

SOUND MIND BIBLE STUDY

SOUNDMINDBIBLESTUDY.COM | with Misty Craig | May 2, 2024

DEVELOPMENTS

WELCOME

- Past Business** → Introduction
- Future Business** → Next Study → → Thursday, May 2, 2024
- Review** → Review of previous SMBS

DISCLAIMERS

LIFE APPLICATIONS

- Revival** → Is It Needed?
- Days of Elijah** → Then & Now
- Why Weren't We Warned?**

DRILL

INTERACTIONS

- TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE (5-10 MINUTE BREAK)**
- UP TO THIS POINT** → Review from Adam to First Set of Kings
- SETTING THE STAGE** → Build up to the epic showdown of Elijah & Baal prophets

DIRECTION

GOD TAUGHT US

- Now What?** → The Battle Plan → → A Revived Spirit of Boldness

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REVIEW

In the previous SMBS we covered several items.

- **My Thankful Book.** My list of how God taught me and walked me through the darkest of days.
- **Shared a “Disclaimer Prayer”** that I created that contained lines from lyrics of songs that God used to keep my mind right and to keep me speaking right.
- We also went over why we need a boldness for God and how **Satan attacks our boldness** with lies. We identified those lies that are often whispered.
- In Daniel Chapter 3 we saw the **“Even If”** God doesn't do what we ask, we have to make a decision.
- We ended the study with everyone coming up to the front and claiming that we are in the way of what Satan tries to do to our families with prayer and bold faith!

DISCLAIMERS

LIFE APPLICATIONS

- Revival → Is It Needed?
- Days of Elijah → Then & Now
- Why Weren't We Warned?

Do you believe revival is needed for this generation?

What will revival do for people?

What kind of generation are we living among?

DAYS OF ELIJAH

Out of sight. Out of Mind.

1 Kings 18:36-39 New International Version (NIV)

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!"

Elijah was a mighty prophet during a turbulent time in Israel's history. The nation had turned away from the Lord to worship Baal, and King Ahab had formed an alliance with Sidon by marrying their princess, Jezebel. Elijah was sent to show Israel the evil of their ways and encourage them to return to the Lord.

The **people of Israel turned away** from the Lord. These leaders worshiped idols that greatly grieved God's heart. King Ahab & Queen Jezebel completely opposed everything "God".

It was like the Israelites had **forgotten everything** God had done for them.

Under the leadership of King Ahab & Queen Jezebel the decline of Israel was catastrophic. The Israelites had long forgotten the days of slavery.

No doubt the Israelites were running downhill of morality. King Ahab & Queen Jezebel were catalysts.

The Israelites were already on a path of destruction and progressive behavior. You Name it: sexual perversion, child sacrifices, false gods & idols

The **Exodus out of Egypt** was in the rear view mirror.

Today.

Today, a great number of Americans are on the **same path** of moral decline.

The United States have some very **liberal abortion standards**.

Some churches are finding gay marriage and **homosexuality acceptable**.

Divorce destroys families inside and outside of the church.

Human Trafficking is rampant across the globe.

Some of the people we consider to be great leaders are now preaching and teaching the **doctrine of inclusion**.

Christian leaders are finding it harder and harder to say “**Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation**” without fearing they are hurting someone's feelings.

Why Weren't We Warned?

2020 plagued the world with diseases, sickness, violence, financial problems and much more.

People were asking “**WHY GOD?**”

In the days of Elijah the Israelites were in turmoil and trouble and were crying out “**WHY WERE WE NOT WARNED?**”

The people of Israel wanted the **prophets to speak out**. (This was how God spoke to the people then).

Ezekiel 7:26(CSB)-Disaster after disaster will come, and there will be rumor after rumor. Then they will look for a vision from a prophet, but instruction will perish from the priests and counsel from the elders.

The Truth is that the prophets had **already been speaking**, but no one was listening.

That doesn't mean God has given up on His people.

The Season of Trouble.

We are in a season of trouble.

God has **heard his people**, and out of his love for them **God is raising a new generation** to restore the destiny of the church in this generation.

What prophet from the Bible would God send us today in the 21st-century?

We would be getting a letter. Just pointing that out.

I believe it would be Elijah.

God chose Elijah for Israel when they were caught in wickedness.

God developed Elijah to be a challenging force against the unprecedented wickedness of his day.

Elijah was **one of a kind**.

Elijah's life is geared towards challenging the **loyalty of the human heart**.

His life was **uniquely designed** to change the culture by changing the values of people at that time.

This is the **central element** of the spirit in power of Elijah: **To turn hearts back to God**.

The Elijah anointing comes to confront and call wayward generations back to their true identity.

The anointing of Elijahs **raises the Spirit of God to people**.

Key Question.

The Elijah anointing ask a **key question**:

“How long will you falter between two opinions?”

This type of anointing **offends the mind to reveal the heart**.

God is **calling forth people** with the heart of Elijah to **stand boldly** against churches of compromise and temples of tolerance.

Character Traits of Elijahs anointing: outspoken, unreserved, blunt, and candid.

They will come with a **clear presentation** of the gospel and will not be ambiguous or unintelligible.

Their boldness and clarity will **not come out of their own strength**, but instead will be the result of being filled with the zeal of the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit and power of God can be **accessed through persistent prayer and fasting** making tremendous power accessible.

James 5:16-18 (Power of Prayer)

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Persistent prayer and fasting will open and shut the heavens.

Elijah's Anointing broke through **400 years of religion**, ritualistic worship in tradition, backsliding, and hardening of the heart.

We need this type of anointing today.

The Elijah generation rising today set life back on course and speaks forth destiny into the lives of individuals, families, cities, nations, generations.

It will restore the broken pathways of righteousness and help prepare the way for God's purpose.

DRILL

INTERACTIONS

- TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE (5-10 MINUTE BREAK)**
- UP TO THIS POINT** → Review from Adam to First Set of Kings
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TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1) Where was Elijah the Tishbite from?

A - God B - Gilead C - Gilboa D - Geshur

2) What did Elijah do to the Worshipers of Baal?

A - Blessed them B - Worshiped with them C - Cursed them D - Mocked them

3) What was Elijah taken up to heaven by?

A - a cloud B - a chariot C - a whirlwind D - an eagle

4) What was Elijah?

A - a prophet B - a scribe C - a priest D - a king

Who else appeared unto Jesus, Peter, James and John with Elijah?

A - Paul B - Samuel C - David D - Moses

6) Who wanted to make three tabernacles when witnessing the above appearance?

A - James B - Peter C - John D - Andrew

7) How long were the heavens shut up for in the days of Elijah?

A - 5 years and 2 months B - 103 years and 9 months C - 3 years and 6 months D - 2 days

8) In Romans 11:2-3 Elijah is quoted saying, 'Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.' (NKJV) Where is this cited in the Old Testament?

A - Joshua 4:9 B - 2 Chronicles 3:4 C - 1 Kings 19:10-14 D - 2 Kings 17:20

9) According to James, what was Elijah's nature like?

A - A beast that perishes B - Ours C - God's D - Grass

10) The Levites asked this man if he was Elijah:

A - Jesus B - Peter C - Paul D - John the Baptist

11) What did Elijah pray earnestly for and receive an answer to his prayer?

A - Food B - Health C - That it would not rain D - Wisdom

12) Who did people say that Jesus was, other than Elijah?

A - John the Baptist, and Isaac B - John the Baptist, and Jeremiah C - Joseph and Moses D - Moses and Jeremiah

13) What were the words Jesus spoke that caused the people to think he was calling for Elijah?

A - Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin B - Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani C - Mene, Mene, Tekel, Peres D - Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty

14) With what did God reveal himself to Elijah?

A - a bright light B - a prophet C - an earthquake D - a gentle whisper

15) How much of Elijah's spirit did Elisha receive?

A - Twice as much B - The same amount C - Half as much D - None

16) Elijah performed a miracle for a widow from this place:

A - Gerah B - Maresha C - Ramah D - Zarephath

17) When Elijah met with Elisha what was Elisha doing?

A - Sowing seed B - Plowing the fields C - Sleeping D - Shearing the hay

18) What brook did Elijah drink from?

A - Kidron B - Eschol C - Kerith D - Zered

19) What king was reigning in Jerusalem when Elijah sent him a letter?

A - Jehoram B - Ahaziah C - Jehoshaphat D - Hezekiah

20) When Elijah fled into the wilderness, God asked him the following question:

A - Where are you going? B - Why have you come here? C - Where are you? D - What are you doing here?

THE KINGDOM UNITED

SUMMARY UP TO THIS POINT

The Beginning

From Creation to the Flood

Days of Creation

God promises to provide for his creation

The Fall

God banished Adam & Eve

Cain kills Abel

Noah's Ark

Population Increases and so does sinfulness.

A Chosen Family

From Abraham to Joseph (2100-1800 BC)

Abraham and Sarah

The Covenant

Isaac and The Twins Jacob/Esau

Joseph in Egypt

Sold and thrown into Prison

Saves Egypt and Israel settles in Egypt

Job

Going on possibly during era of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob

A Redeemed People

From Egypt to the Wilderness (1800-1400 BC)

Moses and the Exodus

- All had forgotten Joseph & Exodus
- Pharaoh didn't like the threat of the Jews
- Plagues were sent until Pharaoh said go

Wilderness Wanderings

- Parting of Red Sea
- 10 Commandments
- Looking for the Promised Land
- Cycle of Sin and back to Restoration

Ark of the Covenant (Tabernacle)

Feast of Israel

- To remind Israel what God did for them

For Generations to Remember Me

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread***
- First Fruits
- Feast of Pentecost***
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Feast of Tabernacles***

*****Pilgrimage Feast when all Jewish males required to go back to Jerusalem to appear before the Lord (Deut. 16:16)**

For God gave Blueprints the Tabernacle & How To Be Obedient

Exact Instructions

Laws

Direct People's Behaviors

How To Govern Israel

The Land of Promise

From Joshua to the Judges.

- Conquest of Canaan by Joshua
- The Judges of Israel

Joshua- Joshua had been one of the two spies who returned from the promised land with a favorable report for Moses. The other ten spies had persuaded the Israelites to stay out, for people who lived in the land were big and powerful, like giants in their eyes.

Joshua, however, **challenged the Israelites to have courage:**

“The Lord is with us. Do not be afraid” (Num. 14:9).

But the people listened to their fears more than God’s promises. As a result, God let them wander in the wilderness until that generation passed away.

Fast-forward almost forty years, and Joshua again stood at the edge of the promised land. God had given his people another chance to find the courage that the earlier generation lacked—this time, to take on the giants in the land.

Next, **Joshua conquered cities in the southern region of Canaan,** followed by victories in the north.

In all these battles, God was their behind-the-scenes military commander, present and empowering (Josh. 5:13-15).

Feared by the people of the land, the Israelites quickly settled throughout Canaan and Joshua allotted specific territories to the different tribes of Israel.

The book closes with Joshua’s farewell address in which he reminds the people to remain faithful to God as God was faithful to them.

Joshua memorably declared:

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Josh. 24:15)

Joshua died at 110 years old and was buried in the promised land.

The Era of the Judges

Cycle in the Book of Judges

Joshua's death left the tribes of Israel without a central leader. The awesome victories of the past became distant forgotten tales. The Israelites repeated cycles of sin and deliverance during this era.

What were the roles of the judges in Israel?

Judges in the Old Testament were not magistrates, but military leaders chosen by God to aid the Israelites and restore peace in times of external danger.

However, these Judges described in the book of Judges exercised their authority mostly over one tribe or two with the exception of Eli and Samuel.

HANNAH

This setting begins with a **silent prayer** from the heart of a woman in pain.

Hannah had no children, which in the ancient world was considered a cause for ridicule and shame.

“In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly” (1 Sam. 1:10).

Her prayer was inaudible—a prayer from the depths of her heart. Those around her couldn't hear her, **but the Lord did**.

He granted Hannah the “desires of her heart” (Ps. 37:4).

Hannah conceived a son.

She dedicated him to the Lord's service and named him **Samuel**.

SAMUEL THE LAST JUDGE

Before Israel had even entered the promised land, Moses prophetically counseled them about establishing kings to rule over them.

Deuteronomy 17:14–20

The instructions were clear: if the people ever chose to have a king, they must select someone who met certain criteria.

A king had
to be—

1. **One chosen by the Lord**
2. A member of the house of Israel and not a **Gentile/Foreigner**
3. **One who did not seek to “multiply horses” (a Hebrew idiom meaning to make extensive preparations for aggressive warfare)**
4. One who would **not lead Israel back** to Egypt (back to their worldly ways).
5. **One who would not multiply wives and wealth unto himself**
6. One who followed the law of God in ruling the people
7. **He must not accumulate** large amounts of silver and gold

Samuel led Israel both **as a prophet** and the **last judge** of the era of judges.

Late in his life, the Israelites made it clear that **they didn’t want another judge** to succeed him.

They demanded a king like other nations.

Samuel warned them of the consequences of having a king such as this. He warned of military and civil service to the monarch and of the burden of taxation.

God explained to Samuel,

“It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king” (1 Sam. 8:7)

The **kingless era of judges** was a difficult time when the tribes of Israel rarely looked to God as their King and instead turned to idols.

Though God warned the Israelites that having a king would come with many unpleasant strings attached, the people insisted.

Israel rejected the Lord as their rightful king (see 1 Samuel 8:7); so the Lord directed His prophet to provide them a king.

KING SAUL

So God instructed **Samuel to anoint a man named Saul** as Israel's first king. Saul was handsome, young, and tall. He looked the part of a king.

“The Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul”
and the people shouted, “Long live the king!” (1 Sam. 10:10, 24).

Saul had **the perfect opportunity** to be the benchmark by which all future kings could be measured.

All he had to do was to **seek the Lord wholeheartedly**, obey God's commandments, and align his will with that of God's, and his rule would have been a God-honoring one.

Though Saul had **initial successes** as king, in time, **he disobeyed** the word of the Lord and ignored God's instructions.

King Saul would have had **no shortage of wise counsel** available to him.

By ignoring God and His wise counsel, Saul allowed the **spiritual health of his people** to deteriorate further, alienating them from God.

Another King would be chosen.

KING DAVID

“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

God had called David.

Once **anointed by Samuel**, the Spirit of the Lord came upon David and **departed from Saul**. (1 Sam. 16:13-14)

The **land was united and greatly** strengthened under the kingship of David.

David ruled Israel for 40 years.

Some of **his last words** to his son Solomon was

“Serve the Lord with wholehearted devotion and with a willing, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought.” (1 Chronicles 28:8)

KING SOLOMON

2 Chronicles 1-9; 1 Kings 3-11

King Solomon reigned during **the golden age of Israel**, a time of national and economic prosperity.

Solomon began his kingship by asking God for one thing: **wisdom**.

He, like his father David, desired to govern God's people with **"a discerning heart"** (1 Kings 3:9).

"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashores" (1 Kings 4:29).

During Solomon's reign, he **expanded the boundaries of Israel**, achieved economic successes, constructed a magnificent palace, built the first temple in Jerusalem, and **placed the ark of the covenant in the most holy room of the temple**.

Under Solomon, **Israel reached its greatest glory and its greatest expansion**.

But wise advice is often easier given than taken.

King Solomon married over 700 foreign wives and had 300 concubines.

Royal marriages like this in the ancient world were a way of forming **political and economic alliances between nations**.

Solomon may have seen his many marriages as a means to strengthen his kingdom, but in the end this proved to be a foolish path to follow.

As one of Solomon's own proverbs says, **"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"** (Prov. 14:12)

Solomon's wives were **not only his downfall** but also the eventual downfall of Israel. Each foreign wife brought an allegiance to a foreign god or idol.

Solomon **allowed the worship of these foreign gods in Israel.**

It created within him a **divided heart.**

He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.

So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon **built a high** place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.

He did **the same for all his foreign wives**, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods." In the Bible, Molech is associated with the Canaanites.

Worship of Molech was particularly heinous as it involved **infant sacrifice**. The practices of those who worshiped this idol were wholly inconsistent with the life-giving worship of the One, True, Living God.

Allowing this idolatry, along with the idolatry allowed to appease other women in his harem, became the downfall of Solomon and Israel.

In his old age, Solomon set up **numerous places of worship for the gods of his many wives** and his heart turned toward these idols.

No longer was his heart "**fully devoted to the Lord his God**" (1 Kings 11:4).

As **Moses had said centuries earlier** and Jesus would say centuries later, the greatest commandment is to "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind**" (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37).

During most of Solomon's reign, Israel was united and prosperous.

Upon his death, however, Solomon left behind **a fragile kingdom** on the verge of breaking apart.

The **first three kings of Israel** achieved many significant things, but their worldly government cultivated the seeds of the destruction that was to come upon the nation.

THE KINGDOM DIVIDE

After **King Solomon's death**, old tribal loyalties rumbling below the surface appeared again.

Civil war broke out between the ten northern tribes and the two southern tribes.

Disputes over taxation and other political ideas **divided** the nation into two kingdoms.

There was also a great dispute in Israel, the nation chosen by God, **about who was to become king**.

REHOBOAM

Before the Israelites broke apart there was a **meeting of the minds and heads of the tribes**.

During the assembly of tribes, the tribes requested **certain reforms in the policies** followed by King Solomon.

The reforms requested would **materially reduce the royal exchequer** (money fund/bank) and hence its power to continue the magnificence of Solomon's court.

Rehoboam is **Solomon's Son & Rightful Heir to the "Throne" of Israel**.

The **older men counseled Rehoboam** to at least speak to the people in a civil manner (it is not clear whether they counseled him to accept the demands).

However, **the new king sought the advice from the young men he had grown up with**, who advised the king to **show no weakness to the people**, and to **tax them even more**, which Rehoboam did.

When Rehoboam, Solomon's son, **refused to listen to the plea of the people** for an easier burden, it angered a lot of Israelites.

Significant levels of **asymmetrical redistribution of** wealth existed. Thus, breaking one of the rules Moses spoke about being a godly king.

Shortly after Rehoboam became king, **a rebellion placed the ten northern tribes under the rule of Jeroboam** and left Rehoboam with his own tribe (Judah) and the tribe of Benjamin.

Rehoboam **fled to Jerusalem** (1 Kings 12:18; 2 Chronicles 10:18), where he mustered 180,000 warriors from the tribes of **Judah and Benjamin** to mount an attack.

But **Shemaiah, a prophet of God**, delivered God's message to Rehoboam: the troops should go home because the divided kingdom had come from the Lord.

The people of Judah wisely listened and did not invade Israel (1 Kings 12:21–24; 2 Chronicles 11:1–4).

However, there **continued to be warfare between Jeroboam and Rehoboam** throughout Rehoboam's reign (1 Kings 14:30; 2 Chronicles 12:15).

Rehoboam also built multiple cities for defense, with strong fortresses, commanders, and supplies (2 Chronicles 11:5–12). King Rehoboam “acted wisely” by **placing his sons throughout the districts of Judah and Benjamin**, supplied ample provisions, and found them wives (2 Chronicles 11:23).

Unfortunately, after King Rehoboam became established in the southern kingdom, **he abandoned the ways of God** (2 Chronicles 12:1)

(2 Chronicles 12:1). In the **fifth year of Rehoboam's reign**, king of Egypt **captured the fortified cities** in Judah and set out against Jerusalem.

Shemaiah the prophet told Rehoboam, “**This is what the Lord says, ‘You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to the king of Egypt’**” (2 Chronicles 12:5).

“The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, **‘The Lord is just’**”. Seeing their humility, God said He would not destroy them but would allow them to become subjects of Shishak.

The **Pharaoh attacked** Jerusalem and **removed all the treasures from the temple and the palace** (1 Kings 14:26; 2 Chronicles 12:9). Rehoboam did make bronze shields to replace the gold ones his father had made (1 Kings 14:27; 2 Chronicles 12:10–11).

Second Chronicles 12:12 says, **“Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the Lord's anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed**. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.” **“Some good in Judah”** seems a fitting way to characterize the reign of Rehoboam.

He was unwise and perhaps brash in his treatment of the forced laborers, thus leading to his loss of the kingdom. However, that loss was God-ordained, and **Rehoboam proceeded to follow the ways of the Lord for some time**.

But then he turned from God, and the nation slid into moral and spiritual decay.

“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” (1 Kings 14:22).

They set up high places and had **male shrine prostitutes** in the land, which King Asa, Rehoboam's grandson, would later remove.

Under Rehoboam's rule, “the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites” (1 Kings 14:24)

NAAMAH

Rehoboam mother was Naamah and she was an **Ammonite** (Sister tribe Moabites) Lot's sons, born of incest with his daughters (Genesis 19:37–38).

They worshiped gods who required child sacrifice for their rituals.

God made it clear to the Israelites that they should keep their distance from such people.

JEROBOAM

Jeroboam (**former official of Solomon**) was a **servant who rebelled against Solomon**. Jeroboam was from the **tribe of Ephraim**, a servant of King Solomon's, and the son of a widow (Daddy issues most likely)

Jeroboam was a skilled worker, and, "when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work," he placed Jeroboam over the labor force of the tribes of Joseph (1 Kings 11:28) .

the **prophet Ahijah approached Jeroboam with a prophecy**. The prophet tore a new cloak into 12 pieces and said, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes'" (1 Kings 11:31).

The **idol worship of the Israelites caused God to divide the kingdom** (verse 33). The house of David would retain a remnant of the kingdom, including Jerusalem, because of God's covenant with David (verse 32)

After this, "**Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt . . . and stayed there until Solomon's death**" (1 Kings 11:40). Following Solomon's death, Solomon's son Rehoboam became king and foolishly threatened to make life more difficult for the people of the land (1 Kings 12:14).

This led to a rebellion against Rehoboam, and the ten northern tribes crowned Jeroboam as their king (1 Kings 12:20). **The division predicted by Ahijah came to pass** (1 Kings 12:15).

Jeroboam had been promised great blessings and a continuing dynasty if he would follow the Lord (1 Kings 11:38). However, Jeroboam did not obey the Lord.

Instead, he **had two golden calves** made for the people to worship in the northern kingdom and made priests and celebrations for them and in the Northern Kingdom he declared, "**Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt**" (1 Kings 12:28).

Just as Rehoboam did, Jeroboam decided to give his people in the north **new places of worship and new gods**.

The 10 tribes of Israel made Jeroboam king

Asher, Dan, Ephraim(joseph's son), Gad, Issachar, Manasseh(joseph's son), Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun

And the two tribes **Judah and Benjamin**, along with the Levites, remained with Rehoboam.

The northern 10 tribes **kept the name of Israel**.

The once unified tribes of Jacob were now two nations.

They were two houses, or two brothers if you will, that had **become enemies**.

They were a people of God, but **their pride and hunger for power** took over.

These two nations **fought with one another**.

They each became strong and independent and created **two distinct lineages in history**.

Each had their **own kings**, and even their **own prophets**.

ECONOMY of NORTH vs SOUTH(10 Tribes vs 2 Tribes)

Northern Israel had **significantly more advanced** and structured economic systems.

They had many more **natural resources and agricultural potential**.

They also **controlled strategic land routes** such as the Megiddo Pass, which overlooked the Carmel ridge serving as a **major passage between Mesopotamia and Egypt**.

Northern Israel enjoyed a much more **robust economy**.

The **capital of Samaria in the Iron Age** contained a large collection of Phoenician-style decorated ivories. The pottery vessels evidence significant trade via the Phoenician city-states, particularly Tyre.

This **economic thriving was surely one of the major reasons** for the political turmoil of the northern kingdom.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Iron Age

- Economic transactions during this time were deeply socially embedded
 - Agreements/Treaties
 - Marriages-easier than coercion
- With the unified monarchy, Israel moved toward a centralized organization with a complex social structure. The monarchy regulated the distribution of the factors of production, most notably land and labor.

7 Characteristics of A Civilization

1. Staple Food Supply

a. Civilizations need a stable supply of food. Societies can only thrive with plenty of food. Domestication of animals and agriculture allowed civilizations to create a stable food supply.

- i. North: 5/5 Stars
- ii. South: 3/5 Stars

2. System of Government

a. Civilizations need a well-organized system of government to help direct people's behavior and keep life orderly. The Government oversees enforcing laws, construction, leading an army, and distribution of food.

- i. North: 3/5 Stars
- ii. South: 2/5 Stars

3. Highly Developed Culture

a. All civilizations must have a highly developed culture including the arts, like painting, architecture, and music. Culture is a way to show what a civilization values (important to them).

- i. North: 5/5 Stars
- ii. South: 3/5 Stars

4. Written language

a. All civilizations must have a highly developed written language. The beginning of history means the beginning of writing.

- i. North: 5/5 Stars
- ii. South: 3/5 Stars

5. Social Structure

a. Civilizations have a complex organization, or social structure. This is controlled through different jobs and social levels.

- 1. Ruler
 - 2. Landowners/Priest/Government Official
 - 3. Common Class (Merchants, Craftspeople, etc)
 - 4. Slaves
- ii. North: 4/5 Stars
 - iii. South: 2/5 Stars

6. Religious System

- a. All systems need a religious system. This includes, set of beliefs, God(s), and place of worship.
 - i. North: 2/5 Stars
 - ii. South: 5/5 Stars

7. Advances in Technology

- a. All civilizations create new forms of technology (tools or inventions). These advances prove that a civilization not only developed, but also provided contribution to surrounding area and future generations.
 - i. North: 5/5 Stars
 - ii. South: 2/5 Stars

CIVIL WAR

God sent prophets to his rebellious people with words of warning. We read in the book of Amos about the prophet's warnings to an apathetic people who had turned their backs on God and exploited the poor and vulnerable.

Despite military threats from powerful kingdoms like Assyria and Egypt, **this was still a time of economic prosperity for Israel.**

And who would **listen to prophets preaching doom** when everything seemed to be okay?

BIG MISTAKE!

To keep Assyria and Egypt at bay, the kings of both Israel and Judah formed political alliances with these nations and adopted their gods and worship practices.

The prophet Isaiah spoke out strongly against these alliances, but as was often the case, the kings didn't heed the prophet's warnings.

THEN and NOW

Our actions affect future generations.

Some decisions don't limit themselves to our lifetimes. When Solomon married Naamah as well as the other foreign women, he brought the traditions of their **pagan gods** into the lives of his family.

Solomon **built altars** to foreign gods and then his son did as well.

Many people in **the kingdom were affected** by the actions of these two kings.

Did the people of the time **walk by the shrines** day after day until they too began worshiping them?

Did they **pass that tradition** on to their children and their children's children?

We're relational people. We don't live in isolation and neither do our actions and sins. **They have lasting effects.**

Moses was preparing the Israelites to enter the land of Canaan, and God issued **stern warnings** about engaging in their evil practices.

Throughout the Old Testament, God contrasts Himself with idols in many ways. While idols had to be carried, our God carries us.

While idols were deaf, blind, and mute, **we worship a God who sees**, hears, and speaks. While idols demanded sacrifices, our God sacrificed His Son for us.

But, of course, when a culture or nation can tolerate **burning children alive** in the belly of a bronze idol to secure their prosperity, they have reached a new level of evil.

Remember the words of John 1:1-5 and believe God when He tells us that the light of life still shines and the darkness has not (and will not) overcome it:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

The stage is set. The epic showdown of Elijah & Baal prophet is underway!

DIRECTION

GOD TAUGHT US

Now What? → The Battle Plan →→ A Revived Spirit of Boldness

Reminder in Closing.

Elijah's Anointing broke through **400 years of religion**, ritualistic worship in tradition, backsliding, and hardening of the heart.

We need this type of anointing today.

The Elijah generation rising today set life back on course and speaks forth destiny into the lives of individuals, families, cities, nations, generations.

It will restore the broken pathways of righteousness and help prepare the way for God's purpose.

But God. I can't do all of that! I am forgetful. I can't remember what I did 5 minutes ago. What if I fail? What if my words don't come out right? I am too dumb to lead myself, much less other people. No one cares what I have to say.

[John 14:26](#)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

[Ephesians 1:13](#)

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

[John 16:13](#)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

[1 John 2:27](#)

But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 2:10

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Luke 12:12

For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

The hard work is already done. We are just the messengers. The Holy Spirit is our gift as an inheritance and an insurance we are not in this alone.

This generation matters. We matter. Our prayers matter. They change generations around the world. The anointing that came upon Elijah is the very anointing that we need today.

The Elijah anointing ask a **key question**:

“How long will you filter between two opinions?”

This type of anointing **offends the mind to reveal the heart.**

God is **calling forth people** with the heart of Elijah to **stand boldly.**