the spiritual welfare of his people?

- 1) **2 Chr** 17:7-9; 19:1-4. \_\_\_\_\_

---



---

- 2) To ensure true justice within his kingdom, what things did he demand of his judicial leaders? (**2 Chr** 19:5-11).

---



---



---



---

- a) Rulers must, "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the afflicted and the destitute." (**Psa** 82:3).
- b) Long ago, Moses told his appointed judges, "You shall not be \_\_\_\_\_ in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike.  
You shall not be \_\_\_\_\_, for the judgment is God's." (**Deu** 1:17).
- c) "Blessed are they who observe \_\_\_\_\_, who do righteousness at \_\_\_\_\_!" (**Psa** 106:3).
- d) "Evil men do not understand justice, but those who \_\_\_\_\_ understand it completely." (**Pro** 28:5).
- e) "By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts \_\_\_\_\_." (**Pro** 29:4).

**III) Jehoshaphat Was Blessed & Highly Favored**

A) Because of his steadfast devotion to the Lord, what did God do for Jehoshaphat? (**2 Chr 17:5a**).

- 1) Being the wise leader that he was, Jehoshaphat stationed military forces for security, throughout his kingdom (**2 Chr 17:1-2**). God truly blessed Judah's military forces under Jehoshaphat's reign. How large was Jehoshaphat's army? (**2 Chr 17:12-19**).

a) No king, since the time of Solomon, equaled Jehoshaphat in the extent of his revenue, in the strength of his fortifications, and in the number of his troops.

- 2) How did Judah feel about their king? (**2 Chr 17:5b**).

- 3) How did Yahweh's blessing of Judah affect the surrounding nations and kingdoms? (**2 Chr 17:10-11**).

- 4) Consider **Mat 5:13-16**. How can the blessedness of God's grace in our own lives be used to influence others?

**IV) Jehoshaphat: A Great Leader During National Crisis (2 Chr 20:1-30).**

A) No matter how much good they do, Leaders are often remembered for their conduct and actions during a national crisis. During this time period of Judah's history as a nation, Jehoshaphat's character and leadership reach their peak.

1) How did Jehoshaphat feel about the news of imminent invasion? (2 Chr 20:1-3).

---

2) What did his feelings about the threat provoke him to do? How did his actions affect the communities in his kingdom? (2 Chr 20:3-4).

---



---



---



---

3) Where did Jehoshaphat and the people go to "seek the LORD?" (2 Chr 20:5).

---

4) When was the last time a king assembled all the people here for national prayer?

---

5) What do we learn about Yahweh during the introduction of Jehoshaphat's prayer? (2 Chr 20:6). Why do you think it is important to be mindful of these facts while praying to God?

---



---

6) If God is everywhere and can be reached anywhere (even in the belly of a fish, **Jonah** 2:1-10), Why was this an appropriate place to seek the LORD during such times? (2 Chr 20:7-11; 1 Kgs 8:28-52).

---



---



---



---



---

- 7) Contrast **2 Chr** 20:12 with **2 Chr** 17:12-19. Are Jehoshaphat's comments contrary to reality?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- a) "Some trust in \_\_\_\_\_ and some in \_\_\_\_\_, but we \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright (**Psa** 20:7-8).
- b) "For the \_\_\_\_\_ trusts in the Lord, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved." (**Psa** 21:7).
- c) "Put not your trust in princes, in a \_\_\_\_\_, in whom there is no \_\_\_\_\_. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish." (**Psa** 146:3-4).
- d) "Through \_\_\_\_\_ we push down our foes; through \_\_\_\_\_ we tread down those who rise up against us. For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me." (**Psa** 44:5-6).

- 8) As king and leader of Judah, Jehoshaphat is unafraid to publicly show spiritual humility and complete reliance on God. Not once did he consult with his military advisers to draw up battle plans. Have I reached this level of trust and reliance upon God?

- 9) Because of their spiritual courage and steadfastness, what message did Jehoshaphat and Judah receive from God? (**2 Chr** 20:13-17).

- a) Regarding fear \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Regarding the battle \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Regarding going out to the enemy \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 10) How did Jehoshaphat further demonstrate complete humility towards God? (**2 Chr** 20:18). How did his example affect the people?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11) As the people rose early in the morning to go to the battle, what two key things did the King encourage the people to do? (**2 Chr 20:20**).

a) Believe in Yahweh your God \_\_\_\_\_

b) Believe in the prophets \_\_\_\_\_

12) Before going to the battle, what was of first importance to the King? (**2 Chr 20:21**)



13) What happened as a result of this great display of faith and honor towards God? (**2 Chr 20:22-24**).

14) After the battle, the people of Judah collected spoils of war. How many spoils did they acquire? (**2 Chr 20:25**).

15) What impact did this defeat have upon the surrounding nations (**2 Chr 20:29-30**)

16) How did the people show their gratitude towards God after the battle? (**2 Chr 20:26-28**).

17) Was *everyone* in Judah finally convinced to serve God alone? (**2 Chr 20:31-33**).

V) Jehoshaphat: A Great Leader, Not Without Flaws.

A) Sometimes the enormity of blessings can be overwhelming. Thus, it is imperative that one knows how to temper his emotions and impulses during such fortunate circumstances. Solomon is a prime example.

- 1) With wealth and power, many often deceive themselves into feeling invincible, or that they can accomplish anything. Some are even emboldened to take foolish risks, believing that they will be fine because they are exceptions to possible negative outcomes. These observations may have played a role in Jehoshaphat's decision found in **2 Chr 18:1**. What were the results of such a risky decision? (**2 Chr 21:1-6**).

---



---



---

- 2) How did making an alliance with Ahab further affect Jehoshaphat's judgment?

a) **2 Chr 18:2-3** \_\_\_\_\_

---

- 3) After requesting for a true prophet of Yahweh to inquire about going to the battle (**2 Chr 18:4-7**) and after hearing the prophet's message (**2 Chr 18:18-27**). What did Jehoshaphat decide to do anyways? (**2 Chr 18:28**).

---

- 4) If you were the ruler and leader of Judah, would you have gone into battle with Ahab, especially after hearing the message of God's prophet?

---

- 5) How else can we know that Jehoshaphat made a foolish decision? (**2 Chr 19:1-2**)

---

a) Our Lord said, "Whoever loves father or mother

\_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_

of me, and whoever loves son or daughter

\_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_ of me. (**Mat 10:37**).

b) Our Lord also said, "Whoever is not \_\_\_\_\_ is

\_\_\_\_\_, and whoever does not gather with me scatters (**Mat 12:30**).

- c) Think... Is there a situation where a Christian should “help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD?” (**2 Chr 19:2**).

---

---

---

---

- 6) Although Jehoshaphat displayed a lack of good judgment, what hope was there for Judah in such a leader (**2 Chr 19:3**).

---

---





7) Who else did Jehoshaphat go to war with? (**2 Kgs** 3:1-27).

---

8) How was this similar and yet different from going to war with Ahab?

---



---



---



---



---

9) What was wrong with Jehoshaphat's decision in **2 Chr** 20:35-37? How did the Lord feel about this?

---



---

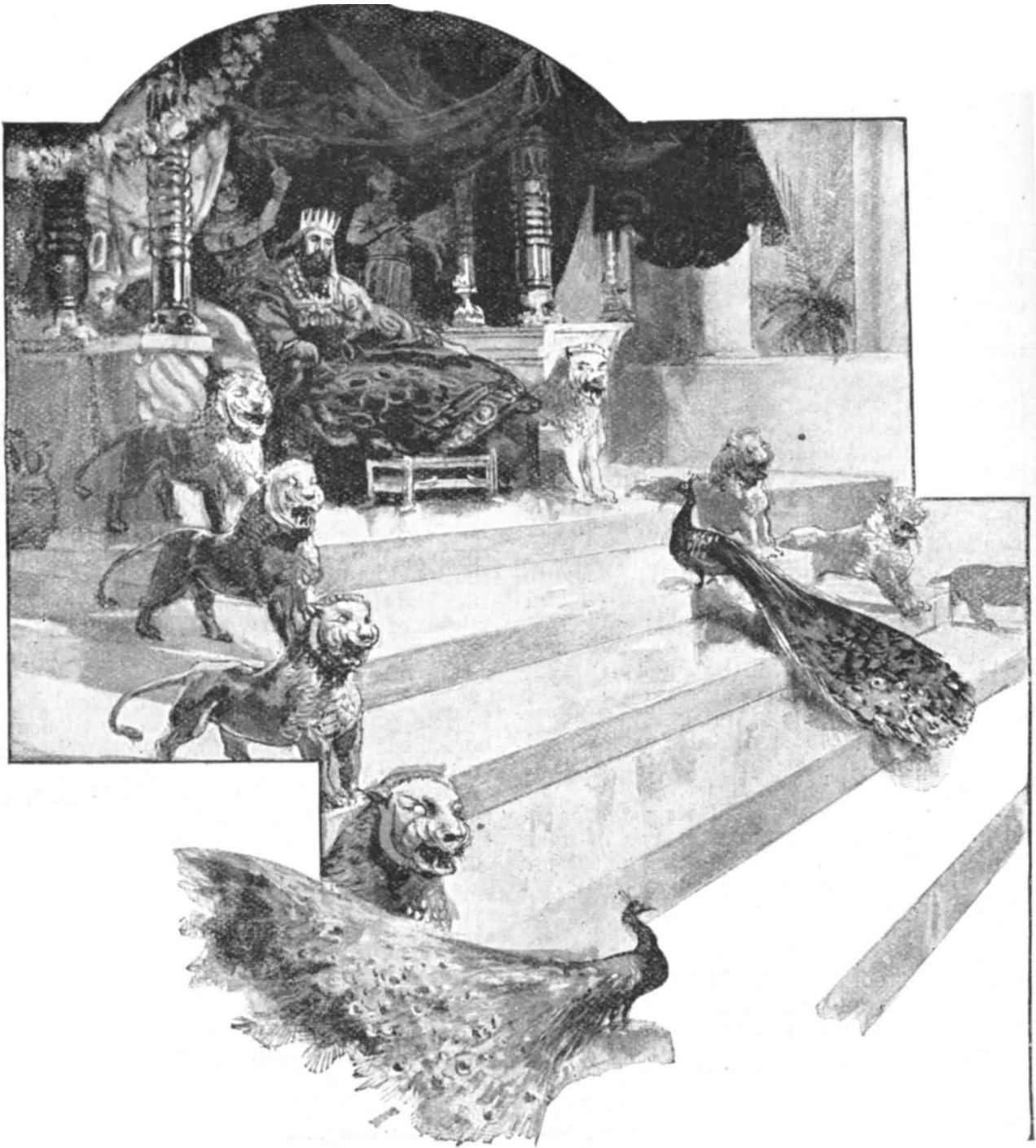


---

10) Did Jehoshaphat finally wise up? (**1 Kgs** 22:48-49).

---





*"It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness."* - Proverbs 16:12.