

Bible Stories for Adults

God Sends Elijah

1 Kings 14 - 17

Opening

Gathering: What are the Baals of today's society? What false gods do people worship today?

Today's Focus: Despite being called and blessed by God to lead His people faithfully, the kings of Israel rejected Him and caused the people to reject Him also. In His longing love for them, God sent prophets, beginning with Elijah, to call them back to Him.

Key Verses: *The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.* 2 Chronicles 15:2

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways of Jeroboam and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 15:34

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Last Week - *The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 11)*

What great sin of Solomon led to *The Divided Kingdom*?

1 Kings 11:1-4 (1-8)

How did God decide to punish Solomon for this evil?

1 Kings 11:11-13 (9-13)

Who was the subordinate God chose?

1 Kings 11:28 (26-33)

What promise did God make to Jeroboam?

1 Kings 11:31, 38 (29-40)

Jeroboam, First King of Israel (*1 Kings 12-14*)

How faithful was Jeroboam as king of Israel?

1 Kings 12:26-31 (26-33)

How did God decide to punish Jeroboam for this evil?

1 Kings 14:7-11 (1-14)

How would God punish the people of Israel for their part in this sin?

1 Kings 14:15-16

Rehoboam, First King of Judah (*1 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 12*)

How faithful was Solomon's son, Rehoboam, as king of Judah?

2 Chronicles 12:1

In what ways did Rehoboam and the people of Judah abandon God?

1 Kings 14:23-24 (22-24)

How did God respond to Rehoboam's rejection?

1 Kings 14:25-26 (2 Chronicles 12)

How well did the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah get along?

1 Kings 14:30

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The First Kings of Judah (*1 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 13-16*)

Who succeeded Rehoboam as king of Judah and how faithful was he?

1 Kings 15:1, 3

To what royal line did Abijah's mother belong?

1 Kings 15:2

Did God decide to wipe out Abijah's family as he had Jeroboam's?

1 Kings 15:4

Note: 2 Chronicles 13 has interesting story on battle between Abijah & Jeroboam

Who succeeded Abijah as king of Judah and how faithful was he?

1 Kings 15:9, 11

How did Asa work to reform the evils of his father and grandfather?

1 Kings 15:12-13

Did Asa remain faithful like David his entire life?

2 Chronicles 16:2-3, 7, 9 (1-14)

Note: 2 Chronicles 14-16 has stories on Asa's extensive reforms & conflict with Israel

The First Kings of Israel (*1 Kings 15-16*)

Who succeeded Jeroboam as king of Israel and how faithful was he?

1 Kings 15:25-26

Why did Nadab reign only 2 years?

1 Kings 15:27-28

How did Baasha fulfill God's promise of punishment to Jeroboam?

1 Kings 15:29-30

How faithful was Baasha as king of Israel?

1 Kings 15:33-34

How did God decide to punish Baasha for this evil?

1 Kings 16:1-4

Who succeeded Baasha as king of Israel?

1 Kings 16:8

Why did Elah reign only 2 years?

1 Kings 16:9-10

How did Zimri fulfill God's promise of punishment to Baasha?

1 Kings 16:11-12

How long did Zimri reign as king of Israel and why?

1 Kings 16:15-17

How was the siege ended?

1 Kings 16:18

Who became the next king of Israel?

1 Kings 16:21-22

What notable change happened during Omri's reign?

1 Kings 16:24

How faithful was Omri's reign?

1 Kings 16:25-26

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The Worst King of Israel (1 Kings 16:29-34)

- Who succeeded Omri as king of Israel and how faithful was he?
1 Kings 16:29-30
- How was Ahab more evil than those before him?
1 Kings 16:31-33
- Did Ahab intend Baal to supplement or replace God?
1 Kings 18:4
- What notable construction happened during Ahab's reign?
1 Kings 16:34
- How did this fulfill God's word as spoken by Joshua?
Joshua 6:26

Baal

Baal meant lord or god

- Every pagan locality had its own *Baal*
Shrines to Baals were built on high places in the area
- Baal of Sidon (Phoenicia) was brought to Israel by Jezebel
Controlled rainfall - Critical to agricultural society
- Was happy & gave rain when he mated with his wife Asherah (Astarte)
Temple sex induced Baal & Asherah to mate so it would rain
- Sacrifices included children under extraordinary conditions
Priests would dance around altar in frenzy and slash selves with knives

God of Rain (1 Kings 17:1-6)

- What did God plan in order to prove that He is the God of the rain & all creation?
1 Kings 17:1
- What did *Elijah's* name mean and why was it significant?
1 Kings 18:39
- How would Elijah be taken care of during this drought?
1 Kings 17:2-6

Elijah Goes to Baal's Home (1 Kings 17:7-16)

- How did God take care of Elijah when the drought dried up the brook?
1 Kings 17:7-9
- How hard did Elijah have to search to find this woman in Zarephath?
1 Kings 17:10-11
- Had the drought affected Zarephath?
1 Kings 17:12
- How did God use this condition to show His power?
1 Kings 17:13-14
- Did the woman have faith in Elijah's promise?
1 Kings 17:15-16

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Elijah Brings the Widow's Son Back to Life (*1 Kings 17:17-24*)

What happened to the widow's son and what did she believe to be its cause?

1 Kings 17:17-18

How did Elijah respond to her reasoning?

1 Kings 17:19-23

What was the real reason that the boy had died?

1 Kings 17:24

Did Jesus support the idea that illness & death result from specific sins?

John 9:1-3

Note: The Book of Job addresses the question of why bad things happen

<u>Judah (South)</u>			<u>Israel (North)</u>	
<u>Yr BC</u>	<u>King</u>	<u>Yrs Rule</u>	<u>King</u>	<u>Yrs Rule</u>
931	Rehoboam	17 Bad Mostly	Jeroboam	22 Bad
913	Abijah	3 Bad Mostly	"	
911	Asa	41 Good	"	
910	"		Nadab	2 Bad
909	"		Baasha	24 Bad
888	"		Elah	2 Bad
887	"		Zimri	7d Bad
886	"		Omri	12 Extra Bad
876	"		Ahab (Jezebel)	22 The Worst
871	Jehoshaphat	25 Good	"	

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. In what ways do I do what is right in the eyes of the Lord as David had done?
(*1 Kings 15:11; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philipians 4:8-9; Hebrews 6:12, 13:7*)
2. In what ways do I do what is evil in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways and sin of Jeroboam?
(*1 Kings 15:34; Leviticus 18:1-5; 2 Kings 17; Matthew 6:5-8; 23:3; 3 John 11*)
3. What have I done with the opportunities God has given me to lead others into faith?
(*1 Kings 14:16; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 21:13-15; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:11-15; Col. 4:5; 1 Peter 3:15*)
4. What Baals have I placed before God?
(*1 Kings 15:30-33; Exodus 20:2-6; Joshua 24:14-15; Matthew 6:24; 10:32-37, 38-39*)
5. Elijah's name revealed his purpose - to remind the Israelites that the Lord is God.
Do I understand and follow the purpose that God has for me?
(*1 Kings 18:39; Esther 4:14; Jer. 29:11; Luke 7:30; 1 Cor. 12; 2 Cor. 5:5; Eph. 3:8-11; 4:7-16*)