

Bible Study, August 10, 2017

# 1 Kings 15-17

---



## Introduction

This section of 1 Kings is a long story about the many kings of the Northern Kingdom. We will hear about their unfaithfulness to God and their murders of each other. As you read, put on your Jesus glasses. Read the story as it is, but as we consider why it is scripture for us, as Christians, question what Jesus has to teach us about these men, the prophets, and one faithful widow.

## Questions

1. David had Samuel and Nathan as prophets to guide him. Though Rehoboam had Ahijah, it seems like he often lacked good counsel or didn't listen when he could have. Who were your best advisors when you were younger and what did you learn from them?
  2. God keeps giving the leaders of the tribe of Judah second chances (and third chances, and fourth chances, etc.). When have you felt like God has given you extra chances (15:4)?
  3. What do you think made the writer of Kings consider Asa to be faithful like his 'father' David (15:9-24)?
  4. It seems like the purpose of this passage is to show the consequences of unfaithfulness to God (16:1-14). However, we know from our experience of Christ that God is ever-forgiving. How do we make sense of the Old Testament being so theologically different from the New Testament?
  5. See Figure A. All of the kings of Israel reigned during the time of King Asa (the faithful king of Judah). What do we think the writer of Kings is hoping to tell us by showing the many kings of the Northern Kingdom when compared to the one king in Judah?
  6. Out of an evil time, a prophet of the Lord arose: Elijah (17:1). Does this mean that God causes evil things to happen in order to restore them? What has brought you comfort in your own life as you have dealt with awful situations?
-

- 
7. What can we learn from Elijah being fed by the ravens (17:4)?
  8. How do you feel as you read that the widow sacrificed her last meal for Elijah's benefit (17:8-16)?
  9. What do you believe about what God is doing when bad things happen (17:17)? Is it mysterious? Does everything happen for a reason? Has it just not been revealed to us yet? Is it caused by evil-intentions of people to whom God has given free will?
  10. When good things happen (17:23-24) what do you tend to do?
  11. Reading this chapter (17), what disturbs you? What gives you comfort? Why do we think it is scripture?

**Figure A:**

<b>Judah's Kings</b>	<b>Israel's Kings</b>
David	Jeroboam
Solomon	Nadab
Rehoboam	<u>Baasha</u>
Abijam	Elah
<b>Asa</b>	<u>Zimri</u> (7 days)
Jehoshaphat	<u>Omri</u>
	<u>Omri   Tibni</u>
	<u>Omri</u>
	Ahab

\_\_\_\_\_ = Change in Family