

Sunday School Member Quarterly

Spring 2025

1 Kings

Wrong Choices

Sunday School Lessons for Adults and Youth

Written by John O. Yates



Morningside

B A P T I S T C H U R C H

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Sunday School – 9:00 each Sunday Morning

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1 Kings,
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Updated and revised 2025 for the Spring 2025 quarter.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are taken
from the King James Version of the Bible.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Sunday School Lessons

March through May 2025

1 Kings

Wrong Choices

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Daily Bible Reading Guide

Read the following scripture passages each day and complete the learning activities in this book each week. This will prepare you for Sunday School class, and God will bless you as you read, study, and memorize His Word.

Week of February 24 – March 1

Mon: 1 Kings 1; **Tues:** 1 Kings 2;

Wed: 1 Chronicles 22:6 – 23:1; **Thurs:** Memorize 1 Peter 5:6;

Fri: 1 Chronicles 29; **Sat:** 1 Kings 2

Week of March 3 – 8

Mon: 1 Kings 3; **Tues:** 1 Kings 4; **Wed:** 2 Chronicles 1;

Thurs: Memorize James 1:5; **Fri:** Proverbs 1; **Sat:** 1 Kings 3

Week of March 10 – 15

Mon: 1 Kings 5; **Tues:** 1 Kings 6; **Wed:** 2 Chronicles 2;

Thurs: 2 Chronicles 3; **Fri:** 1 Kings 7:1-26;

Sat: 1 Kings 7:27-51

Week of March 17 – 22

Mon: 1 Kings 8:1-21; **Tues:** 2 Chronicles 5;

Wed: 1 Kings 8:22-53; **Thurs:** 2 Chronicles 6:21-42;

Fri: 1 Kings 8:54-66; **Sat:** 2 Chronicles 7:1-11

Week of March 24 – 29

Mon: 1 Kings 9; **Tues:** 1 Kings 10;

Wed: 2 Chronicles 7; **Thurs:** Memorize Galatians 6:7-8;

Fri: Deuteronomy 17:14-20; **Sat:** Ecclesiastes 2

Week of March 31 – April 5

Mon: 1 Kings 11; **Tues:** Exodus 20:1-5; 34:10-17;

Wed: Deuteronomy 7:1-16; **Thurs:** Nehemiah 13:23-31;

Fri: 2 Corinthians 6; **Sat:** 1 Kings 11

Week of April 7 – 12

Mon: 1 Kings 12; **Tues:** 2 Chronicles 10;
Wed: 2 Chronicles 11; **Thurs:** Psalm 1; **Fri:** Proverbs 16;
Sat: 1 Kings 12

Week of April 14 – 19

Mon: Matthew 28; **Tues:** 1 Corinthians 15;
Wed: Acts 2:22-41; **Thurs:** Memorize Matthew 28:18-20;
Fri: Luke 24; **Sat:** Matthew 28

Week of April 21 – 26

Mon: 1 Kings 13; **Tues:** 1 Kings 14; **Wed:** 2 Chronicles 12;
Thurs: 2 Chronicles 13; **Fri:** 2 Chronicles 14 – 15;
Sat: 1 Kings 15:1-24

Week of April 28 – May 3

Mon: 1 Kings 15:25-34; **Tues:** 1 Kings 16; **Wed:** 1 Kings 17;
Thurs: Memorize Romans 6:16; **Fri:** James 5;
Sat: 1 Kings 17

Week of May 5 – 10

Mon: 1 Kings 18:1-19; **Tues:** 1 Kings 18:20-46;
Wed: James 4; **Thurs:** Memorize 1 Kings 18:21;
Fri: James 1; **Sat:** 1 Kings 18

Week of May 12 – 17

Mon: 1 Kings 19; **Tues:** 1 Kings 20; **Wed:** Philippians 4;
Thurs: Memorize one or more of the verses listed on page 45;
Fri: John 14; **Sat:** 1 Kings 19

Week of May 19 – 24

Mon: 1 Kings 21; **Tues:** 1 Kings 22; **Wed:** 2 Chronicles 17;
Thurs: 2 Chronicles 18; **Fri:** 2 Chronicles 19;
Sat: 2 Chronicles 20

Coming Next Quarter (June – August 2025)

Galatians, James

Introduction to 1 Kings

Author: Unknown

Date: 6th century B.C.

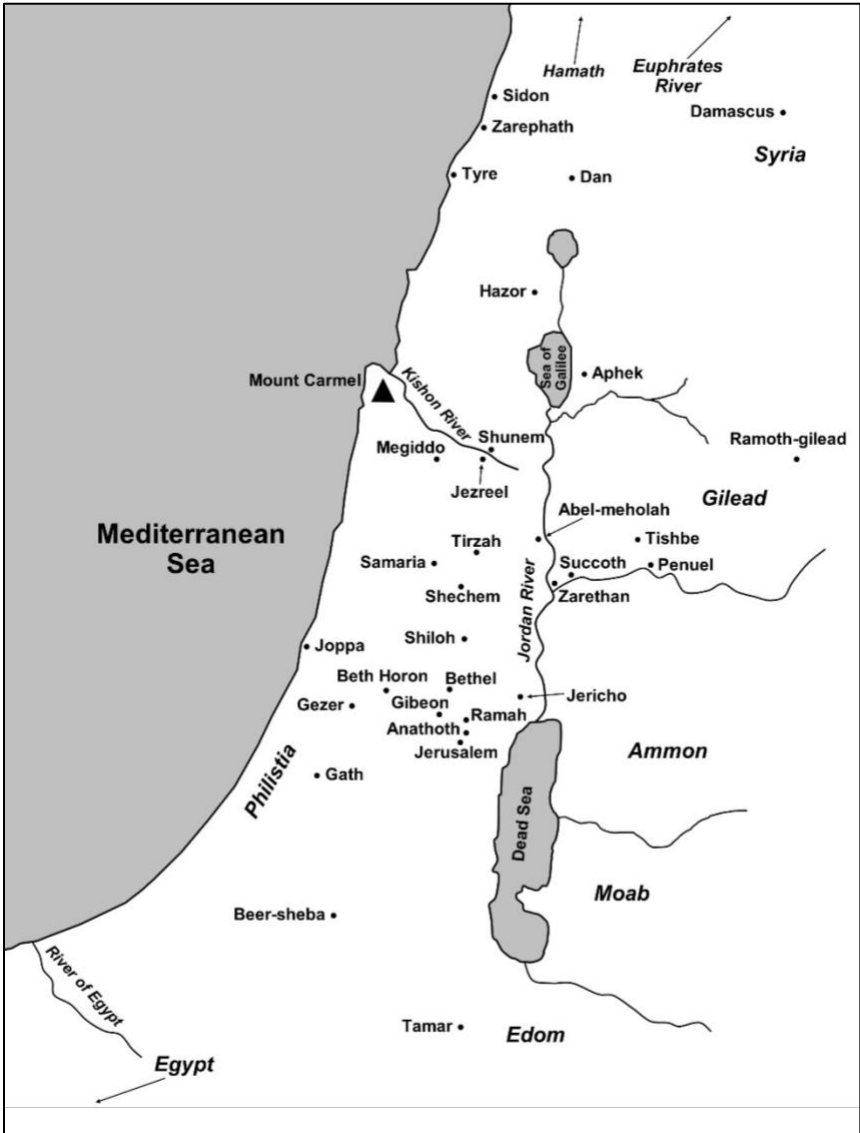
First Kings is one of the twelve historical books of the Old Testament (Joshua through Esther). Originally 1 and 2 Kings were one book, describing Israel's history from the death of King David (971 B.C.) until the Babylonian Captivity (586 B.C.). This quarter's study of 1 Kings covers the first 120 years of that period, from 971 to 853 B.C. First Kings describes the reign of Solomon, the construction of the Temple, and the unrest following Solomon's death that resulted in the division of God's chosen people into two distinct kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom of **Israel** and the Southern Kingdom of **Judah**. Authorship is uncertain, but many scholars (as well as Jewish tradition) suggest that the prophet Jeremiah (646-570 B.C.) wrote 1 and 2 Kings.

The two kingdoms were quite different. Judah continued for 345 years under 19 kings, all of whom were descendants of King David. Israel, on the other hand, went immediately into idolatry and only survived 210 years. During that time, Israel had 19 kings from 9 different dynasties, **none** of whom were descended from David. Eight of Israel's kings were either murdered or committed suicide.¹

The theme of this quarter's study of 1 Kings is "**Wrong Choices.**" You will learn about many people who foolishly chose to disobey God, each of whom paid a terrible price. **Any time we decide to disobey God we are making the wrong choice.**

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Map of Israel



Deadly Ambition

Ryan was tired of having to obey all of his parents' rules; he wanted to do things his own way. That's why, even though he didn't have a driver's license, he took some friends out for a joyride in his mom's car. Ryan ran a stop sign, was hit by another car, and his legs were paralyzed.

Cindy was determined to date Robbie, even though her parents forbid her. She managed to sneak around and see him anyway. When she later discovered she was pregnant, Robbie dumped her.

Richard was a rising star in the business world. Through deception, cheating, and other unethical behaviors, he managed to become CEO of the company. He fixed the books to make the investors happy, but eventually got caught. Rather than being a rich CEO, he's serving time in prison.

In this lesson you will learn about some people who tried to do things their way, and what happened to them.

1 Ki. 1:5 **King David** was very old and feeble. **Adonijah** was his oldest living son. What did he want to be?

What did he do to make himself look “kingly?”

1 Ki. 1:6 David had never corrected Adonijah, so he was a spoiled, undisciplined person.

He enlisted the help of **Joab** (David's general) and **Abiathar** (the priest). Other top advisors were left in the dark.

1 Ki. 1:9 What did Adonijah do to celebrate his supposed rise to the throne?

1 Ki. 1:10 Who was excluded from the party?

1 Ki. 1:11 What did **Nathan** tell David's wife **Bathsheba**?

David had already decided that **Solomon**, Bathsheba's son, would be the next king (see verse 17; see also 1 Chron. 22:9-10).

1 Ki. 1:12 Why do you think the lives of Bathsheba and Solomon were in danger?

Nathan advised Bathsheba to tell David about Adonijah's plot immediately. She did, and then Nathan told David, as well.

1 Ki. 1:28-29 David summoned Bathsheba and made a solemn oath to her: "As the _____ liveth"

1 Ki. 1:30 What did David promise Bathsheba?

David commanded **Nathan**, **Zadok**, and **Benaiah** to immediately anoint Solomon as Israel's new king.

1 Ki. 1:38 Did they follow David's instructions?

1 Ki. 1:39 "And Zadok the priest took an horn of _____ out of the tabernacle, and _____ Solomon. And they blew the _____; and all the people said, 'God save _____!'"

1 Ki. 1:40 How did the people react to this?

When Adonijah learned that Solomon had become king, he begged for mercy. Solomon agreed to spare Adonijah's life if he did not cause any more trouble.

1 Ki. 2:1 As David's death neared, he gave Solomon a solemn charge.

1 Ki. 2:2 David told Solomon he was about to die. What else did he tell his son?

1 Ki. 2:3 “Keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in His _____, to keep His _____, and His _____, and His _____, and His _____, as it is written in the law of Moses.” What did David say would be the result of doing those things?

1 Ki. 2:4 God promised to establish David’s dynasty, provided he and his descendants did what?

David advised Solomon to execute some individuals who would threaten his throne. David died and Solomon became king.

1 Ki. 2:24-25 Adonijah again tried to seize the throne (verses 13-23). How did Solomon deal with this threat?

1 Ki. 2:26-27 Abiathar the priest had helped Adonijah. What did Solomon do to him?

1 Ki. 2:28-34 Joab had also helped Adonijah. What happened to him?

Concluding Thoughts: God had selected Solomon to be the next king of Israel, but Adonijah chose not to submit to God’s will, so he tried to seize the throne for himself. Not only did he fail to become king, but his blind ambition cost him his life. Anytime you try to do things your way instead God’s way, you are headed for trouble.

What about you? Is your ambition driving you toward wrong choices such as disobeying God? If so, please confess your sin and submit to the Lord’s will for your life. Do it now.

Project: Memorize **1 Peter 5:6** and recite it whenever you’re tempted to rebel against God’s will for your life. Do the **Daily Bible Readings** (page 4) each day and don’t miss Sunday School this Sunday.

The Wisdom of Solomon

Occasionally we hear about someone who has won hundreds of millions of dollars in a lottery. Have you ever thought about what you would do with that kind of money?

Imagine for a moment that God promised to give you anything you wanted, regardless of size, cost, or impossibility. What would you ask for? Wealth? Health? Fame? Success?

Young King Solomon was faced with that exact choice. God promised to give him anything he asked for. In this lesson you will discover what he asked God to give him.

1 Ki. 3:3 What does this verse tell you about Solomon's relationship with the Lord?

1 Ki. 3:4-5 Solomon went to **Gibeon** to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. What did God tell Solomon?

1 Ki. 3:6 Name some things God had done for King David:

1 Ki. 3:7 Solomon recognized his limitations.

1 Ki. 3:8 How did Solomon feel about the job he had ahead of him as king of Israel?

1 Ki. 3:9 What did Solomon ask for?

Why did he want that?

1 Ki. 3:10 How did God feel about Solomon's request?

1 Ki. 3:11 What did Solomon **not** ask for?

What **did** he ask God for?

1 Ki. 3:12 What did God give Solomon?

1 Ki. 3:13 What else did God give Solomon?

1 Ki. 3:14 God told Solomon to remain faithful to Him. What did He promise to do if Solomon obeyed Him?

Solomon soon faced a test (v. 16-21). Two women came before him with a dispute. The women were harlots who shared the same house. They also had both recently given birth to newborn babies. One of the women accidentally lay on her baby during the night, and the baby died. In the morning, she swapped her dead baby for the other woman's living baby.

Each woman claimed that the living baby was hers (v. 22-23). There were no witnesses, so it was one person's word against another's. How could Solomon possibly settle such a dispute?

1 Ki. 3:24 What did Solomon call for?

1 Ki. 3:25 What did the king instruct his guards to do?

1 Ki. 3:26 What did the baby's real mother ask the king?

How did the other woman respond?

1 Ki. 3:27 How did Solomon know which was the real mother?

1 Ki. 3:28 All Israel heard about Solomon's wisdom. What did they see in him?

Solomon appointed princes to help him rule over Israel. He also divided Israel into twelve regions, each under the supervision of a regional officer. Each region was responsible for providing food for the king's household one month out of each year.

1 Ki. 4:29 How much wisdom did God give Solomon?

1 Ki. 4:30-31 Did anyone have more wisdom than Solomon?

Solomon's fame spread.

1 Ki. 4:32 Solomon spoke _____ proverbs and wrote _____ songs.

1 Ki. 4:34 Who came to hear Solomon's wisdom?

Concluding Thoughts: Solomon recognized his limitations and the size of the job God had given him. He knew he wasn't capable of properly leading Israel, so he asked God for wisdom. Since Solomon's request was not for selfish gain, the Lord gave him even more than he had asked for (compare Eph. 3:20).

One of the most empowering things a child of God can ever do is realize that he or she cannot live for God or serve God without God's help. When we realize our weakness, we turn to God for help (2 Cor. 12:9-10). When we understand that we are powerless (John 15:5b), then we trust God to work through us (Phil. 4:13).

Do you need God's help? Do you need God's wisdom for the decisions you are facing? James 1:5 says, "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it **shall be** given him.*"

Humbly ask God for wisdom, and He will give it to you. What is God's wisdom like? Read James 3:17 to find out.

Ask God to enable you to live for Him and to serve Him.

Project: Memorize **James 1:5**. Remembering how God answered Solomon's prayer, ask the Lord daily for the wisdom you need to live for and serve Him.

Solomon Built the Temple

Have you ever seen a national monument, such as the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, or the Lincoln Memorial? Monuments remind us of an important person's life, an important event, or principles and ideals that we cherish.

What materials are used in the construction of monuments? Paper? Cardboard? Particle board? Sheetrock? No; monuments are supposed to last a long time, so they are built of durable materials such as steel, concrete, and stone.

King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem and it stood for 400 years. Long after Solomon died, the Temple continued to reveal his commitment to obey and honor God. Many generations met with God at the Temple Solomon built. Let's learn more about it.

1 Ki. 5:1 **King Hiram** of Tyre (see the **Map of Israel** on page 7) was a close friend of Solomon's father, King David. Hiram sent greetings to Solomon.

1 Ki. 5:2-3 Why couldn't David build the Temple?

1 Ki. 5:4 What circumstances had changed?

1 Ki. 5:5 Why did Solomon want to build the Temple?

1 Ki. 5:6 What did Solomon ask Hiram?

1 Ki. 5:7-8 How did Hiram respond to Solomon's request?

Solomon purchased building materials and hired skilled craftsmen from King Hiram. Cedars from Lebanon were very strong and valuable.

1 Ki. 6:1 When did Solomon begin building the Temple?

The 480th year since the Exodus and the 4th year of Solomon's reign both refer to the year 966 B.C.

1 Ki. 6:2 "The length thereof was _____ cubits, and the breadth thereof _____ cubits, and the height thereof _____ cubits." The Temple was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet tall.

1 Ki. 6:11 Who spoke to Solomon?

1 Ki. 6:12 What did God require of Solomon?

What did He promise?

1 Ki. 6:13 "And I will _____ among the children of Israel, and will not _____ my people Israel."

The rest of chapter 6 describes the elaborate and expensive construction of the Temple. The Temple was built of huge stones and the inside was lined with cedar boards. The entire structure was overlaid inside and out with pure gold. The Temple was surrounded by a stone wall, which formed the first of several courtyards.

1 Ki. 6:37-38 How long did the construction of the Temple take?

1 Ki. 7:1 What did Solomon build next?

How long did that building project take?

Solomon's "house" was actually a huge royal palace complex consisting of buildings and courtyards.

1 Ki. 7:2 Part of the palace complex was the "House of the Forest of Lebanon." It was probably called this because of its extensive use of Lebanese cedar. "The length thereof was an _____ cubits, and the breadth thereof _____ cubits, and the height thereof _____ cubits." This building measured 150 feet by 75 feet, and it was 45 feet tall.

The rest of chapter 7 describes the elaborate furnishings of the Temple. Solomon's two great building projects took a total of 20 years to complete (1 Ki. 9:10).

1 Ki. 7:51 What did Solomon do after the Temple was completed?

The Temple was complete (see the diagram on page 17). Next week you will learn about the Temple's great dedication ceremony.

Concluding Thoughts: The Temple Solomon built stood for almost 400 years. Solomon invested his energy, time, and resources into building the Temple so generations of Israelites could worship the true and living God. Solomon's Temple had lasting significance. Anyone who saw the Temple could easily understand that Solomon loved and respected the God of Israel. Solomon's testimony was evident in what he built and left for future generations.

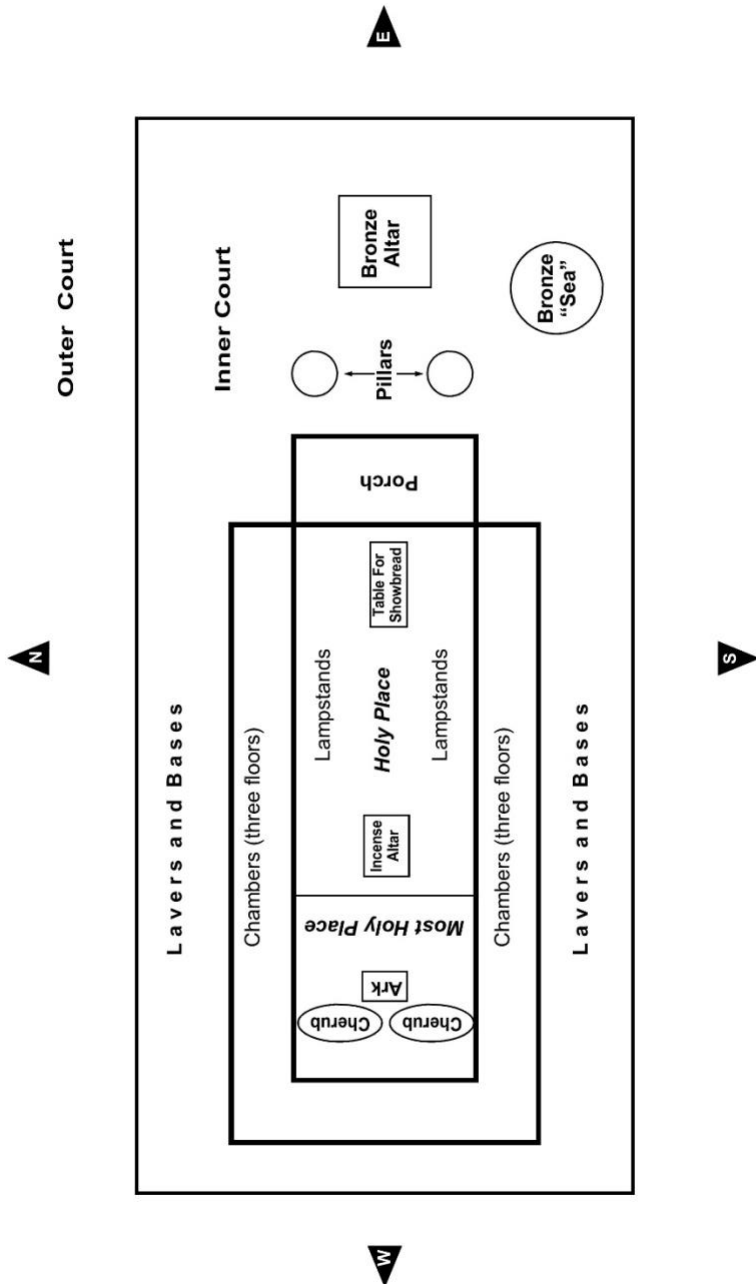
What are you "building" that has lasting significance? Are you investing your energy, time, and resources into anything that will last (such as the souls of people and God's work on earth)?

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus said, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"

Are your priorities in order? Are you making wrong choices by investing in temporary things, or are you giving yourself to things that will last for eternity? Confess your sins of short-sightedness and selfishness. Ask God to help you build something that will last.

Project: Invest some time in others this week. Make a phone call, send a text, or write a note. Mentor a younger believer. Tell others how the Lord is teaching you and growing your faith.

Plan of Solomon's Temple



Solomon Dedicated the Temple

“Sure, I’m a Christian, but I don’t go to church. Just because you’re a Christian doesn’t mean you have to go to church.” Have you ever heard anyone say something like that?

Why should you go to church? Does it really matter whether you go or not? What does your church attendance say about your belief in God? Can the world tell anything about your dependence upon God by how much you go to church?

Solomon finished building the magnificent Temple. The time had come to dedicate it and begin using it as a place to worship God.

1 Ki. 8:1 Who all did Solomon assemble?

Why?

The Ark of the Covenant was the golden chest God told Moses to build hundreds of years earlier (Ex. 25:10-22).

1 Ki. 8:2-3 They all came. Who carried the Ark?

1 Ki. 8:4 What did they bring up to the new Temple?

1 Ki. 8:5 What was Solomon doing?

1 Ki. 8:6 Where did the priests place the Ark?

1 Ki. 8:7 The Ark rested under the outstretched wings of two huge golden cherubim in the Most Holy Place (see the plan of the Temple on page 17).

1 Ki. 8:9 What was inside the Ark?

1 Ki. 8:10 What happened next?

- 1 Ki. 8:11** Why couldn't the priests stay in the Temple?
 "For the _____ of the _____ had filled the house of the _____."
- 1 Ki. 8:12** Solomon realized that the cloud represented God's presence in the Temple.
- 1 Ki. 8:14** Solomon turned and blessed the people. What did they do?
- 1 Ki. 8:15** "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which _____ with His mouth unto _____ my father, and hath with His hand _____ it."

Solomon spoke to the people and then led a public prayer. He named several situations in which God's people would turn to God. Read the following verses to learn the reasons Solomon wanted God to answer the prayers of His people.

- 1 Ki. 8:33** When would Israel pray?
- 1 Ki. 8:34** What did Solomon ask God to do?
- 1 Ki. 8:35** When would Israel pray?
- 1 Ki. 8:36** What did Solomon ask God to do?
- 1 Ki. 8:37-38** When would Israel pray?
- 1 Ki. 8:39** What did Solomon ask God to do?
- 1 Ki. 8:40** Why did Solomon want the Lord to answer their prayers?
- 1 Ki. 8:43** What else happens when God answers prayer?

1 Ki. 8:44 When would Israel pray?

1 Ki. 8:45 What did Solomon ask God to do?

Solomon asked God to hear the earnest and humble prayers of His people so that they and the entire world would know that the Lord has power to answer prayers and do miraculous things.

1 Ki. 8:56-59 Solomon closed his prayer by blessing God and asking God to bless Israel.

1 Ki. 8:60 “That _____ the people of the earth may _____ that the LORD is _____, and that there is none else.”

1 Ki. 8:61 What instructions did Solomon give the people?

1 Ki. 8:62 Solomon led the people to offer huge sacrifices.

Concluding Thoughts: Solomon dedicated the Temple, urged the people to tell God about their needs, and led them in offering sacrifices to the Lord. One purpose in all of this was, “*That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God.*”

Does your worship tell the world anything about your faith in God? Do your neighbors see you leave for church every Sunday, or do they often notice your car in the driveway during church?

Our worship shows our dependence on God and tells the world that God is real. Like the Israelites, when we face trials and difficulties we should pray to God. When God answers our prayers, we should tell others about God’s power and love.

Tell God right now how much you need Him. Tell Him about your needs and trust Him to meet them.

Project: Attend church faithfully and tell God about your needs. When He meets your needs, tell others about Him.

Wealth, Wisdom, and Warning

You've probably seen the headlines many times:

“PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE CONVICTED ON DRUG CHARGES”

“RECORDING STAR ARRESTED IN PROSTITUTION STING”

To most people, it seems that actors, athletes, and singers have it all: riches, fame, and luxurious lifestyles. Do you ever wonder why such wealthy people throw it all away by making foolish choices?

Wealth and position bring responsibility. Solomon had wealth and wisdom, but unlike many of the wealthy and powerful people today, his life pointed people to God. Solomon could have lost it all, however, if he ignored God's warnings. In 1 Kings 9 – 10 you will learn about Solomon's incredible wealth, his amazing wisdom, and the stern warnings he received from God.

1 Ki. 9:1-2 The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time. When did this take place?

1 Ki. 9:3 God told Solomon two things: “I have _____ thy _____ and thy supplication,” and “I have _____ this house.” God was so pleased with Solomon's Temple that He was willing to have His name associated with it forever.

1 Ki. 9:4-5 God made a promise to Solomon with a condition attached. What was the promise (v. 5b)?

What was Solomon required to do in order to receive those blessings (v. 4)?

God was pleased with Solomon and his Temple. If Solomon would live right, then God promised to bless Israel forever.

1 Ki. 9:6-7 God gave Solomon a stern warning with a condition attached. What, would Solomon (or his children) do to bring God's judgment (v. 6)?

If that happened, what did God promise to do to Israel and the Temple (v. 7)?

By saying that Israel would become "*a proverb and a byword*," God meant that Israel's name would come to represent idolatry and unfaithfulness to God. In the same way, when someone is called "a Judas," you know the person is a betrayer, and if someplace is compared to Sodom and Gomorrah, you know it is very wicked.

1 Ki. 9:8 What would those passing the Temple wonder?

1 Ki. 9:9 What would they know by seeing the Temple?

The rest of chapter 9 tells about Solomon's wealth and power. Before long Solomon had an important visitor.

1 Ki. 10:1 What had the Queen of Sheba (modern Yemen) heard about Solomon?

Why did she come to Jerusalem?

1 Ki. 10:2-3 Solomon answered all of the Queen's questions.

1 Ki. 10:4-5 What did the Queen see?

Solomon's wealth and wisdom left her breathless.

1 Ki. 10:6-7 What caused the Queen to believe the reports about Solomon's wisdom and wealth?

1 Ki. 10:8 What did she say about Solomon's subjects?

1 Ki. 10:9 What did she say about Solomon's God?

- 1 Ki. 10:21 What does this reveal about Solomon’s wealth?
- 1 Ki. 10:22 More wealth came from Solomon’s trading ships.
- 1 Ki. 10:23 “So King Solomon _____ all the
_____ of the earth for _____ and for
_____.”
- 1 Ki. 10:24 God gave Solomon great wisdom. Who came to
hear his wisdom?
- 1 Ki. 10:25 What did people bring Solomon?

Concluding Thoughts: King Solomon was the wisest and wealthiest man on earth. He had it all, but God warned him that he could easily lose it all. What single factor would determine whether Solomon maintained his wealth and wisdom, or became a laughingstock? His **faithfulness** and **devotion** to Almighty God. Solomon’s life pointed people to God; and interestingly, the blessings of the entire nation were dependent upon Solomon’s faithfulness to God. **Your behavior affects other people!**

Are you a responsible steward of the blessings God has entrusted to you? Those blessings include your possessions, position, spiritual gifts, your family, and your service to God. Does your life point people to God?

God gave Solomon a stern warning, and He has warnings for us, as well: “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*” (Gal. 6:7-8). If you are living for your flesh, confess that sin and ask God to make you a good steward of His blessings. Don’t make the wrong choice.

Project: Memorize **Galatians 6:7-8**. Be a faithful steward of God’s blessings this week.

Solomon Forsakes God

Bob used to be a Sunday School teacher. He was faithful and “on fire” for the Lord, and his class grew. People enjoyed his teaching and several came to Christ because of his influence. Gradually, though, things changed. Bob compromised in a few areas, and in time the attractions of the world got a grasp on him. He gave up his class and now seldom even attends church.

Bob’s sons saw his compromise and they followed his example. They haven’t been to church in a long time. As a matter of fact, one of Bob’s sons now works for the local liquor distributor and the other works in an “adult” bookstore.

Bob started out well, but he was unfaithful to God and ended up in a mess. As you have learned over the last few weeks, Solomon started very well. He had it all, but unfortunately he didn’t remain faithful to God. All Israel suffered because of his compromise.

1 Ki. 11:1 What was Solomon’s problem?

1 Ki. 11:2 Why had God told the Israelites not to marry foreigners?

1 Ki. 11:3 What effect did Solomon’s wives have on him?

1 Ki. 11:4 What did these foreign wives do when Solomon was old?

What does this verse reveal about his heart?

1 Ki. 11:5 What false gods did Solomon worship?

The “worship” of these so-called “gods” sometimes involved prostitution and child sacrifice.

1 Ki. 11:6 “And Solomon did _____ in the sight of the LORD, and went not _____ after the LORD, as did _____ his father.”

Solomon didn't stop worshiping the LORD, he just added in the worship of false gods, too.

1 Ki. 11:7-8 What did Solomon build?

1 Ki. 11:9-10 How did God feel about Solomon's compromise?

1 Ki. 11:11 What did the LORD say He would do to Solomon?

1 Ki. 11:12 When did He say He would do this?

1 Ki. 11:13 How much would be left to Solomon's son?

Solomon's reign had been very peaceful, but from this point on God stirred up adversaries to trouble Solomon.

1 Ki. 11:14 Who did God stir up to oppose Solomon?

1 Ki. 11:23 Who else did God stir up?

Those two adversaries were foreigners, but God also stirred up trouble for Solomon from within Israel.

1 Ki. 11:26 **Jeroboam** was an Israelite who was one of Solomon's servants. What did he do?

God had special plans for Jeroboam. Read on:

1 Ki. 11:29 **Ahijah** the prophet met Jeroboam out in a field.

1 Ki. 11:30 What did Ahijah do with Jeroboam's new garment?

1 Ki. 11:31 Ahijah told Jeroboam to take ten pieces of the torn garment. What did he say God was going to do?

1 Ki. 11:32 How many tribes would be left for Solomon's son to rule?

Actually two tribes remained faithful to David's descendants, but the tribe of Benjamin was so small that Judah and Benjamin were often lumped together and referred to simply as Judah.

1 Ki. 11:33 Why were ten tribes to be torn from Solomon?

1 Ki. 11:42-43 After reigning 40 years, Solomon died. Who succeeded him as king?

Concluding Thoughts: Solomon disobeyed God's commands, marrying many foreign women who worshiped idols. Solomon compromised his convictions by allowing his wives to worship false gods, and later he even encouraged idolatry by building temples where the wicked worship of those false gods took place.

Solomon's wrong choices led to many problems: idolatry, attacks from outside the kingdom, attacks from inside the kingdom, and eventually losing most of the kingdom. Compromise and idolatry grew worse and worse, and in time Jerusalem and Solomon's great Temple would be destroyed by foreigners, just as God predicted.

Compromise and unfaithfulness to God **always** come at a cost. That cost will be bad in your lifetime, but it may be even worse for your children and grandchildren. Someone has said, "What parents allow in moderation, their children will practice in excess."

What will your compromise and unfaithfulness to God cost you? How much will it cost your children and grandchildren? Are you willing to pay that price?

Confess your sins of compromise. Recommit yourself to being completely faithful to the Lord in all areas of your life.

Project: Beware of the temptation to compromise this week.

A House Divided

Two skydivers, equipped with identical parachutes, jumped from a plane at 10,000 feet. One of them nonchalantly folded his arms, ignored the ripcord, and said to himself: “I’m perfectly safe because of my parachute.” Unfortunately, he was still repeating those words when he hit the ground. Meanwhile, the other skydiver pulled his ripcord, and floated gently to earth.²

What’s the difference between these two skydivers? One ignored the instructions of both the manufacturer of his parachute and his skydiving instructor, while the other followed the instructions. One more difference: the first skydiver died and the other lived.

Have you ever ignored some good advice and later regretted it? In this week’s lesson you will learn about two kings and how they ignored God. Read 1 Kings 12 to learn more.

1 Ki. 12:1 Why did **Rehoboam** (Solomon’s son) go to **Shechem** (see the **Map of Israel** on page 7)?

1 Ki. 12:2-3 Who came back to Israel from Egypt?

Remember from last week’s lesson that God had told **Jeroboam** He was going to make him king over ten of the tribes of Israel (1 Ki. 11:31).

1 Ki. 12:4 What did Jeroboam and the others ask Rehoboam?

1 Ki. 12:5 How did Rehoboam answer them?

Rehoboam had three days to seek counsel about how to answer.

1 Ki. 12:6 Whose advice did he seek first?

² The Sermon Illustrator, www.sermonillustrator.org

1 Ki. 12:7 What did they advise?

1 Ki. 12:8 Did Rehoboam take their advice?

Who did he turn to next?

1 Ki. 12:9-11 How did the young men tell him to answer?

Rehoboam ignored the advice of his father's counselors. Someone has said, "The trouble with good advice is that it usually interferes with your plans." Rehoboam answered the people harshly.

1 Ki. 12:16 How did the ten northern tribes react to Rehoboam's answer?

1 Ki. 12:17 Who did Rehoboam reign over?

The Jews were now a divided people. The ten northern tribes were known as **Israel**, while the two southern tribes were known as **Judah**. Rehoboam was King of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

1 Ki. 12:18 Rehoboam sent one of his officers to Israel to try to get things under control. What did the people of Israel do to him?

Where did Rehoboam go?

1 Ki. 12:19-20 Who became king of Israel?

Rehoboam was king of **Judah**. **Jeroboam** was king of **Israel**.

1 Ki. 12:26-27 Since God required all Jewish men to go to Jerusalem for worship three times each year, Jeroboam knew that his subjects would return to the Temple. What did he fear would happen?

1 Ki. 12:28-29 Jeroboam sought more advice from his counselors. What did he do?

1 Ki. 12:30 “And this thing became a _____.”

1 Ki. 12:31 Who did he select to serve as priests?

1 Ki. 12:32 Jeroboam established a religious feast one month after the God-ordained Feast of Tabernacles.

1 Ki. 12:33 King Jeroboam led his people, by his own example, to worship his false gods.

Concluding Thoughts: When faced with an important decision, where did Rehoboam turn? Did you read anything about him asking God what to do? No, he ignored God and the advice of his father’s godly counselors. His wrong choices cost him most of his kingdom.

Jeroboam completely ignored God. He knew God forbids his people from worshiping idols (Ex. 20:3-4). God clearly told Jeroboam (1 Ki. 11:38) that if he were faithful and followed David’s example, then his dynasty would continue to rule Israel.

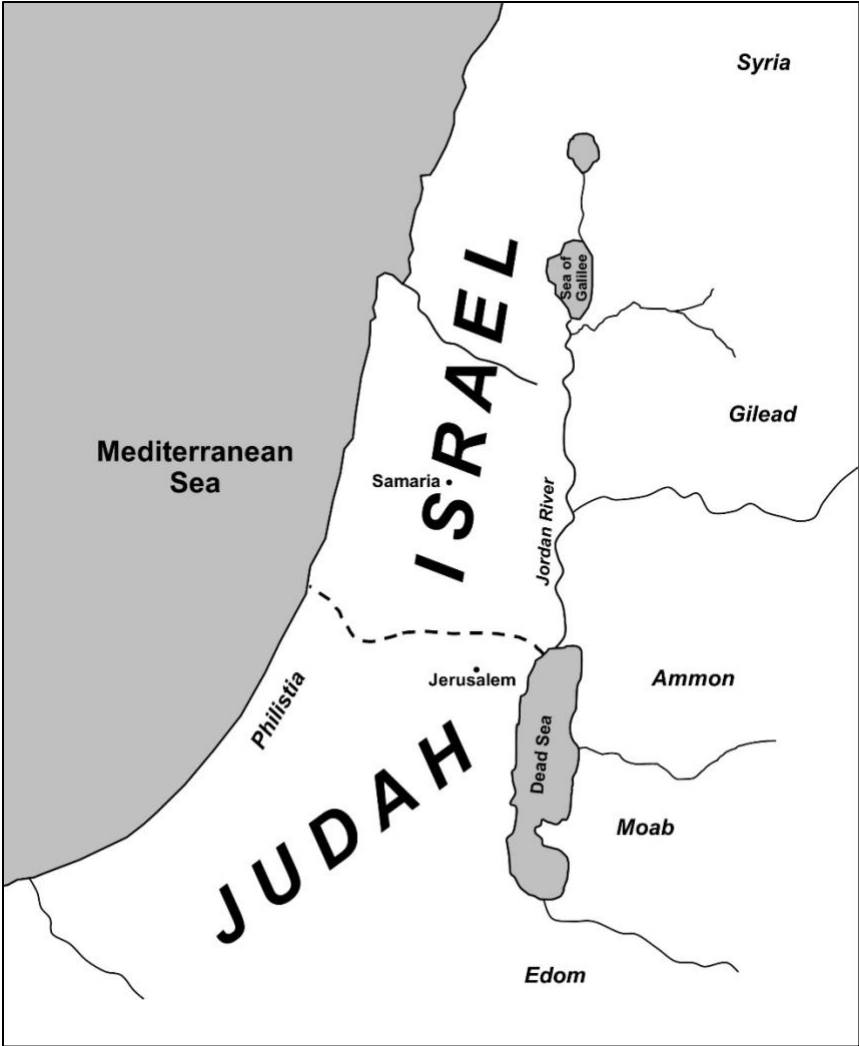
Jeroboam disregarded God’s Word and led his nation into idolatry. Israel had wicked, idolatrous kings for all of its 210 years of existence. You’ll learn more about that in the coming weeks.

What about you? Are you rebellious toward God? Do you ignore the advice of godly counselors? Are you disobeying something God has clearly told you in His Word? What impact will your choices have on your children, grandchildren, and even your friends?

Confess your sins of ignoring and disobeying God. Recommit yourself right now to obeying the Lord.

Project: Do the **Daily Bible Readings** each day this week. As you read the Bible, look for instructions God has given you, and then **obey** them. The Bible says you should attend church (Heb. 10:25), so don’t miss Sunday School this Sunday!

Map of the Divided Kingdom



April 20, 2025

Matthew 28; 1 Corinthians 15

Tell Others About the Resurrection

When you have some really big or exciting news, do you tell your friends and loved ones, or do you keep it to yourself? If you're like most people, you tell everyone you know.

Think about the ways we tell others our good news. We send out wedding announcements so our friends and loved ones know about an upcoming marriage. Young couples have "gender reveal" parties and events. We tell people verbally and through text messages. Probably the biggest way people today tell others their good news is through social media.

This week is Easter and our lesson is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the single greatest event in the history of mankind. What should we do with the exciting news of Jesus' resurrection?

Mt. 28:1-6 The women found the empty tomb and the angel told them that Jesus was alive.

Mt. 28:7 What did the angel tell the women to do?

Mt. 28:8 What did the women do?

Mt. 28:9 The women encountered the risen Jesus.

Mt. 28:10 What did Jesus tell them to do?

The women went and told the disciples that Jesus was alive and where they were to meet Him. The chief priests bribed the soldiers into saying that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body.

Mt. 28:16-18 The disciples met Jesus. What did He tell them?

Mt. 28:19 What instructions did Jesus give His disciples?

Mt. 28:20 What promise did He make?

The angel told the women to tell others about the resurrection. Jesus told the women to tell others about the resurrection. Jesus told the disciples to tell everyone on earth about the resurrection.

Why is the resurrection so important? Read the following verses.

PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION

1 Cor. 15:3 Why did Jesus die?

1 Cor. 15:4 “He was _____, and that He _____ again the _____ day according to the _____.”

1 Cor. 15:5 Who saw Jesus after He arose from the dead?

1 Cor. 15:6 Who else saw Him?

1 Cor. 15:7 Who else saw Jesus?

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

1 Cor. 15:14 What is vain, if Christ did **not** arise from the dead?

1 Cor. 15:15 If Jesus didn’t arise, then Paul, Peter, John, and all the other New Testament writers are liars.

1 Cor. 15:17 “And if Christ be not raised, your _____ is vain; ye are yet in your _____.” **If Jesus didn’t arise from the dead, then you are still LOST.**

1 Cor. 15:18 What about Christians who have already died?

1 Cor. 15:19 “If in this life _____ we have _____ in Christ, we are of all men _____.”

1 Cor. 15:20 “But now is Christ _____ from the _____.”

1 Cor. 15:21 Adam’s sin brought death upon the entire human race.

1 Cor. 15:22 “For as in Adam all _____, even so in Christ shall all be made _____.”

Many people saw Jesus after His resurrection. In fact, the resurrection is one of the best-documented facts in human history. Even secular historians attest to the fact of Jesus’ resurrection.

Because Jesus Christ arose from the dead, salvation is available to everyone who will sincerely confess their sins and trust Jesus.

Concluding Thoughts: When you learn really good news, do you keep it to yourself? Of course not, you happily tell everyone you know about it.

In Matthew 28, did you notice that everyone who learned about the resurrection was instructed to **tell others**? Will you tell others about Jesus’ resurrection? Who do you know that needs to hear that Good News? Will you tell them?

If Jesus had not arisen from the dead, then no one could be saved, we would have no hope, and the Bible would simply be a book of lies. But Jesus **DID** arise, and for the last 2,000 years that fact has changed the lives and eternal destinies of millions of people.

If you’ve never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, what more proof do you need? Read the verses printed on the back of this book. Confess your sins and ask Jesus to save you right now.

Project: Memorize **Matthew 28:18-20**. Look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus’ resurrection this week.

Deadly Idolatry

We see warnings every day: “Don’t drink and drive;” “Do not operate power tools without wearing proper eye protection;” “Don’t text while driving.” Sometimes we heed such warnings, but other times we ignore them, thinking we can get away with it. Ignoring warnings is dangerous; usually someone gets hurt.

God hates idolatry. From His earliest dealings with man He made it clear that we are not supposed to worship any other gods. What happens when people ignore God’s warnings about idolatry?

God warned the kings of Israel and Judah to stay away from idolatry. Some of those kings obeyed God, but others did not. In this lesson you will discover some of the deadly results of idolatry.

1 Ki. 13:1 King **Jeroboam** of Israel was burning incense on the altar of one of his false gods, when a “*man of God*” from Judah approached.

1 Ki. 13:2 The man of God announced that one day Judah would have a king named **Josiah**. What did he say Josiah would do?

1 Ki. 13:3 What sign would prove that his words were true?

1 Ki. 13:4 What happened to Jeroboam?

1 Ki. 13:5 What happened to the altar?

1 Ki. 13:33 The LORD graciously healed Jeroboam (v. 6), but did His warning and miraculous sign cause Jeroboam to turn from his idolatry?

Jeroboam’s son became very sick. The king sent his wife to the prophet **Ahijah** in Judah, to find out if the child would live.

- 1 Ki. 14:7-8** God (through Ahijah) reminded Jeroboam that He had exalted him, but Jeroboam had rejected God.
- 1 Ki. 14:9** How evil was Jeroboam?
- 1 Ki. 14:10-11** What did God say He would do to Jeroboam and his family?
- 1 Ki. 14:12** What did he say about Jeroboam's child?
- 1 Ki. 14:17** What happened to the child?
- 1 Ki. 14:20** What happened to Jeroboam?

Jeroboam, Israel's wicked king, led Israel into terrible idolatry and never repented of his sin. Let's see what was happening in Judah.

- 1 Ki. 14:21** **Rehoboam**, Solomon's son, was king of Judah.
- 1 Ki. 14:22** "And Judah did _____ in the sight of the LORD."
- 1 Ki. 14:23** How widespread was idolatry in Judah?
- 1 Ki. 14:24** "And there were also _____ in the land: and they did according to all the _____ of the nations."

The word **sodomites**, taken from the wicked practices of the city of Sodom (Gen. 19:4-9), is the biblical word for homosexuals.

- 1 Ki. 14:31** Rehoboam died. Who became king of Judah?
- 1 Ki. 15:1-3** **Abijah** (also known as Abijam) reigned 3 years over Judah. How was his reign characterized?
- 1 Ki. 15:8-10** Abijah died and **Asa** became the next king.
- 1 Ki. 15:11** How was Asa's reign characterized?

- 1 Ki. 15:12 Who and what did Asa remove from Judah?
- 1 Ki. 15:13 What did Asa do with Maacah?
What did he do with her idol?
- 1 Ki. 15:14 “Asa’s _____ was perfect with the _____ all his days.”
- 1 Ki. 15:15 What did he bring into the Temple?
- 1 Ki. 15:24 Asa died and his son **Jehoshaphat** became king.

Concluding Thoughts: God hates idolatry. In ancient times He judged (killed) those kings who participated in it.

Idolatry still exists, even in our modern and sophisticated world. Some people still worship images made of gold, silver, or stone; while others worship false gods such as Allah, Buddha, or Krishna. Many people today worship a different kind of idol; they worship sports, sex, money, pleasure, self, or even their family.

God still hates idolatry, and idolatry is still deadly. Idolatry will expose you to all sorts of wickedness and danger. False religions often glorify death, and some even encourage their members to kill or commit suicide. Since faith in Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to have eternal life, idolatry will also lead to an eternity in hell. Not only will idolatry take you to hell, but the book of Revelation also tells us that the lost will experience the “second death” (Rev. 20:14; 21:8). Idolatry is always the wrong choice, because it is **deadly!**

If you’ve never trusted Jesus as your Savior, turn from your false gods and turn to Him today. Read the verses printed on the back of this book to learn more. Contact your Sunday School teacher if you have any questions.

Project: Get rid of any idols in your life before they destroy you.

Wicked Kings and an Obedient Prophet

When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter drew his sword and attacked the high priest's servant. Jesus rebuked Peter with these words: "*Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that **take** the sword shall **perish** with the sword.*" Jesus' words live on in the popular expression, "Those who live by the sword will die by the sword."

Truly, a person who lives and gets ahead through violent means often meets with a violent death. Today's news proves this principle to be true, and it was certainly true for Israel's wicked kings.

In this week's lesson you will learn about a string of evil kings who ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel. In stark contrast, you will also learn about a prophet who spoke for God and trusted the Lord for miraculous provision.

1 Ki. 15:25-26 **Nadab** was the son of Israel's first wicked king, Jeroboam. Was he good or evil?

1 Ki. 15:27-28 What happened to Nadab?

Read verses 29-30. God had told Jeroboam that his wickedness would lead to the destruction of his entire family (1 Ki. 14:14).

1 Ki. 16:1-2 **Baasha** was now king. Was he good or bad?

1 Ki. 16:3-4 What did God say about Baasha and his family?

1 Ki. 16:8 Baasha died and his son **Elah** became king.

1 Ki. 16:9-10 What did **Zimri** do to Elah?

1 Ki. 16:11 What did Zimri do after becoming king?

- 1 Ki. 16:12 Why did Zimri do these things?
- 1 Ki. 16:15 How long did Zimri reign over Israel?
- 1 Ki. 16:16 How did Israel react to Zimri becoming king?
- 1 Ki. 16:17 What did **Omri** do?
- 1 Ki. 16:18 What did Zimri do to himself?

Civil war ensued, but Omri prevailed. He reigned a total of 12 years. When he died his son **Ahab** became king of Israel.

- 1 Ki. 16:30 Was Ahab evil or good?
- 1 Ki. 16:31-33 Name some of the terrible things Ahab did:
- 1 Ki. 17:1 **Elijah** was a prophet. What did he tell King Ahab?
- 1 Ki. 17:2-3 God spoke to Elijah. Where did He tell him to go?
- 1 Ki. 17:4 How did God say He would feed Elijah?

Elijah hid from the wrath of Ahab. God miraculously provided him food every day, just as He provided for the Israelites in the wilderness. Eventually, the drought caused the stream to dry up. God told Elijah to go to a certain city and find a certain widow. The widow was very poor; as a matter of fact, she was preparing to use the last of her food to make a little bread for herself and her son, after which she assumed they would both starve to death.

- 1 Ki. 17:13 What did Elijah tell the widow to do?
- 1 Ki. 17:14 What promise from the LORD did he give her?
- 1 Ki. 17:15-16 Did the widow obey God?
- What happened?

- 1 Ki. 17:17 Later, the widow's son died.
- 1 Ki. 17:21 What did Elijah ask God?
- 1 Ki. 17:22 What happened?
- 1 Ki. 17:23 **God raised the boy from the dead!** What did Elijah do with the boy?
- 1 Ki. 17:24 What did the raising of the boy prove to his mother?
What did she say about God's words through Elijah?

Concluding Thoughts: This lesson reveals a stark contrast.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel had a succession of evil kings. They made wrong choices to worship idols, and God cursed them for their unrepentant sin. Most of them died violent deaths.

Elijah, on the other hand, trusted and obeyed God. As a result, God protected Elijah, provided for him in miraculous ways, and used him to do great things.

To put it in simple terms, sin leads to **judgment** and **death**, but obedience leads to **blessing**. Which would **you** rather have?

What about you? Are you disobeying God and therefore inviting His judgment, or are you obeying God and enjoying His provision and blessing.

The choice is yours. If you've disobeyed God and worshiped anything other than Him, you need to repent of your sins and turn to Jesus right now. He will not refuse the sincerely repentant heart. Don't make the wrong choice; get right with God now.

Project: Memorize **Romans 6:16**. Obey everything you know God has said.

Choose You this Day!

Choosing is the act of selecting from two or more options.

We make choices every day we live. We choose to get up when the alarm clock goes off, choose what clothes to put on, and choose what to eat for breakfast. We choose a job, a marriage partner, and a place to live. You've chosen to read this Sunday School lesson.

Most choices have consequences. A young person who chooses to take drugs may be arrested, become sick, or even die. If you choose an immoral lifestyle, you may experience guilt, disease, or broken relationships. Some choices carry only minor consequences, while the impact of others is very serious.

In this lesson you will see that the people of Israel were faced with a very important choice. Will they make the right or wrong choice?

1 Ki. 18:1 After three years without any rain (1 Ki. 17:1), God told Elijah to go to King Ahab. What did He say He would send?

1 Ki. 18:17 What did Ahab call Elijah?

1 Ki. 18:18 Elijah said Ahab was the real cause of Israel's trouble. What had Ahab done?

1 Ki. 18:19 Who did Elijah tell Ahab to bring to Mount Carmel?

1 Ki. 18:20 Everyone gathered on Mount Carmel.

1 Ki. 18:21 Elijah spoke to all the people: "How long halt ye between two _____? If the _____ be God, follow Him: but if _____, then follow him."

Baal was one of the main gods of the Canaanites (the people living in the Promised Land before the arrival of the Israelites). God told

His people never to worship false gods such as Baal. The Israelites still claimed to follow God, but they also worshiped many other false gods. It would be somewhat like a wife telling her husband she still loved him, but she had found another man she also loved and wanted to be married to both men at once.

- 1 Ki. 18:21** How did the people respond to the clear choice Elijah put before them?
- 1 Ki. 18:22** Elijah said he was the only remaining prophet of God. How many prophets of Baal were there?
- 1 Ki. 18:23-24** Elijah suggested a showdown. How did he say the true God would prove Himself?
- 1 Ki. 18:25-26** Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. They cried out to Baal all morning, but nothing happened.
- 1 Ki. 18:27** What did Elijah say about Baal?
- 1 Ki. 18:28-29** What extreme measures did the false prophets take?
Did Baal answer their prayers?
- 1 Ki. 18:30-33** Elijah prepared the altar, dug a trench around it, and put the wood and the bullock on the altar. What did he tell the people to do?
- 1 Ki. 18:34** How many times did they soak the altar?
- 1 Ki. 18:35** How much water was there?
- 1 Ki. 18:36-37** Elijah prayed, “Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may _____ that Thou art the _____.”
- 1 Ki. 18:38** What did God do?

1 Ki. 18:39 How did the people react to this amazing sight?

What did they say?

1 Ki. 18:40 What did Elijah do with the prophets of Baal?

Concluding Thoughts: Elijah put a choice before the people of Israel, but they refused to choose. Someone has said that when we fail to choose we have already made our choice. The Israelites refused to choose God until He proved Himself with a spectacular miracle. They tried to “sit on the fence” between God and Baal, but God refuses to accept “fence-sitting” religion. He wants us to choose Him wholeheartedly and completely turn from false gods.

Many people today try to do what the Israelites did. They give lip service to Almighty God while serving the gods of self, sex, sports, career, possessions, or hobbies. Those gods are false gods, and they are useless when compared to Almighty God. Those gods cannot give you an abundant and blessed life now or take you to heaven when you die, but **God can do both.**

How long are you going to halt between two opinions? If God is really God, then serve Him completely. But if self, sex, sports, career, possessions, or hobbies really are your gods, serve them.

Most choices have consequences. If you choose to worship the false gods you will suffer bad consequences. If you turn your life completely over to the Lord Jesus Christ you will have wonderful blessings and benefits. Please don't make the wrong choice.

If you've never trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior please read the verses printed on the back of this book. Confess your sins and ask Jesus to save you. It's time to choose. Will you do it now?

Project: Memorize **1 Kings 18:21**. Prove your commitment to God by attending Sunday School and church this Sunday. Watch out for false gods that seek to distract you from serving the Lord.

Encouragement

Depression is a major problem in America today. Millions of dollars are spent each year on therapists, counselors, and medications to help people overcome depression. Depression accounts for many lost workdays, broken homes, and even deaths.

One of the major causes of depression is discouragement. When things don't turn out like expected, we can become discouraged. Unfulfilled dreams sometimes result in discouragement. Difficult or dysfunctional relationships can also make us discouraged. Often discouragement makes us feel hopeless, like giving up.

We all face discouragement from time to time, but how should we handle it? Some people drown themselves in alcohol or drugs; others commit suicide. **How should God's people handle discouragement?** This week's lesson is about God encouraging His people when difficult circumstances arise.

1 Ki. 19:1-2 Queen Jezebel was furious because Elijah had killed all her false prophets. What message did she send to Elijah?

1 Ki. 19:3 What did Elijah do?

1 Ki. 19:4 How was Elijah feeling at this time?

1 Ki. 19:5-7 What did God do to encourage and help Elijah?

1 Ki. 19:8 Where did Elijah go?

Elijah was so scared and discouraged that he traveled **300 miles** away from Jezebel! Mount **Horeb** (another name for Mount Sinai) was the place where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

1 Ki. 19:9 What did God ask Elijah?

1 Ki. 19:10 Elijah told God all his problems.

1 Ki. 19:11-12 God sent a great wind, an earthquake, and a fire.
Did God speak to Elijah in the wind? _____
Did God speak to him in the earthquake? _____
Did God speak to him in the fire? _____
How did God speak to Elijah?

1 Ki. 19:13 What did God ask Elijah?

1 Ki. 19:14 Elijah again told God all his problems.

1 Ki. 19:15-17 Elijah had been paralyzed by discouragement and fear for weeks, so God gave him some important work to do. He was to anoint **Hazael** to be king of Syria, **Jehu** to be king of Israel, and **Elisha** to be his own successor. God told Elijah to get back to **work**.

1 Ki. 19:18 What encouraging news did God give Elijah?

Elijah immediately got up and went back to work (v. 19-21).

1 Ki. 20:1 The Syrian army surrounded **Samaria**, the capital of Israel. The situation looked hopeless.

1 Ki. 20:13 What did God's prophet tell King Ahab?

Why was God going to do this?

1 Ki. 20:20-22 Israel won a great victory. What did the prophet tell Ahab next?

1 Ki. 20:28 The Syrians thought their first defeat was because the Israelite God was only God of the hills. They believed if they engaged Israel in the valley they would win. God said, "Therefore will I _____ all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall _____ that I am the _____."

1 Ki. 20:29-30 Israel won a great victory, killing 100,000 Syrian soldiers. God killed 27,000 more.

God encouraged Ahab by giving his army great victories over their enemies. Unfortunately, Ahab disobeyed God by sparing the life of Syria's king (v. 31-34).

1 Ki. 20:42-43 God pronounced judgment upon Ahab for his disobedience. How did Ahab feel?

Concluding Thoughts: Let's review. Elijah was so discouraged he tried to run away from his problems. God lovingly encouraged Elijah, met his physical needs, and gave him a job to do. Elijah obeyed God; he got back to work and the depression left him.

Ahab faced conflict and defeat, but the Lord sent encouraging messages and gave him great victories. Unfortunately, Ahab only partly obeyed God, so he fell under God's judgment.

God gives encouragement and victory, but we must do exactly what He tells us to do. Partial obedience is actually **disobedience**.

There are many scripture verses that provide encouragement. A few of them are Psalm 46:1; Psalm 56:3; Psalm 91:1-4; Psalm 94:14; Psalm 94:18-19; Proverbs 3:6; Lamentations 3:21-25; John 14:1; John 14:27; Philippians 4:19.

All of us have times when we are discouraged. Every time we are discouraged we have a choice: we can try to run away, or we can run to God. Which will you do? Don't make the wrong choice.

If you're discouraged right now, turn to the Lord for help.

Project: Memorize one or more of those encouraging verses of scripture listed above. When discouragement comes your way this week, don't run away; instead, run to God for help. Claim the promises of His Word and do exactly what He says.

Theft and Deception

God established rules by which His people are to live. These rules are commonly known as the Ten Commandments, and they have been the standard for civilized behavior throughout the world for well over 3,000 years. Nations and people who abide by those rules tend to be more civilized, while those who don't are barbaric.

In one of those Ten Commandments, God said, *“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's”* (Ex. 20:17).

God said we should not covet, because coveting is the motivation for most criminal behavior. Coveting leads to lies, theft, rebellion, adultery, and even murder. Most crimes begin with coveting.

In this lesson you will learn how King Ahab's coveting led to deception, murder, defeat, and eventually to his own death.

1 Ki. 21:1 **Naboth** had a vineyard near King Ahab's palace.

1 Ki. 21:2-3 What did Ahab ask Naboth?

How did Naboth answer?

1 Ki. 21:4 How did Ahab react?

1 Ki. 21:5-6 What did Queen Jezebel ask Ahab?

1 Ki. 21:7 What did Jezebel promise to do for Ahab?

Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard. Jezebel arranged for false charges to be brought against Naboth so he would be executed.

1 Ki. 21:15 What did Jezebel tell Ahab?

1 Ki. 21:16 What did King Ahab do?

1 Ki. 21:17 Who spoke to the prophet **Elijah**?

1 Ki. 21:18 What did He tell Elijah to do?

1 Ki. 21:19 Elijah was to say, “Thus saith the _____, Hast thou _____, and also taken _____?” Elijah was also to say, “Thus saith the LORD, In the place where _____ licked the _____ of _____ shall dogs lick thy _____, even thine.”

1 Ki. 21:25-26 How does the Bible describe Ahab?

How much influence did Jezebel have over him?

Ahab was Israel’s most wicked king. God pronounced very harsh judgments upon him, his wife, and his children. Ahab’s bad choices, such as coveting Naboth’s vineyard, hurt his entire family.

There had been peace between Israel and Syria for three years. King Jehoshaphat of Judah went to visit King Ahab of Israel. They decided to join forces to fight against the Syrians.

1 Ki. 22:5 What did Jehoshaphat ask Ahab to do?

1 Ki. 22:6 Ahab gathered his prophets. What did they say?

1 Ki. 22:7 Jehoshaphat knew that Ahab’s prophets were fakes. What did he ask?

Ahab said there was one prophet from whom they could hear God’s word. Ahab sent for **Micaiah**, who sarcastically said the same thing as the fake prophets. Ahab insisted he tell the truth.

1 Ki. 22:17 What did Micaiah say he saw?

This meant Ahab would be killed and Israel’s army defeated.

- 1 Ki. 22:19 What did Micaiah describe?
- 1 Ki. 22:20 What did God ask?
- 1 Ki. 22:21 A demon spirit volunteered for the job.
- 1 Ki. 22:22 The demon said, “I will be a _____ spirit in the mouth of all his _____.”

Ahab got mad, put Micaiah in prison, and went forth to battle.

- 1 Ki. 22:34 What happened to Ahab?
- 1 Ki. 22:35 What else happened to Ahab?
- 1 Ki. 22:38 What did the dogs do?

Concluding Thoughts: In Numbers 32:23 God said, “*Be sure your sin will find you out.*” Ahab couldn’t hide his sin from God, and neither can you. If God says something is sinful and promises a penalty for that sin, you can be sure He will keep His promise. God **will** bring about His promised judgment on sin.

Ahab’s prophets lied to him, which teaches us that **not everyone who claims to speak for God really does**. Everything so-called “prophets” say must be checked out with the Bible. If it doesn’t agree with the Bible, then it is the devil’s lie.

Are you coveting something right now? Coveting will cause you and your family a lot of trouble. If you’re coveting something that belongs to someone else, you need to confess that sin, repent (stop doing it), and turn to God. Don’t make the wrong choice.

Project: Avoid coveting this week; be happy with what you have. Pick up a *Sunday School Member Quarterly* for the new quarter so you can begin the Daily Bible Reading Guide on Monday.