

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

1ST KINGS



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



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1 Kings

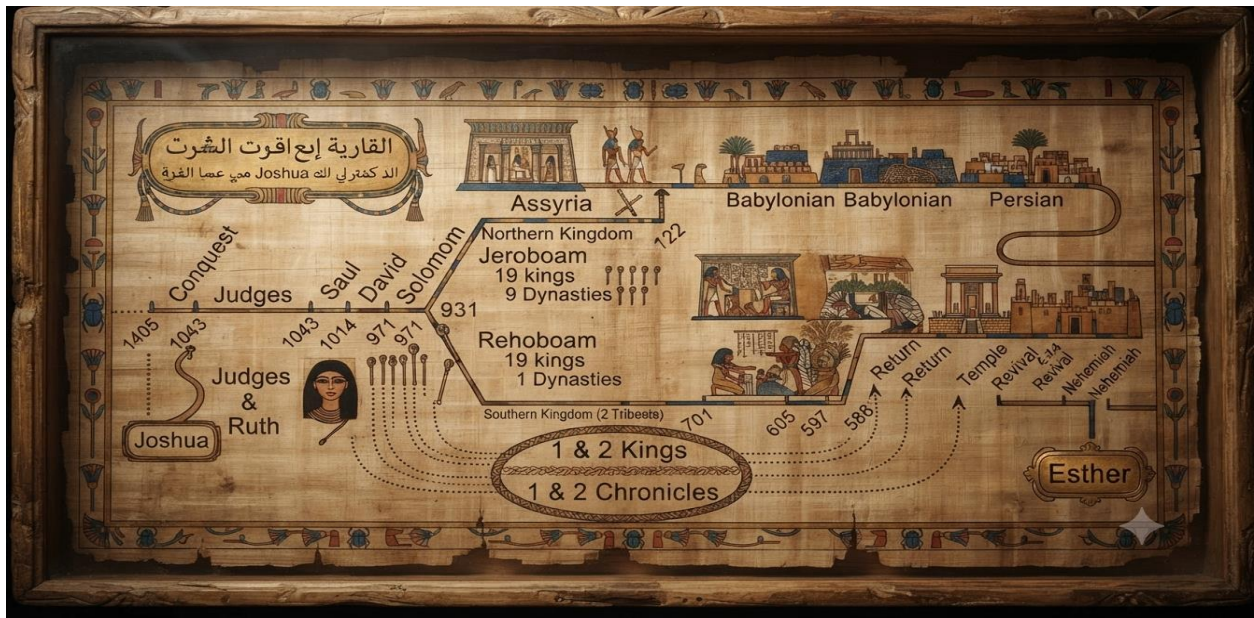
The kingdom of Israel enjoys a time of peace and prosperity under King Solomon, but after he dies, the kingdom splits, and the two lines of kings turn away from God.

Author: 1st and 2nd Kings covers four hundred years, so many contributors and authors must have been involved.

In 1 Kings – Jesus is the Ruler greater than Solomon

1 Kings 8:39

"You alone know the hearts of all men."



TEACHER: 22 CHAPTERS

1st and 2nd Kings covers 400 years of Israel's history. It starts out with David well advanced in years and ready to name his successor. He had promised Bathsheba it would be her son Solomon. As David was getting slower and slower, not able to warm himself, and was palace bound, and one of his other son's presumed himself to be king. When Nathan heard of it, he went to Bathsheba and they told the King.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

"My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, *saying*, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.'¹⁸ So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it.¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.²⁰ And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.²¹ Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders." (NKJV)

TEACHER:

King David repairs the damage.

STUDENT:

And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, ³⁰ just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."

³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

³² And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king. ³³ The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴ There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, '*Long* live King Solomon!' ³⁵ Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah." (NKJV)

TEACHER:

1 question. Why a mule? Pharaohs had ridden elephants, Kings rode horses and sometimes camels. But a mule? No king rides a mule. Many commoners globally rode them. But no kings. The reason, is they were very rare in Israel. Every mule in Israel was imported. It was illegal to crossbreed in Israel. So they had to be imported. That makes them rare, and more expensive. When you rode a horse in ancient times it was a common thing. But a mule, was more exotic. Another reason was the biblical prohibition that a king not multiply horses to himself. Riding a mule as a king showed his desire and effort to obey God. King Solomon would stray from this tendency in his latter days. These 2 reasons are good enough for me. With Solomon on the throne, appointed by King David himself, Adonijah ran to the temple for fear of his life. He calls for mercy from Solomon.

STUDENT:

⁵⁰ Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. ⁵¹ And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.' " ⁵² Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." ⁵³ So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house." (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 2 David gives some last words to his son on his death bed.

STUDENT:

Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: ² "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. ³ And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; ⁴ that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" (NKJV)

TEACHER:

David goes on to council him how to clean up some loose ends regarding old enemies and unpunished sins among his associates, so as to establish the Throne of Solomon in the house of David.

STUDENT:

CH. 2

¹⁰ So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. ¹¹ The period that David reigned over Israel *was* forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years. ¹² Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. (NKJV)

TEACHERS:

Another detail we skipped over that some of you scholars might be curious as to my opinion. Adonijah was killed for asking Solomon through his mother for Abishag the Shunammite for him as a wife. The reason being, Abishag was a bed companion to King David in his last few months of life. If Adonijah married her, the union of the late kings' son, and the late kings' concubine could provide a challenge to the throne should Solomon falter. Also if Solomon's heirs prove unpopular, the offspring could provide a challenger to the throne then as well. As we move into chapter 3 Solomon has a meeting with God.

STUDENT:

CH. 3

Solomon made an alliance with the king of Egypt by marrying his daughter. He brought her to live in David's City until he had finished building his palace, the Temple, and the wall around Jerusalem. ² A temple had not yet been built for the LORD, and so the people were still offering sacrifices at many different altars. ³ Solomon loved the LORD and followed the instructions of his father David, but he also slaughtered animals and offered them as sacrifices on various altars. ⁴ On one occasion he went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices because that was where the most famous altar was. He had offered hundreds of burnt offerings there in the past. ⁵ That night the LORD appeared to him in a dream and asked him, "What would you like me to give you?" (GNT)

TEACHER:

What would you like? Can you imagine? Just that the Lord was talking to him was enough to satisfy any earthly cravings. Any of us might have replied, "The audience with God satisfies me."

STUDENT:

⁶ Solomon answered, "You always showed great love for my father David, your servant, and he was good, loyal, and honest in his relation with you. And you have continued to show him your great and constant love by giving him a son who today rules in his place. ⁷ O LORD God, you have let me succeed my father as king, even though I am very young and don't know how to rule. ⁸ Here I am among the people you have chosen to be your own, a people who are so many that they cannot be counted. ⁹ So give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?" (GNT)

TEACHER:

God is very pleased.

Could you imagine where the human race would be today if Adam and Eve when tempted by Satan in the garden to "know good and evil" if they just went to God and asked Him? DH

STUDENT:

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this, ¹¹ and so he said to him, "Because you have asked for the wisdom to rule justly, instead of long life for yourself or riches or the death of your enemies, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you more wisdom and understanding than anyone has ever had before or will ever have again. ¹³ I will also give you what you have not asked for: all your life you will have wealth and honor, more than that of any other king. ¹⁴ And if you obey me and keep my laws and commands, as your father David did, I will give you a long life."

¹⁵ Solomon woke up and realized that God had spoken to him in the dream. Then he went to Jerusalem and stood in front of the LORD's Covenant Box and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Solomon's wisdom is soon put to the test.

STUDENT:

¹⁶ Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷ One of them said, "Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. ¹⁸ The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

¹⁹ "During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. ²⁰ So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. ²¹ The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

²² The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king. (NIV)



STUDENT:

²³ The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

²⁴ Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. ²⁵ He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

²⁶ The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

²⁸ When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice. (NIV)

CH. 4

TEACHER:

In chapter 4 we see Solomon ruling with great wisdom and in great prosperity. He had 4,000 stalls for chariots, and 12,000 horses. (And an unlimited supply of fertilizer I am sure.) He divided the kingdom into 12 regions. Each region provided for the kings palace for 1 month of the year. They were divided as follows.



But the best thing about Solomon was his mind.

STUDENT:

²⁹ God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. ³³ He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. ³⁴ From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom. (NIV)

TEACHER:

To those of you who are curious, Ethan was probably the Ethan who wrote Psalm 89. Midrash Says Ethan is Abraham, Heman is Moses, and Kalkol is Joseph. The evidence is weak though. So I have my own weak guess. I think they were the sons of Zerah who was Abraham's great grandson through Esau. All the names are almost identical, and I am sure the wisdom from Abraham passed to them. We are probably both wrong. But if they are compared to Solomon, they are in good company.

In chapter 5 Solomon prepares to build the temple. He calls the people to the task.

STUDENT:

CH. 5

³ "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. ⁴ But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. ⁵ I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.'

⁶ "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians." (NIV)

TEACHER:

It was to be a major undertaking. I have edited the text to make it easier to digest.

STUDENT:

¹³ King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel

Thirty thousand men (for cedars from Lebanon)

In shifts of ten thousand a month, one month in Lebanon and two months at home.

¹⁵ Solomon had

Seventy thousand carriers

Eighty thousand stonecutters

Thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workers.

¹⁷ At the king's command they removed from the quarry large blocks of high-grade stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple. ¹⁸ The craftsmen of Solomon and Hiram and workers from Byblos cut and prepared the timber and stone for the building of the temple. (NIV formatted by Author)

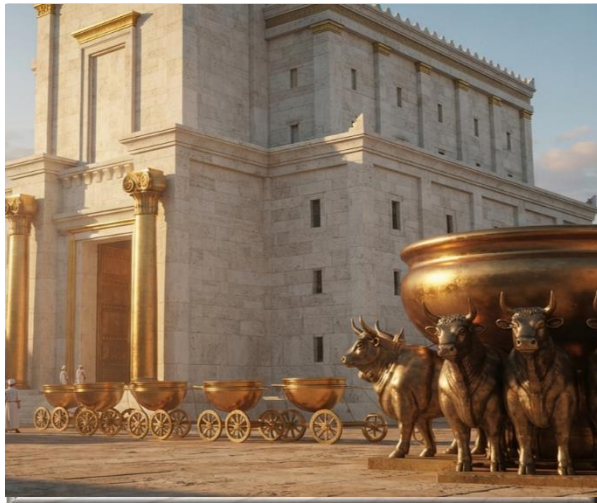
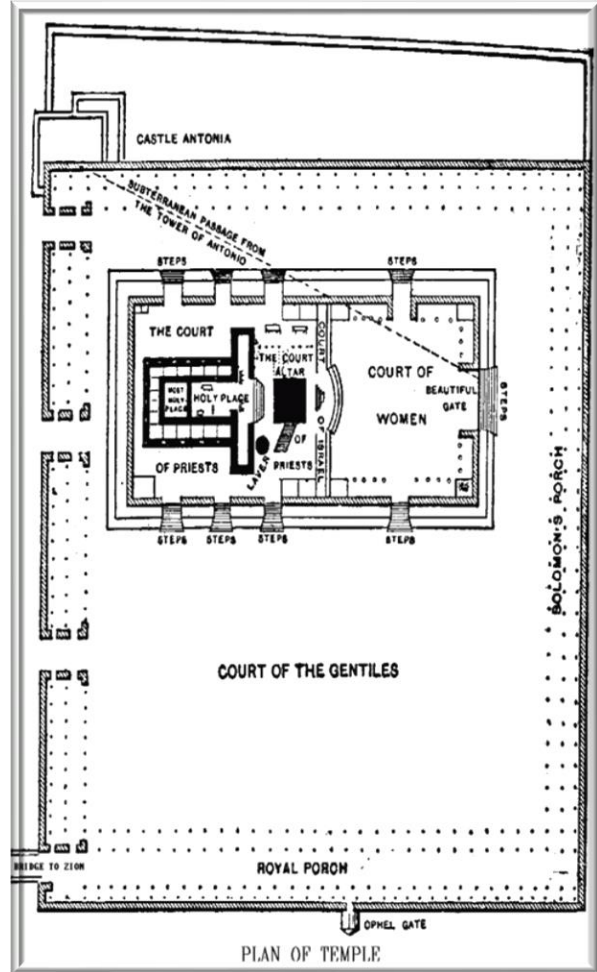
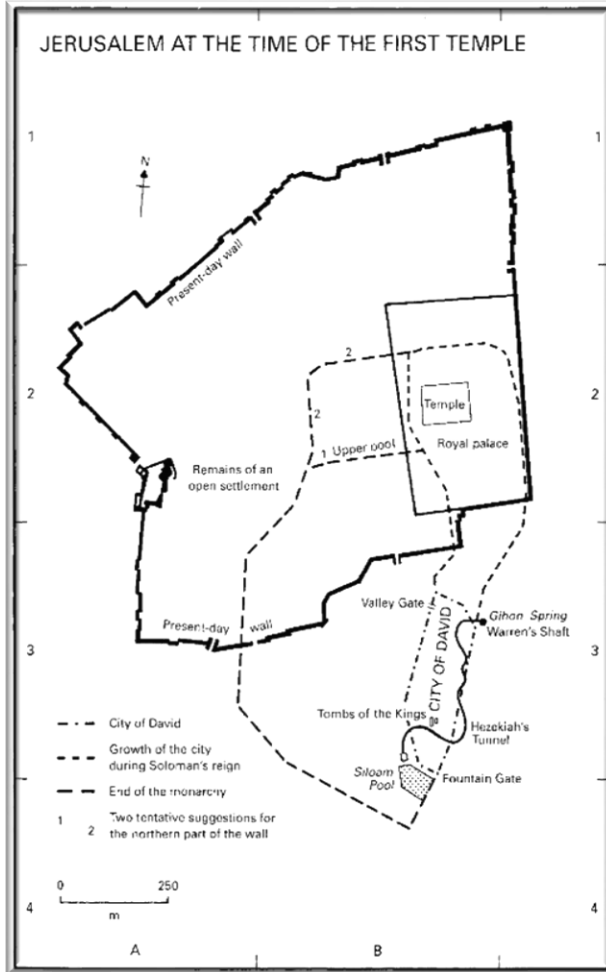
The total for workers and craftsmen is 183,300. It took 7 years to complete.

TEACHER:

CH. 6

480 years after leaving Egypt, 880 years after God makes a covenant with Abraham, 3000 years after the Garden of Eden, Man builds a house dedicated to God, where God wants it. It looked like this.





CH. 7

TEACHER:

All of Israel is there for the grand opening, and the Ark of God is placed in the Temple. A glorious day.

STUDENT:

CH. 8

² All the Israelites came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

³ When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark, ⁴ and they brought up the ark of the LORD and the tent of meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up, ⁵ and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted. (NIV)

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STUDENT:

⁶ The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles. ⁸ These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. ⁹ There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt. (NIV)

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. ¹¹ And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

¹² Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; ¹³ I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

¹⁴ While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Solomon prays a very long prayer over the temple and the people. He dedicates the temple with 22,000 cattle as offerings, and 120,000 sheep and goat sacrifices. The feast lasts for 14 straight days. In chapter 9, soon after, God speaks to Solomon a 2nd time, as He did in Gibeon.

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STUDENT: The promise:

CH. 9

"I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

⁴ "As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, ⁵ I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.' (NIV)

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STUDENT: The warning;

⁶ "But if you or your descendants turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. ⁸ This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' ⁹ People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'" (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Solomon builds a navy and expands his influence and partnerships. In chapter 10 the Queen of Sheba pays him a visit. Who is she? Where is Sheba? No one knows. But the gifts and mode of transportation, coupled with the reference in Ezekiel of merchants bringing the same gifts during his time from Sheba, leads me to think Ethiopia is the most likely candidate. The people who birthed the wife of Moses. Hence the desire to visit his descendants, and the knowledge of the God of Israel.

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STUDENT:

CH. 10

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ² Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³ Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

⁶ She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷ But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Next, Solomon builds a new throne. It would look like this painting, with 6 steps, and the animals on the steps.

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STUDENT:

¹⁸ Then the king made a great throne covered with ivory and overlaid with fine gold. ¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them. ²⁰ Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom. ²¹ All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Does anybody see a problem? When Solomon used David's throne, he put a chair next to it for his mother to occupy. Here the chair is left off. He no longer wanted her input. What advice does the mother of the smartest man on the planet give her son? Advice on women is my guess. On to chapter 11.

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CH. 11

STUDENT

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ² They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. ⁵ He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

F.Y.I. Molek was the Ammonite god with the head of a cow, and the service to him was human infant slaughter. Ashtoreth was in the Ammonite religion, she was imagined to be the wife of the false god Baal.

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STUDENT:

¹¹ So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. ¹² Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³ Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen." (NIV)

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TEACHER:

God then waters the seeds of discontent and revenge in the hearts of 2 of David's old enemies. 1 from Egypt, And 1 from Syria. The North, and south of Israel. Soon after, it is time for Solomon to meet his maker.

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STUDENT:

⁴¹ As for the other events of Solomon's reign—all he did and the wisdom he displayed—are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon? ⁴² Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. ⁴³ Then he rested with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Solomon is dead, and Rehoboam is king. The children of Israel were hoping, now that Solomon has passed away, they will have some tax relief. Rehoboam asks his father's team of advisers, and they agree with Israel. It's a time to establish the new ruler. Rehoboam asks his friends the same advice. This is their answer.

STUDENT:

The young men who had grown up with him replied, "These people have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.' Now tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. ¹¹ My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'" (NIV)

TEACHER:

The people reject him as king and 10 tribes fall away. They take Jeroboam as their king. God tells the prophet Shemaiah to advise Rehoboam not to attack them, because God is the one who is dividing the kingdom. The northern kingdom of Israel backslide almost immediately. The children of Israel have fallen very far from God, very quickly. Within 1 year of Solomon's reign, Israel splits in half, and the northern tribes are worshipping 2 golden calves. Why? Because Solomon's sin has now spread to the whole nation. Rehoboam doesn't seek God when Israel asks for relief, and the northern tribes don't seek God's face when looking for a new king. The king they pick has been living in Egypt throughout Solomon's reign, and has not been serving God. Listen to his 1st move as king.

STUDENT:

²⁶ Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. ²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam."

²⁸ After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." ²⁹ One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰ And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other. (NIV)

TEACHER:

One day Jeroboam is standing by the altar of the golden calf to sacrifice, and an old man of God came and prophesied over the golden altar.

STUDENT:

"Altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'" ³ That same day the man of God gave a sign: "This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out."

⁴ When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. ⁵ Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD. (NIV)

CH. 12

CH. 13

TEACHER:

Jeroboam asks the man to pray for his hand, and he does. God heals Jeroboam, and he begs the old man to eat with him, and stay. But the man could not.

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STUDENT:

But the man of God answered the king, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here. ⁹ For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’” ¹⁰ So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

So far so good. But as the man of God was leaving, another prophet who heard what had happened at the altar, went after him and lied to him. And talked him into eating at his home.

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STUDENT:

The old prophet answered, “I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’” (But he was lying to him.) ¹⁹ So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back. ²¹ He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. ²² You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your ancestors.’” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The man of God heads home and is killed by a lion on the road. The Bible says that, “even after all this, Jeroboam did not change.” Because of this, Jeroboam’s son gets sick. Jeroboam sends his wife to the prophet in Shiloh to ask him to pray for the boy. When she gets there, dressed in disguise, Ahijah is told by God who she is, and what he is to tell her.

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STUDENT:

I have been sent to you with bad news. ⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁸ I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes. ⁹ You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.

¹⁰ “‘Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. ¹¹ Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!’ (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The prophecy goes on to condemn the 10 tribes from the northern kingdom, and that they will be taken captive and scattered beyond the Euphrates river.

See map of the northern captivity to Assyria.

All together, these things happen over a 22 year reign in Northern Israel.

His counter-part in Judah was Solomon's son Rehoboam.

His kingdom was no better. Let's read.



STUDENT:

²² Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done. ²³ They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. ²⁴ There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Rehoboam only ruled Judah for 17 years. In the 5th year of his reign, Egypt attacked and looted the Gold from the Temple Solomon had built, and he and Jeroboam fought like cats and dogs until the day he died. His son Abijah became king and was no better. He ruled 3 years, and when he died, his son Asa became king of Judah. Asa would rule for 41 years.

CH. 15

STUDENT:

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done. ¹² He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the idols his ancestors had made. ¹³ He even deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah. Asa cut it down and burned it in the Kidron Valley. ¹⁴ Although he did not remove the high places, Asa's heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life. ¹⁵ He brought into the temple of the LORD the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated. (NIV)

TEACHER:

The chronology gets messy here as the 2 kingdoms fall in and out of favor with God. Some kings rule for more years than others. To make this easy when you are searching the text from here on out, check the diagram on the next page as you come across a new name. I have found it easier to keep track if I underline the names as I read through Kings and Chronicles. We will read at least some from each chapter, and you should use the chart to search out the details at your leisure.

CH. 16

STUDENT:

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years. ³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. ³³ Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him. (NIV)

TEACHER:

During Ahab's rule a man named Hiel rebuilt Jericho. The decision would cost him his 1st born son. Then to finish the job he installed the gates of the city. This would cost him his youngest son. Does anyone remember why? In the book of Joshua we studied that anyone rebuilding Jericho, "that the man who should do so would lay the foundation in his oldest son and set up the gates in his youngest son (Joshua 6: 26)."

CH. 12-
CH. 14
CH. 15
CH. 16-
CH. 20
CH. 22
2 KINGS
CH. 1
CH. 10
CH. 11
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CH. 14
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CH. 16
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CH. 21
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CH. 23
CH. 25

Kings of Judah		Kings of Israel	
Rehoboam	930-913*	Jeroboam I	930-909
Abijah	913-911		
Asa	911-870	Nadab	909-908
		Baasha	908-885
		Elah	885-884
		Zimri	884
		Omri	884-873
Jehoshaphat	870-846	Ahab	873-852
Jehoram	851-843	Ahaziah	852-851
Ahaziah	843-842	Jehoram (Joram)	851-842
Athaliah (queen)	842-836	Jehu	842-814
Joash (Jehoash)	836-798	Jehoahaz	817-800
Amaziah	798-769	Jehoash (Joash)	800-784
Azariah (Uzziah)	785-733	Jeroboam II	789-748
Jotham	758-743	Zechariah	748-747
		Shallum	747
Ahaz	743-714	Menahem	747-737
		Pekahiah	737-735
		Pekah	735-732
Hezekiah	727-698	Hoshea	731-722
Manasseh	698-642		
Amon	641-640		
Josiah	639-609		
Jehoahaz	609		
Jehoiakim	608-598		
Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	597		
Zedekiah	596-586		

TEACHER:

In chapter 17 during one of the most horrible times in Jewish history, one of the greatest men arise. Elijah.

STUDENT:

A prophet named Elijah, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to King Ahab, "In the name of the LORD, the living God of Israel, whom I serve, I tell you that there will be no dew or rain for the next two or three years until I say so." (GNT)

TEACHER:

God tells Elijah to cross the Jordan and hide by Cherith Brook. God tells him that he has commanded the ravens to bring him bread and meat every morning and evening. After a while the brook dries up, and the Lord tells him to go to a town named Zarepath, near Sidon. A widow has been told by God to feed him.

STUDENT:

So Elijah went to Zarephath, and as he came to the town gate, he saw a widow gathering firewood. "Please bring me a drink of water," he said to her. ¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called out, "And please bring me some bread, too."

¹² She answered, "By the living LORD your God I swear that I don't have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a bit of olive oil in a jar. I came here to gather some firewood to take back home and prepare what little I have for my son and me. That will be our last meal, and then we will starve to death." (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹³ "Don't worry," Elijah said to her. "Go on and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, and then prepare the rest for you and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day that I, the LORD, send rain.'"

¹⁵ The widow went and did as Elijah had told her, and all of them had enough food for many days. ¹⁶ As the LORD had promised through Elijah, the bowl did not run out of flour nor did the jar run out of oil. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Sometime later the boy fell very sick and died. The widow was heartbroken. Elijah takes the boy.

STUDENT:

¹⁹ "Give the boy to me," Elijah said. He took the boy from her arms, carried him upstairs to the room where he was staying, and laid him on the bed. ²⁰ Then he prayed aloud, "O LORD my God, why have you done such a terrible thing to this widow? She has been kind enough to take care of me, and now you kill her son!" ²¹ Then Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times and prayed, "O LORD my God, restore this child to life!" ²² The LORD answered Elijah's prayer; the child started breathing again and revived.

²³ Elijah took the boy back downstairs to his mother and said to her, "Look, your son is alive!"

²⁴ She answered, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the LORD really speaks through you!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

Fast forward 3 years, and Elijah's drought is squeezing them dry. God tells Elijah to go to King Ahab, because He is going to end the drought. As he is in-route to the king, Elijah runs into the prophet Obadiah.

CH. 18

STUDENT:

As Obadiah was on his way, he suddenly met Elijah. He recognized him, bowed low before him, and asked, “Is it really you, sir?”

⁸ “Yes, I’m Elijah,” he answered. “Go and tell your master the king that I am here.”

⁹ Obadiah answered, “What have I done that you want to put me in danger of being killed by King Ahab? ¹⁰ By the living LORD, your God, I swear that the king has made a search for you in every country in the world.

Whenever the ruler of a country reported that you were not in his country, Ahab would require that ruler to swear that you could not be found. ¹¹ And now you want me to go and tell him that you are here? ¹² What if the spirit of the LORD carries you off to some unknown place as soon as I leave? Then, when I tell Ahab that you are here and he can’t find you, he will put me to death. Remember that I have been a devout worshiper of the LORD ever since I was a boy. ¹³ Haven’t you heard that when Jezebel was killing the prophets of the LORD I hid a hundred of them in caves, in two groups of fifty, and supplied them with food and water? ¹⁴ So how can you order me to go and tell the king that you are here? He will kill me!” (GNT)

TEACHER:

Elijah swears he will see Ahab today, so Obadiah tells Ahab. Soon they are face to face.

STUDENT:

When Ahab saw him, he said,

“So there you are—the worst troublemaker in Israel!”

¹⁸ “I’m not the troublemaker,” Elijah answered.

“You are—you and your father.

You are disobeying the LORD’s commands and worshiping the idols of Baal.

¹⁹ Now order all the people of Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring along the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah who are supported by Queen Jezebel.” (GNT)



TEACHER:

Israel is assembled with all the prophets of Baal and he instructs that 2 bulls be brought forward and killed and cut up. 1 bull is to be laid on each of 2 altars. 1 altar is for Baal, and 1 is for The God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

STUDENT: The prophets of Baal

Bring two bulls; let the prophets of Baal take one, kill it, cut it in pieces, and put it on the wood—but don’t light the fire. I will do the same with the other bull. ²⁴ Then let the prophets of Baal pray to their god, and I will pray to the LORD, and the one who answers by sending fire—he is God.”

The people shouted their approval.

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Since there are so many of you, you take a bull and prepare it first. Pray to your god, but don’t set fire to the wood.”

²⁶ They took the bull that was brought to them, prepared it, and prayed to Baal until noon. They shouted, “Answer us, Baal!” and kept dancing around the altar they had built. But no answer came. (GNT)

STUDENT:

²⁷ At noon Elijah started making fun of them: "Pray louder! He is a god! Maybe he is day-dreaming or relieving himself, or perhaps he's gone off on a trip! Or maybe he's sleeping, and you've got to wake him up!" ²⁸ So the prophets prayed louder and cut themselves with knives and daggers, according to their ritual, until blood flowed. ²⁹ They kept on ranting and raving until the middle of the afternoon; but no answer came, not a sound was heard. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Noting the failure of Baal to answer prayer and send fire, now its Elijah's turn.

STUDENT:

He set about repairing the altar of the LORD which had been torn down. ³¹ He took twelve stones, one for each of the twelve tribes named for the sons of Jacob, the man to whom the LORD had given the name Israel. ³² With these stones he rebuilt the altar for the worship of the LORD. He dug a trench around it, large enough to hold about four gallons of water. ³³ Then he placed the wood on the altar, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the offering and the wood." They did so, ³⁴ and he said, "Do it again"—and they did. "Do it once more," he said—and they did. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and filled the trench.

³⁶ At the hour of the afternoon sacrifice the prophet Elijah approached the altar and prayed, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove now that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that this people will know that you, the LORD, are God and that you are bringing them back to yourself." (GNT)

STUDENT:

³⁸ The LORD sent fire down, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When the people saw this, they threw themselves on the ground and exclaimed, "The LORD is God; the LORD alone is God!" ⁴⁰ Elijah ordered, "Seize the prophets of Baal; don't let any of them get away!" The people seized them all, and Elijah led them down to Kishon Brook and killed them. (GNT)



TEACHER:

Elijah tells Ahab to go eat, "he hears rain coming." Elijah tells his servant to look for rain, the servant sees none and Elijah sends him back 7 times. The last time, the servant sees a small cloud the size of a man's hand rise from the sea. Elijah tells him to warn Ahab to go home fast or the rain will over-take him.

STUDENT:

Elijah ordered his servant, "Go to King Ahab and tell him to get in his chariot and go back home before the rain stops him." ⁴⁵ In a little while the sky was covered with dark clouds, the wind began to blow, and a heavy rain began to fall. Ahab got in his chariot and started back to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ The power of the LORD came on Elijah; he fastened his clothes tight around his waist and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

F.Y.I. Mt. Carmel to Jezreel is 20 miles. Elijah ran 20 miles on foot, faster than a man in a chariot.



King Ahab tells his wife Queen Jezebel everything that happened, and how Elijah killed all the prophets of Baal that she had set up. She vows revenge and Elijah flees to the wilderness and exhausted, asks God to take his life.

=====



STUDENT:

CH. 19

⁵ He lay down under the tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Wake up and eat." ⁶ He looked around and saw a loaf of bread and a jar of water near his head. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷ The LORD's angel returned and woke him up a second time, saying, "Get up and eat, or the trip will be too much for you." ⁸ Elijah got up, ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to walk forty days to Sinai, the holy mountain. ⁹ There he went into a cave to spend the night.

Suddenly the LORD spoke to him, "Elijah, what are you doing here?"

¹⁰ He answered, "LORD God Almighty, I have always served you—you alone. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed all your prophets. I am the only one left—and they are trying to kill me!" (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

God wants to show Elijah something. Jesus told us that He is the Good Shepherd, and that His sheep know His voice. When we are going through life, we should learn His voice. There is competition for our attention in the spiritual realm. Our voice, the world's voice, the devil's voice, and God's voice. With time, we can discern the difference. God tells Elijah "go out and stand before Me on top of the mountain." Editing by the Author.

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STUDENT:

1. Our voice.

Then the LORD passed by and sent a furious wind that split the hills and shattered the rocks—but the LORD was not in the wind.

2. The world's voice.

The wind stopped blowing, and then there was an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

3. The devil's voice.

¹² After the earthquake there was a fire—but the LORD was not in the fire.

4. God's voice.

And after the fire there was the soft whisper of a voice.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" (GNT *numerical headings by author*)

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TEACHER:

Elijah claims he is the only person serving the Lord in Israel. God instructs him on what he is to do next.

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STUDENT:

¹⁵ The LORD said, "Return to the wilderness near Damascus, then enter the city and anoint Hazael as king of Syria; ¹⁶ anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Anyone who escapes being put to death by Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and anyone who escapes Jehu will be killed by Elisha. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand people alive in Israel—all those who are loyal to me and have not bowed to Baal or kissed his idol." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Elijah obeys the Lord, but Ahab does not. A prophet went to Ahab in chapter 20 and tells Ahab not to fear the army camped against Israel. God will fight with them. They win a resounding defeat. The Syrians try again, and Israel's 7,000 man army kills 100,000 Syrian soldiers. Another 27,000 Syrians are killed as they escape to the city. Benhadad the Syrian king makes a deal for Ahab to spare his life. God is not happy.

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STUDENT:

⁴² The prophet then said to the king, "This is the word of the LORD: 'Because you allowed the man to escape whom I had ordered to be killed, you will pay for it with your life, and your army will be destroyed for letting his army escape.'"

⁴³ The king went back home to Samaria, worried and depressed. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 21 Ahab wants a piece of property that belongs to a man named Naboth. Naboth refuses, as the land is his inheritance. Jezebel the Queen cooks up a plan and has Naboth killed. God pronounces judgement on the house of King Ahab.

CH. 21

STUDENT:

Then the LORD said to Elijah, the prophet from Tishbe, ¹⁸“Go to King Ahab of Samaria. You will find him in Naboth's vineyard, about to take possession of it. ¹⁹Tell him that I, the LORD, say to him, ‘After murdering the man, are you taking over his property as well?’ Tell him that this is what I say: ‘In the very place that the dogs licked up Naboth's blood they will lick up your blood!’”

²⁰When Ahab saw Elijah, he said, “Have you caught up with me, my enemy?”

“Yes, I have,” Elijah answered. “You have devoted yourself completely to doing what is wrong in the LORD's sight. ²¹So the LORD says to you, ‘I will bring disaster on you. I will do away with you and get rid of every male in your family, young and old alike.....”

²³And concerning Jezebel, the LORD says that dogs will eat her body in the city of Jezreel. ²⁴Any of your relatives who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and any who die in the open country will be eaten by vultures.”

(²⁵There was no one else who had devoted himself so completely to doing wrong in the LORD's sight as Ahab—all at the urging of his wife Jezebel. ²⁶He committed the most shameful sins by worshiping idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD had driven out of the land as the people of Israel advanced.) (GNT)

TEACHER:

Ahab repents, and God decides not to carry out the sentence while he is still alive. Ahab decides to get 2 cities from Syria that used to belong to Israel. He inquires of the prophets with Jehoshaphat, King of Judah after his father Asa passed away. This coin was from his reign.



All of Ahab's prophets say that if they attack, they will win.

Jehoshaphat asks if there are any other prophets. Ahab tells him of 1 prophet that he hates, because he always prophecies badly regarding him.

CH. 22

STUDENT:

¹⁵When he appeared before King Ahab, the king asked him, “Micaiah, should King Jehoshaphat and I go and attack Ramoth, or not?”

“Attack!” Micaiah answered. “Of course you'll win. The LORD will give you victory.”

¹⁶But Ahab replied, “When you speak to me in the name of the LORD, tell the truth! How many times do I have to tell you that?”

¹⁷Micaiah answered, “I can see the army of Israel scattered over the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the LORD said, ‘These men have no leader; let them go home in peace.’”

¹⁸Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good for me? It's always something bad!”

¹⁹Micaiah went on: “Now listen to what the LORD says! I saw the LORD sitting on his throne in heaven, with all his angels standing beside him. ²⁰The LORD asked, ‘Who will deceive Ahab so that he will go and be killed at Ramoth?’ Some of the angels said one thing, and others said something else, ²¹until a spirit stepped forward, approached the LORD, and said, ‘I will deceive him.’ ²²‘How?’ the LORD asked. The spirit replied, ‘I will go and make all of Ahab's prophets tell lies.’ The LORD said, ‘Go and deceive him. You will succeed.’” (GNT)

STUDENT:

²³ And Micaiah concluded: "This is what has happened. The LORD has made these prophets of yours lie to you. But he himself has decreed that you will meet with disaster!"

²⁴ Then the prophet Zedekiah went up to Micaiah, slapped his face, and asked, "Since when did the LORD's spirit leave me and speak to you?"

²⁵ "You will find out when you go into some back room to hide," Micaiah replied.

²⁶ Then King Ahab ordered one of his officers, "Arrest Micaiah and take him to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Prince Joash. ²⁷ Tell them to throw him in prison and to put him on bread and water until I return safely."

²⁸ "If you return safely," Micaiah exclaimed, "then the LORD has not spoken through me!" And he added, "Listen, everyone, to what I have said!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

When they attack the city, and Ahab dies, the Prophecy is fulfilled that dogs would drink his blood, and prostitutes would wash themselves in his blood. His son would succeed him and was every inch as bad as his father Ahab.

NEXT LESSON 2 KINGS

"...be strong, act like a man."

1 Kings 2:2b



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



... and the Lord sent Ravens to feed Elijah.
1 Kings 17:2-6 Of course these ravens were well educated ravens from the famed Kerith Ravine Culinary School for the birds.

It's kind of a HOBBY.



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Asa, King of Judah. **1 Kings 15:9-23**
Good King (v 11)... Bad Feet (v 23)

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



After watching the Wizard of Oz, the palace servants had their own theory on why Queen Jezebel was so mean. **1 Kings**



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



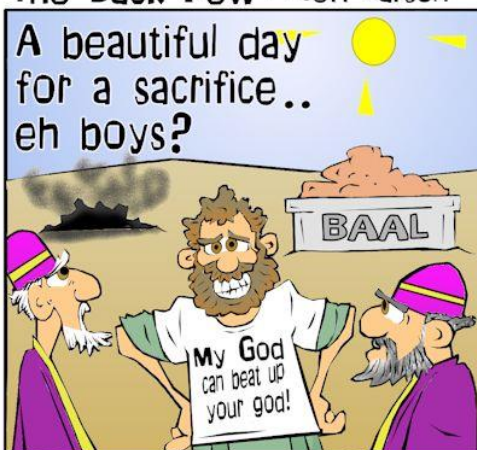
Elijah versus the prophets of Baal
1 Kings 18

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



After defeating the prophets of Baal, Queen Jezebel is outraged and shouts much like the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland.. OFF WITH HIS HEAD.
1 Kings 19:18

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Elijah's custom made T-shirt summed up this day of Baal v God. **1 Kings 18**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



During battle, Ahab is hit by a stray arrow through his heart which is about the size of a GRAPE (a rotten grape) **1 Kings 22:34-38**

