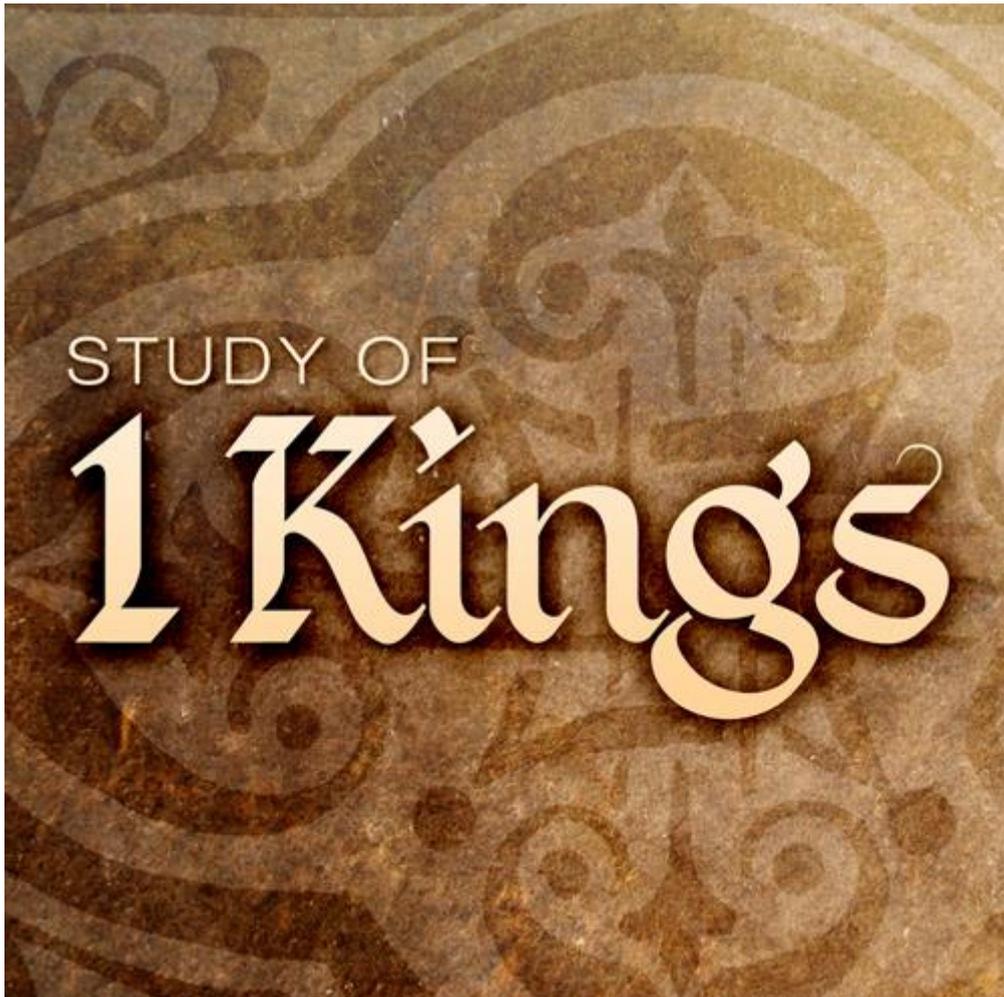


The Book of 1 Kings



Part 7 3 studies in 1 Kings

Introduction

The two books, 1 & 2 Kings, in the Hebrew Old Testament were one book. It was divided by the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translators. They summarized these books as follows: I The Reign of Solomon; II Division of the Kingdom, and Parallel History of the Two Kingdoms; III Subsequent History of Judah to the Captivity.

1 Kings opens with the Hebrew nation in its glory. 2 Kings closes with the nation in ruin. Together they cover a period of about 400 years, from 1000-600 BC.

Author

The author is not known. A Jewish tradition says it was Jeremiah. Whoever the author is, he makes frequent reference to state annals and other historical records existent in his day, such as: “The book of the acts of Solomon”; “The book of chronicles of the Kings of Judah”; and “The book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel” (1 Kings 11:41; 14:19, 29; 15:7, 23, 31; 16:5, 14, 27 etc.).

Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The last days of David and Solomon’s Accession | 1 Kings 1:1 – 1 Kings 2:46 |
| 2. The reign of Solomon | 1 Kings 3:1 – 1 Kings 11:43 |
| 3. History of the Divided Kingdom | 1 Kings 12:1 – 2 Kings 10:36 |
| 4. History of Judah and Israel to the fall of Northern Kingdom | 2 Kings 11:1 – 2 Kings 17:41 |
| 5. History of Judah to the fall of Jerusalem | 2 Kings 18:1 – 2 Kings 25:30 |

Alternative Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Golden Age | 1 Kings 1-11 |
| 2. The Torn Kingdom | 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 |
| 3. The Last Days | 2 Kings 18-25 |

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
2. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.**

Study 1 – Choices we make

1 Kings 15:25-16:7

(Sermon on 28-Aug-22 – Ian Warrell)

Before we begin: Remind yourself what King Jeroboam of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) was like. Summarize his failings.

King Jeroboam ruled the 10 tribes of Israel in the Northern Kingdom. He invented a false worship/religion by creating two golden calves to worship – one in Dan and one in Bethel. He failed to follow God's ways and went his own way. He did more evil than anyone before him (1 Kings 14:9) by making idol worship centres.

Note: Make use of the list of Kings in Appendix 1 as you do the study.

Read 1 Kings 15:25-32

1. Who became King of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) after Jeroboam? What is the assessment of Jeroboam's successor in verse 26?

Nadab succeeded his father, Jeroboam. He committed the same sins as his father.

2. What extra information do we glean from 2 Chronicles 11:14 about Jeroboam and his sons?

The Levites (God's ordained priestly tribe) abandoned their land in the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and came to the Southern Kingdom (Judah) and to Jerusalem because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them as priests.

3. Who is Baasha? Have we heard of him already in 1 Kings, if so, where?

Baasha is the King of Israel. We heard about him earlier in the chapter by he was not introduced and no explanation of how he came to power was given; but we are about to find out now.

4. What happens to King Nadab in vv27-28? Should we be surprised? See 1 Kings 11:38 and 1 Kings 14:10-11.

King Nadab is struck down and killed by Baasha and the latter succeeds him as king. We should not be surprised because Jeroboam (Nabab's father) was told in 1 Kings 11:38 if he obeyed God's commands, he would have a dynasty like David; but Jeroboam didn't obey God. Also, in 1 Kings 14:10-11, the prophet Ahijah prophesied against Jeroboam that disaster would come upon Jeroboam's house and all males would be cut off. This is now being accomplished by Baasha.

5. What did Baasha do as soon as he began his reign in vv29-30? Again, should we be surprised? See 1 Kings 12:30; 13:34 and 14:10-11.

He killed all Jeroboam's family as the prophet Ahijah had prophesied, because of the sins of Jeroboam and because of the sins he had caused the people of Israel to commit.

We should not be surprised because as 1 Kings 12:30 – the people worshipped at Dan and Bethel; and as 1 Kings 13:33-34 says Jeroboam appointed priests for worship at the high places; and of course, Ahijah prophesied destruction of Jeroboam’s house in 1 Kings 14:10-11.

Read 1 Kings 15:33-34

6. What’s the assessment of King Baasha in verses 33 and 34?

Baasha was no better; he did evil in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of Jeroboam and committed the same sin Jeroboam had caused the people to commit.

7. **Ponder:** Should we be surprised that a man like Baasha who came to the throne by assassinating the King, is described as a wicked man who did evil in the eyes of the Lord? *No, we shouldn’t be surprised that Baasha is described as a wicked man who did evil in the eyes of the Lord. God used Baasha to accomplish and fulfil His prophecy, not because Baasha was good but because God knew what Baasha was like. God allowed it, but he is not the author of it.*

8. **Ponder:** Although Baasha was not a **genetic** descendant of Jeroboam, is he a **spiritual** descendant? What do you think?

Although Baasha is not a genetic descendant – he did not make any changes to the false worship practices of Jeroboam; and so, in that sense he is a spiritual descendant, as he committed exactly the same sins under an identical regime.

Read 1 Kings 16:1-4

9. What’s the charge, given by the prophet Jehu, against Baasha here?

Jehu says God lifted Baasha from a lowly position (out of the dust) and appointed him ruler of His people; but Baasha did exactly the same sins as Jeroboam. Nothing has changed! Baasha missed a golden opportunity.

10. What’s the judgment, given by the prophet Jehu, on Baasha here? Does this sound familiar? (cf. 1 Kings 14:10-11)

Baasha, because he committed the same sin as Jeroboam; he will receive the same punishment. God will make the house of Baasha like Jeroboam’s house. All who belong to Baasha will die, just like in Jeroboam’s household.

Read 1 Kings 16:5-7

11. How is Baasha’s reign summarized in verses 5 & 6? Who succeeded Baasha?

No details are given. They are written in the annals of the kings of Israel; and are of no interest to the author of 1 Kings; he is only interested in spiritual well-being of the kings. Elah, Baasha’s son, succeeded him as king.

12. Verse 7 describes God's anger at the evil that Baasha had done in the eyes of the Lord; describing Baasha as becoming like the house of Jeroboam – and saying that God was also angry because Baasha destroyed the house of Jeroboam. **Ponder:** did God cause/coerce Baasha to destroy the house of Jeroboam (1 Kings 15:29-30) or did God simply use Baasha's wickedness and allow Baasha to bring about His judgment. What do you think? For a comparison, look at how God uses Judas (Mark 14:20-21).

God is not the author of evil; nor did he coerce or instruct Baasha to do this. God simply uses Baasha's evil to accomplish and fulfil His prophecy and bring about judgment on Jeroboam's household. God knew what Baasha would do. In the same way, Jesus knew Judas would betray Him, but He did instruct or coerce him to do so.

Read Colossians 3:1-4

13. What does Paul say we are in Christ?

We are raised with Christ (v1) into a new life; a life that is now hidden in Christ (v3) and Christ is our life (v4). In other words, to use the Bible Society slogan "Jesus is all about life". To live is to live for Jesus.

14. What does Paul say our minds should be like and what are life in Christ is like?

We should set our minds (and hearts) on things above. That is things which will bring glory and honour to God in Heaven. Our lives need to model Christ's life showing sacrificial love and obedience to God.

Read Colossians 3:5-11

15. What are we to put to death in verses 5 to 7?

We need to put to death: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

16. What traces of worldliness are we to remove in verses 8 to 9?

We are to rid ourselves of: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips; and lies.

17. What are we to "put on" in verses 10 to 11?

We are to put on our new self (a new life in Christ) because we are made in the image of God, our Creator. It doesn't matter what ethnic background or status we have – we are now all one in Christ and equal in Him.

Read Colossians 3:12-17

18. According to the Apostle Paul, what does the new life of the person in Christ really look like in verses 12 to 17?

We are God's chosen people. We are holy (because of Jesus) and dearly loved.

So, we need to clothe ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We are to bear with one another and forgive one another; just as the Lord forgave us. We are to put on love above all else, which binds us together in perfect unity. Peace should rule our hearts (not conflict and fighting). The message of Jesus must dwell in our hearts – and we should be using God’s word to admonish one another; as well as singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. In fact, everything we do, in word and deed, do it in Jesus’ name; giving thanks to God, through Jesus.

19. How does Colossians 3:1-17 relate to 1 Kings 15:25-16:7?

The teaching of Colossians 3:1-17 and our life in Christ is a stark contrast to the lives of Jeroboam, his son Nadab and their successor, Baasha. The characters of 1 Kings 15:25-16:7 all had a choice whether to go God’s way or their own way. They sadly all chose to go their own way and a way that brought them far from God. In contrast, our lives in Christ, mean as the Apostle Paul tells us in Colossians 3:1-17; that we have a choice to put off our old lifestyle before we became a Christian; and put off the lifestyle this world offers and tempts us to do; and put on a new life in Jesus; following His example and His character.

What’s the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 15:25-16:7?

We all have a choice to do good or to do evil.



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

Unlike the characters of 1 Kings 15:25-16:7; Jesus always followed God’s ways and God’s will in order to bring about salvation to all who care to believe in Him.

God brought judgment on Jeroboam’s household through a wicked man Baasha but God brings about judgment of the whole world; through His perfect obedient Son, Jesus.

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. God’s prophecies always come to pass (i.e., the destruction of Jeroboam’s household)*
- b. We have a choice to do evil or do good.*
- c. Our sinfulness shows us the need for Jesus as our Saviour.*
- d. As Christians we have a new life in Jesus; we need to make good choices and turn away from the character of our old life and embrace the righteous life we have because of Jesus.*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Colossians 3:1-2 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Finish in prayer: Ask God that, as people made alive in Christ, He would help us to put to death what belongs to our earthly nature and help us to clothe ourselves in righteousness through Christ Jesus.

Study 2 – How God speaks

1 Kings 16:8-28

(Sermon on 04-Sep-22 – Ian Warrell)

Before we begin: Which Kings did we deal with in the last study? What was the assessment of these kings, and why?

King Nadab – he did evil in the eyes of the Lord – following in his father, Jeroboam’s footsteps (1 Kings 15:26)

King Baasha – he did evil in the eyes of the Lord - - following the ways of Jeroboam (1 Kings 15:34)

Note: Make use of the list of Kings in Appendix 1 as you do the study.

Read 1 Kings 16:8-14

1. Who becomes King after Baasha in verse 8?

Elah becomes King of Israel.

2. How long does the reign of Elah last? What happens to Elah?

He reigned two years.

3. **Ponder:** Why do you think Elah’s reign is so short?

Because God had promised/prophesied that Baasha’s (Elah’s father) household would be wiped out like Jeroboam’s household (see 1 Kings 16:7). Therefore, this meant Elah, had to be wiped out too!

4. Who becomes King after Elah?

Zimri, one of the King’s officials.

5. What does Zimri do in verse 11? See verses 12 and 13 for the answer?

He killed off Baasha’s whole family. This was done in accordance with the word of the Lord spoken against Baasha through the prophet Jehu. Why? Because of all the sins of Baasha and his son Elah committed, and all the sins they caused the people of Israel to commit.

Read 1 Kings 16:15-20

6. How long did Zimri reign? Why so short?

Zimri only reigned 7 days. Because the Israelites heard that Zimri had plotted to kill their King (Elah)

7. What did the Israelites do against Zimri? Why?

The army was encamped at Gibbethon, a Philistine town, when they heard that Zimri had plotted against the King and murdered King Elah. The commander of the army Omri and all the Israelites withdrew from Gibbethon and laid siege on Tirzah.

8. Who did the Israelites proclaim as King instead? Why?

They proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, as king. Why? Because they saw Zimri as a traitor.

9. What did Zimri do when he saw the situation, he was in was hopeless?

Zimri went to the royal palace and set it on fire.

10. What happened to Zimri. Why?

He died in the fire. Why? Because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord and following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.

Read 1 Kings 16:21-28

11. What two factions exist amongst the people? How is it resolved?

Half the people supported Tibni son of Ginath for King and half supported Omri, the commander of the army, as King.

Omri's followers proved stronger than Tibni's followers; so Tibni died and Omri became King.

12. What did Omri buy in verse 24? Why?

He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver – calling the hill Samaria after Shemer. Why? So that Samaria became the capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Omri built a capital that was politically neutral (being a new city with no previous tribal associations) and in a strong defensive position (on top of a hill).

13. What assessment of Omri is given in verses 25 & 26? How does God feel about this?

He committed the exact same sins as Jeroboam and caused Israel to commit those same sins and worship worthless idols. God's anger was aroused yet again!

14. Who succeeded Omri?

Omri's son Ahab succeeded him.

15. **Ponder:** what pattern are we seeing in the 5 kings following Jeroboam? (i.e., Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri and Omri). Is God trying to speak to us here?

All of these Kings repeated the sins of Jeroboam. God is trying to show that we must break the mold of sinful precedents and walk in His ways and not in the ways of our sinful ancestors. These characters are in the Bible; so that we DON'T make their same mistakes!

16. **Ponder:** how has God spoken to the Kings mentioned in 1 Kings 16:8-28?

Through His Word given to the prophet Jehu and in previous chapters through the prophet Ahijah.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-12

17. According to Paul, what does Timothy know about Paul?

Timothy knows all about Paul's teaching, his way of life, his purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings and what has happened to Paul in his various missionary journeys; and that the Lord rescued Paul from all sorts of trials and persecutions.

Basically, Paul is saying Timothy knows from Paul what walking in Christ and following God's way looks like.

18. What does Paul say Timothy can expect when being a disciple of Jesus?

Being a disciple of Jesus WILL involve persecution.

Read 2 Timothy 3:13-17

19. What comparison does Paul make in verses 13 and 14?

Paul compares evildoers/imposters with fair-dinkum Christians.

Evildoers/imposters will go from bad to worse (as we saw with the Kings in 1 Kings 16) whereas fair-dinkum Christians continue in what they have learned from Jesus' words.

20. How long has Timothy known the scriptures? How did this come about? (cf. 2 Timothy 1:5)

Timothy has known scriptures from infancy. This came about from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.

This is a good advert for teaching our children at SRE in schools and at Friday/Sunday Jaffa.

21. According to verse 15 what does scripture achieve?

Makes us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus; in other words, God's Word tells us how we get forgiven and saved for eternal life in Heaven.

22. How is scripture described in verses 16 & 17. Is this encouraging?

Scripture is God-breathed; that is, it comes from God, not from human beings!

Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

23. According to verse 17 what's the purpose of Scripture?

So that as servants of God, we can become thoroughly equipped for EVERY good work.

24. How is God speaking to us today? (cf. Hebrews 1:1-2)

In the past, God spoke to our ancestors (like those in the Old Testament) through prophets (like Ahijah and Jehu); but now (in these last days) He has spoken to us by His Son, Jesus, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe!

25. How does 2 Timothy 3:10-17 relate to 1 Kings 16:8-28?

God has always spoken to His people through His Word. In the Old Testament, God's Word was dispensed either directly to people and also through His appointed prophets (like Moses, Samuel etc.). God's word ALWAYS directs and instructs and warns His people. According to 2 Timothy 3:10-17; God's Word still speaks to us today in exactly the same way.

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 16:8-28?

God's word speaks to us – but we must listen and obey!



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

Just as God spoke through His prophet Jehu – He now speaks to us through His Son – who is described as the Word made flesh (John 1:14) and His Word gives us so many

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. Heed God's Word*
- b. Use God's word to equip you to be a servant of Jesus*
- c. Use God's word to teach others, especially our children*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Ask God to speak to us through His Holy Word; so that we are thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Study 3 – It's not going to rain for a while

1 Kings 16:29-17:1
(Sermon on 11-Sep-22)

Read Deuteronomy 11:16-17

1. What's the warning here? What's the punishment prescribed?

Deuteronomy 11:16-17 says: ¹⁶ Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷ Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.

God says if they worship other gods – He will stop the rain from falling which will affect their crops!

Read Deuteronomy 28:15, 23-24

2. What's the warning here? What's the punishment prescribed?

¹⁵ However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees, I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:... ²³ The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. ²⁴ The LORD will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

God says if they don't follow His commands and decrees; He will affect their weather patterns. As MSG puts it: The sky over your head will become an iron roof, the ground under your feet, a slab of concrete. From out of the skies GOD will rain ash and dust down on you until you suffocate.

Read 1 Kings 16:29-34

3. Who is the new king in v29? How long does he reign?

Ahab son of Omri became King over Israel. He reigned 22 years.

4. What telling assessment of Ahab do we get in verse 30?

Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than anyone before him, including Jeroboam, who seems to be the benchmark.

5. How did Ahab consider the sins of Jeroboam in verse 31?

He considered the sins of Jeroboam to be trivial.

One commentator puts it this way: Jeroboam intended to serve the LORD through idolatrous images (such as the golden calf) and in disobedient ways (altars and high places other than Jerusalem). Ahab introduced the worship of completely new, pagan gods. In his disobedience Jeroboam said, "I will worship the LORD, but do it my way." Ahab said, "I want to forget about the LORD completely and worship Baal."

6. Who does Ahab marry and why might that be a problem?

Just as King Solomon had married foreign wives which led to His downfall, so too Ahab marries a foreign wife, Jezebel. Jezebel was from Sidon and daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon. They

served the false god Baal. Ethbaal's name means "with Baal" and Jezebel's name means "Baal exalts".

You can see that the problem is going to be that Jezebel and her worship of a false god is going to influence her husband, King Ahab of Israel!

Over the course of the next few chapters, we will see this false worship is accompanied by prophets of Baal – and attempts to kill the prophets of YHWH the one true God!

7. What political reasons might there be for the marriage?

From a secular point of view (rather than spiritual point of view); the marriage between Ahab and Jezebel might seem a prudent political move, intermarrying with a Sidonian – giving access to the ports and the sea. Also, Tyre, Sidon, Phoenicia and Israel were all under threat from Syria in the north, so any military alliance would make them stronger as they work together.

8. How is Ahab's worship practices described in verses 31b to 33?

He worshipped the false god Baal.

He built a temple for Baal in Samaria and set up an altar for Baal in that temple.

He made an Asherah pole to worship the false goddess Asherah.

9. What's the assessment of Ahab's worship practices in verse 33b?

The assessment of Ahab's worship practices was that these practices aroused God's anger more than any of the Kings of Israel before him (even Jeroboam!)

10. What is Ahab trying to do in verse 34? (cf. Joshua 6:26). What does that say about Ahab?

Back in Joshua chapter 6 the walls of Jericho collapsed when God instructed Joshua's army accompanied by seven priests with seven trumpets to march around the city. Joshua declared an oath that day, in Joshua 6:26, saying: Cursed before the LORD is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest he will set up its gates."

In other words, no one is to rebuild the city of Jericho.

But here in verse 34 of 1 Kings 16, Ahab allows a man named Hiel of Bethel to rebuild Jericho and it cost him his firstborn son Abiram and his youngest son Segub; just as the prophecy in Joshua 6:26 said.

Basically, Ahab was challenging and ignoring the prophecy of Joshua, thinking he could rebuild Jericho without being affected by the curse stated in the prophecy.

Read 1 Kings 17:1

11. What comfort is there in the appearance of the prophet, Elijah? Are we surprised that he just turns up without introduction? Yes/No/Maybe?

At a crucial time in the history of Israel, out of nowhere, without any prior mention, the prophet Elijah [whose name means "my God is Jehovah (YHWH)] suddenly appeared.

Without reading any further, you just know that God has stepped into this point in history and will act against this evil regime.

We shouldn't be surprised by Elijah's introduction. God's action and timing are always perfect!

12. What does Elijah tell Ahab? Is this a surprise? (Hint: refer back to the verses from Deuteronomy we read at the start of this study)

Elijah tells Ahab, as the Lord's prophet, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except by Elijah's word (from God). This says to the Baal worshippers who think Baal is the one to worship for rain and fertile crops – that the Lord God YHWH is in control not Baal!

This should not be a surprise, as this is precisely what God warned of back in the Deuteronomy verses we looked at.

13. **Ponder:** what does this prophecy from Elijah say about God?

God's word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and achieve His purposes (Isaiah 55:11)

Read Revelation 2:12-17

14. What's the positive assessment of the church in Pergamum?

Pergamum was a centre for pagan religion, so any Christian church in such an environment is going to be under great threat and persecution.

They remained true to the Lord's name (v13)

They did not renounce their faith in the Lord (v13) despite the circumstances they lived in.

A faithful martyr called Antipas – killed for his faith in Jesus – is also commended.

15. What's the negative assessment of the church in Pergamum?

- a. *There were some in the church of Pergamum who held to the teaching of Balaam. Balaam was a prototype of all corrupt teachers. According to Numbers 22-24 and 31, Balaam enticed the Israelites into sins of sexual immorality and idolatry to please Balak, the king of Moab. If there were people in the church in Pergamum who held to Balaam's doctrine, it meant they had a tendency towards idolatry and immorality. The latter is not surprising as sexual immorality marked the whole culture of the ancient Roman Empire. As Barclay says: "to keep from sexual immorality in that culture, you really had to swim against the current!"*
- b. *There were some in the church of Pergamum who held to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. The exact origin and teaching of the Nicolaitans is unclear. Clement of Alexandria describes them as "abandoning themselves to pleasure like goats, leading a life of self-indulgence". Other commentators suggest they encouraged each other to eat food offered to idols and committing sexual immorality. Whatever their teaching and behaviour was; it was an abomination to our Lord Jesus!*

16. **Ponder:** How does the phrase “*I know where you – where Satan has his throne*” relate to the passage from 1 Kings 16:29-17:1?

Jesus describes the church of Pergamum as living in a city where the throne of Satan is. Satan was active in the city and in the church, trying to wreck things with lies, deceit and wickedness. That’s his job description. In the same way, in 1 Kings 16:29-17:1 – we have the worse King of Israel there has ever been, King Ahab, and he deceived into terrible false worship. Ahab’s throne really is the throne of Satan.

17. What encouragement is there in the response of the church of Pergamum to “Satan’s throne” also in verse 13?

Despite this throne of Satan in Pergamum, the people remained true to Jesus’ name and did not renounce their faith.

What’s the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 16:29-17:1?

God will not stand by and allow false worship and evil – He will act



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

In 1 Kings 17:1 – God steps in to time and place – at just the right time – by sending Elijah to deal with the evil of Ahab’s reign and worship. In the same way – God steps in to time and place – and just the right time – and sends His Son Jesus to Earth on a rescue mission.

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. *If we turn away from God (and worship other things ahead of Him) either as a nation or individually; we can expect Him to punish us (the nation) or withhold blessings.*
- b. *If God says something will happen – it will happen (i.e., Joshua 6:26)*
- c. *Thinking we know better than God – and open defiance of God’s word never works out (i.e., the rebuild of Jericho) – ask Hiel about his two sons?*
- d. *God’s action and timing are always perfect! (i.e., the introduction of Elijah)*
- e. *In Rev 2:16 – there is a call to repent from such false worship*
- f. *And in Rev 2:17 – there is a call to “really listen” to what the Holy Spirit says*
- g. *Despite us living in times where “the throne of Satan” is all around us – we must remain true to our Lord Jesus’ name and not renounce our faith.*
- h. *Are we in danger of thinking things can’t get worse – the reign of Ahab says “yes, they can!”*
- i. *God knows where we are living (Rev 2:13)*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

1 Kings 17:1 - Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Finish in prayer: Ask God to help us to remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus and remain true to the name of Jesus (Rev 2:13), no matter what arrows Satan fires at us; remembering we have the armour of God to protect us. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Appendix 1

Kings of Judah and Israel									
Saul		1050-1010 BC							
David		1010-970							
Solomon		970-930							
Judah (and Benjamin)				Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)					
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Ahijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah Micaiah
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	Elisha
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good		13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad-repent		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	2 years	Bad	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah	17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		18. Pekah	740-732*	20 years	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad	722 BC Fall of Israel / Assyrian Captivity	19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad						
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									

Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
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Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

1 and 2 Kings (Donald J. Wiseman – Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)

1 Kings – The Wisdom and the Folly (Dale Ralph Davis)

Halley's Bible Handbook – New Revised Edition (Henry H. Halley)

Notes/Prayer Points