

1 Kings

Spring Quarter 2022 (April – June)

Adult Wednesday Night

DATE	READING	SUBJECT
April 6	1 Kings 1-3	1. Solomon Established as King
April 13	1 Kings 4-6	2. Building the Temple
April 20	1 Kings 7-8	3. The Temple is Inaugurated
April 27	1 Kings 9-10	4. Solomon's Reign
May 4	1 Kings 11	5. Solomon's Failure
May 11	1 Kings 12	6. The Kingdom is Broken
May 18	1 Kings 13-14	7. The Fall of Jeroboam
May 25	1 Kings 15-16	8. The Failure Kings
June 1	1 Kings 17-18	9. Elijah and Ahab
June 8	1 Kings 19	10. Calling of Elisha
June 15	1 Kings 20	11. War with Syria
June 22	1 Kings 21	12. Naboth's Vineyard
June 29	1 Kings 22	13. Ahab and Jehoshaphat and the Prophets

Year BC	King of United Israel	Prophets of United Israel
1060-1020	Saul	Samuel
1020-980	David	Samuel, Nathan, Gad, Heman, Asaph, Jeduthun
980-931	Solomon	Nathan, Ahijah

Year BC	King of Judah	Prophets of Judah
931–914	Rehoboam	Iddo, Shemaiah
914–911	Abijah	Iddo
911–870	Asa	Azariah, Hanani
870–845	Jehoshaphat	Elisha, Micaiah
851–843	Jehoram	Obadiah (?), Elijah (PS?)
843–842	Ahaziah	
842–835	Athaliah	
842–802	Jehoash	Joel, Zechariah (2 Chron. 24)
805–776	Amaziah	Unknown (2 Chron. 25:15)
788–736	Uzziah	Isaiah
758–742	Jotham	Isaiah, Micah, Oded
742–726	Ahaz	
726–697	Hezekiah	
697–642	Manasseh	Nahum
642–640	Amon	
640–609	Josiah	Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Huldah (prophetess)
609	Jehoahaz	Jeremiah
609–598	Jehoiakim	Jeremiah, Habakkuk
598–597	Jehoiachin	Jeremiah, Daniel
597–586	Zedekiah	Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel
Captivity		
586-539		Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel
Return to Judah		
539-520	*Zerubbabel	Haggai, Zechariah
445-432	*Nehemiah	Malachi

Year BC	King of Israel	Prophets of Israel
<u>922–901</u>	Jeroboam I	Ahijah, “Man of God”, Iddo,
<u>901–900</u>	Nadab	
<u>900–877</u>	Baasha	Jehu
<u>877–876</u>	Elah	Jehu
<u>876</u>	Zimri	
<u>876–869</u>	Omri	
<u>869–850</u>	Ahab	Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah Elisha
<u>850–849</u>	Ahaziah	
<u>849–842</u>	Joram	
<u>842–815</u>	Jehu	
<u>815–801</u>	Jehoahaz	
<u>801–786</u>	Jehoash	
<u>786–746</u>	Jeroboam II	Jonah Amos
<u>746</u>	Zachariah	Hosea
<u>745</u>	Shallum	
<u>745–738</u>	Menahem	
<u>738–737</u>	Pekahiah	
<u>737–732</u>	Pekah	
<u>732–722</u>	Hoshea	

* Governor, not king

Class 1: Solomon Established as King

April 6

1 Kings 1-3

SUMMARY: The death of King David brings a charge to Solomon his young son as king. Solomon can appreciate his lack of experience due to his age, so he petitions God for wisdom. God's response is to bless him with wisdom and wealth and glory. Solomon will be the greatest (by human standards) and the last king of Israel.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Was David right to ask Solomon to execute the people he did? Did Solomon agree?
2. What role did Bathsheba have in the court of King Solomon?
3. What is Solomon's mistake (sin?) in the first part of chapter 3? What else is noted about him that is sinful?
4. Why is Solomon's age referred to several times in his request for wisdom?
5. How did Solomon demonstrate his wisdom?

APPLICATIONS

What does James 1:5-6 and 4:3 tell us about asking for wisdom from God?

2. Building the Temple

April 13

1 Kings 4-6

SUMMARY: Solomon's kingdom was from the river Euphrates to the border of Egypt (the largest it would ever be). He was the wisest man to have lived, and was renowned for his knowledge. Solomon was prepared by David to build the Temple. Solomon used Phoenician laborers to build the Temple, taking seven years to complete it.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. How were several of Solomon's governors related to him?
2. What might it mean that Solomon had "largeness of heart"?
3. What is the significance (if any) of using Sidonians (Phoenicians) to build the temple?
4. Why would there need to be no iron tools working in the in the temple (1 Kings 6:7, Deut. 27:5-6)?
5. According to 1 Kings 6:11-13, what was God's condition for dwelling in Israel; was it the building of the Temple?

APPLICATIONS

What was the authority to build a Temple within the Law of Moses?

3. The Temple is Inaugurated

April

20

1 Kings 7-8

SUMMARY: Solomon pursues the building of his palace and then the temple. The palace is remarkable and the attention to detail is extraordinary. Solomon inaugurates the temple with countless sacrifices and offerings, and speaks to all Israel about the importance of the temple.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Why might it have taken longer to build the palace than the temple?
2. Who was Hiram and what was his ability?
3. What feast did Solomon inaugurate the feast during?
4. Can you reconcile 1 Kings 8:9 and Hebrews 9:4?
5. What might the significance of the cloud that filled the temple be?
6. Did Solomon believe that God would live in the temple?

APPLICATIONS

Today the Temple of God is the church (1 Cor. 3:16). What were some of the things that Solomon saw as being the value in having the temple (esp. 8:28-53)? How does that relate to the church today?

4. Solomon's Reign

April 27

1 Kings 9-10

SUMMARY: Once the temple is completed God appears again to Solomon and gives Him the divine command: walk with Me. God warns though that if he or his sons should turn away, God will not be with them. Solomon then began to expand his kingdom, building cities and setting Canaanites as forced labor. He even built a navy to seek out wealth. But perhaps the most significant moment is meeting the Queen of Sheba.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Solomon's Egyptian wife is mentioned multiple times in this reading and the last two. What are some of the reasons this may be?
2. What is the problem with giving Israelite cities to Hiram?
3. What did the Bible say about making forced labor of the Canaanites? Of Hebrews (Ex. 21:2)?
4. What impressed the Queen of Sheba about Solomon?
5. What problems can you see emerging with Solomon's great success, particularly in light of the commands given to kings in Deuteronomy 17?

APPLICATIONS

Jesus said that the Queen of Sheba would rise up in judgment against the people of His day (Mt. 12:42). Why is the Queen of Sheba an important person to understand?

5. Solomon's Failure

May 4

1 Kings 11

SUMMARY: Already we have seen Solomon make a number of decisions that were contrary to the will of God. Marrying foreign women. Giving away cities of Israel. Multiplying horses and wealth. As Solomon ages, he turns away from God and begins worshipping the gods of his wives, building shrines and altars to worship them. God condemns Solomon with a curse on the nation: the kingdom will be divided.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Which commands to kings in Deuteronomy 17 did Solomon break?
2. What may be the significance that this happened when Solomon was old(er)?
3. What is the irony of the Edomite Hadad marrying the Pharaoh's sister-in-law?
4. What did God promise Jeroboam? Why is it that the offer of tribes (ten to Jeroboam, one to David's house) do not add up to the total number of landed tribes?
5. How did Solomon respond to this?

APPLICATIONS

There is a great question as to whether Solomon repented in his old age (and perhaps wrote Ecclesiastes). What are your thoughts on this?

6. The Kingdom is Broken

May 11

1 Kings 12

SUMMARY: Rehoboam's kingdom was doomed before it began, but that did not mean that he had no part to play in its demise. He is made king in Shechem, and is immediately petitioned by the people to reduce taxation. He listens to his newer and younger advisors, and the nation is divided into two. God does not permit Rehoboam to unite the country.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Why might Rehoboam go to Shechem to be made king?
2. What was the petition of the people to Rehoboam, and who made it?
3. What two types of advice does Rehoboam seek? What is a lesson for us in this?
3. What stops Rehoboam from starting a civil war to retake the rebellious tribes (as had his grandfather David)? What does that suggest?
5. What institution does Jeroboam create? Why does he do this?

APPLICATIONS

Jeroboam's sin becomes something called "The Way of Jeroboam" throughout the Old Testament. How would you compare "The Way of Jeroboam" to matters today?

7. The Fall of Jeroboam

May 18

1 Kings 13-14

SUMMARY: Jeroboam has created the first denomination. God sends a prophet to come and rebuke him. But when the prophet returns home, he is deceived and killed. But this terrible sign failed to dissuade Jeroboam from his sins. Later, when his son is sick, he seeks out the prophet Ahijah, who advises him that his son, being righteous, will die.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. What prophecy does the man of God make against the altar of Bethel?
2. What did the other prophet of God tell the man of God?
3. What does God mean when it is said that there is something good in Ahijah, therefore he would die?
4. What kind of king was Rehoboam?
5. What does God permit Pharaoh Shishak to do? What might be the symbolism of permitting the temple to be sacked?

APPLICATIONS

One important application is the lesson of the young man of God. God struck him down for disobedience despite the fact that he had been lied to. What is the lesson for us in this today?

8. The Failure Kings

May 25

1 Kings 15-16 (2 Chronicles 13)

SUMMARY: The kings of Israel and Judah are mostly evil, vain men who reject God and served idols. There are exceptions, men who did what was right despite the examples of their fathers. God will continually send prophets seeking to either teach or turn them, and in the case of Israel, appointing new kings to replace the old. This first period of time sees the strength of both kingdoms wane, and a perpetual state of war between the kingdoms. At the end of 1 Kings 16 we meet Ahab, the worst of all.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. According to 2 Chronicles 13, what did Abijam try (and fail) to do?
2. What did Asa do that made him righteous? Who was his grandmother descended from?
3. Why was God be angry with Asa over his treaty with the king of Syria (2 Chron. 16:7)?
4. Why is God angry with Baasha?
5. What did Zimri do when he saw how the people responded to his kingship? How long had Zimri reigned?
6. What city did Omri found?

APPLICATIONS

King Asa seems to be less faithful as he gets older. We are told in 2 Chronicles that he was diseased in the feet, but sought out help from doctors and not God. Is this a sin?

9. Elijah and Ahab

June 1

1 Kings 17-18

SUMMARY: At the end of 1 Kings 16 we meet King Ahab of the Omri dynasty. He is marked as the worst of the kings of Israel, and that his evil conduct was “stirred” by his wife Jezebel (1 Kings 21:25). 1 Kings 17 introduces us to God’s answer: Elijah. Elijah (and later Elisha) are significant due to the miracles performed in their presence. Elijah prophesies drought (and later rain) on Israel. Finally, the great battle of Mt. Carmel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal is a highpoint.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Why is Ahab’s worship of Baal seen as worse than the way of Jeroboam (1 King 16:31)?
2. What are the miracles seen in 1 Kings 17?
3. Why does Jesus say that the Sidonian widow is noteworthy in Luke 4:25-26?
4. Why was Elijah hunted by Ahab?
5. What contest did Elijah propose at Mt. Carmel?
6. When Jehovah won the contest what did Elijah do to the priest of Baal?

APPLICATIONS

What lessons can we learn from the battle between Elijah and Ahab?

10. Calling of Elisha

June 8

1 Kings 19

SUMMARY: After the great battle with Ahab, Elijah is in retreat. Discouraged, he is taken to the wilderness where God reveals Himself to Elijah. Now Elijah is commissioned to anoint his replacement and prepare for the future. Elijah rises and goes to Elisha, who follows him.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Elijah went with only one meal for 40 days. Who else fasted for 40 days in the Bible?
2. What other prophets have wished they were dead?
3. What is another name for Mt. Horeb? Who else on this mountain was in a cave/cleft, and God passed by?
4. How was Elijah to make Elisha a prophet? What other offices are made this way?
5. How did Elisha accept being named a prophet? What did he do when called?

APPLICATIONS

When Elijah complains he has failed, God tells him of the 7,000 who have not bowed a knee to Baal. What does this mean, and how can we apply it when we are discouraged in our labors?

11. War With Syria

June 15

1 Kings 20

SUMMARY: The Syrian King Ben Hadad is threatening King Ahab. Before battle a prophet of God promises to deliver the Syrians into the hands of Israel. After the first victory the Syrians regroup and attack again in the Spring. Once more the (unnamed) prophet promises a victory. When the Syrians are again defeated, Ahab spares the king contrary to God's wish. Thus Ahab brings upon himself a curse.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. What might the purpose of Ben-Hadad's threat be to Ahab?
2. What did Ahab's response mean: "Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off"?
3. Did Ahab trust in the prophecy of God?
4. What were the terms of the treaty between Ahab and Ben-Hadad ?
5. Why did the prophet of God insist on being struck before talking to Ahab?

APPLICATIONS

Ahab declared of Ben-Hadad "He is my brother." What lesson on fellowship can we learn from this event?

12. Naboth's Vineyard

June 15

1 Kings 21

SUMMARY: Ahab coveted a vineyard belonging to an Israelite named Naboth. Naboth refused to sell it, so Jezebel hatches scheme to murder Naboth and take it. Elijah travels to Ahab and pronounces a curse on Ahab for his crime. Ahab repents, and God relents on the timing of the curse .

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. What was the reason Ahab sought the vineyard?
2. Why would Naboth not sell the vineyard?
3. What did Jezebel's scheme consist of? Which of the Ten Commandments did this break?
4. What was Ahab's name for Elijah here? Elsewhere?
5. What was the curse on the house of Ahab?
6. What is Ahab's response?

APPLICATIONS

When told of his sin, Ahab humbled himself before God. Why is this such an important lesson to us?

13. Jehoshaphat, Ahab and the Prophets

June 22

1 Kings 22

SUMMARY: A peace has been established between Jehoshaphat of Judah and Ahab of Israel. The two kings meet in a council of war, and prophets are brought to seek the will of Jehovah. Jehoshaphat seeks another prophet, Micaiah, who at first pronounces victory, but then advises of defeat. The battle begins, and Ahab is mortally wounded, taken to Samaria and dies. His son Ahaziah then reigned.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. What was the motivation for war with Syria?
2. Why might Jehoshaphat have asked for another prophet?
3. What was Ahab's opinion of Micaiah?
4. What was Micaiah's first prophecy? What was his second? Why the difference?
5. What was the false prophet's reaction to Micaiah? What was Ahab's reaction to Micaiah?
6. What did Ahab do to Micaiah?
7. How did Ahab approach the battle? What does this suggest about how he viewed Jehoshaphat?

APPLICATIONS

What is the lesson we should learn from Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab?