

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 05 June	1Kings 01-04	Granted
2) 12 June	1Kings 05-08	Repentance
3) 19 June	1Kings 09-11	Compromised
4) 26 June	1Kings 12-14	Divided
5) 03 July	1Kings 15-16	Return
6) 10 July	1Kings 17-18	Proven
7) 17 July	1Kings 19-22	Hope
8) 24 July	2Kings 01-05	God Heals
9) 31 July	2Kings 06-08	God Provides
10) 07 Aug	2Kings 09-12	God Honors
11) 14 Aug	2Kings 13-17	God Judges
12) 21 Aug	2Kings 18-21	God Hears
13) 28 Aug	2Kings 22-25	God Moves

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes it is hard to keep 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, and 1&2 Chronicles straight. Here's a short synopsis of each:
 - 1Samuel – King Saul's reign
 - 2Samual – King David's reign
 - 1Kings – Judean Kings Solomon to Jehoshaphat & Prophet Elijah
 - 2Kings – Judean & Israelite Kings with Prophet Elisha
 - 1Chronicles – Recap of King David's reign (author Ezra)
 - 2Chronicles – Recap of Judean Kings Solomon-Zedekiah
- Also, 1st and 2nd Kings seem to go easier on the Judean kings since those books do not record more of the gory details and sinful behavior as reported in 1st and 2nd Chronicles

Passage	Comments
1Kings 1:1-4	<p>King David's Final Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What a retirement home. He gets to sleep with the prettiest girl in town – but he's too old to enjoy her. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you address such odd behavior from leaders? Sometimes, there is nothing anyone can do with despots. They can sometimes get away with murder. Abishag was a Shunammite from Shunem, a city of Issachar (Josh 19:18). Did she have a choice or was forced to bed with the King as Esther was forced into a harem? Jewish law allowed polygamy. God tolerated it, as well as divorce & remarriage, but He sanctioned neither. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polygamy almost disappeared after the Babylonian captivity, but history shows polygamy among the Jews did not fully cease till about the 11th century AD How should we handle a polygamist marriage if/when such a family accepts Christ and comes to your church? Example: An Arab family takes up residence near you. Jesus would clarify marriage as 1 man to 1 woman for life. Everything else adulterates God's original plan. Mk 10:6-8 The importance of Abishag is revealed in Chap 2
1:5-10	<p>Special Characters to Remember</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adonijah. Son #4, mother was Haggith, was in line to the throne since 3 older brothers were dead (Amnon, Chileab [assumed dead], & Absalom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His dad, King David, never rebuked him (v6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you think this will cause issues later? Joab. King David's nephew and commander in chief, who saved David's bacon numerous times, but was a thorn in David's flesh to the bitter end. Abiathar. A faithful priest to King David up to this point. He did not think things through nor consider the consequences of his actions.
1:11-27	<p>Prophet Nathan and Queen Bathsheba Conspire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar story how Isaac's wife Rebekah and son Jacob conspired to steal Esau's birthright from an old man Couldn't God put Solomon on David's throne as promised without the Bathsheba/Nathan drama? How many times do we bypass God and take matters into our own hands? Are we better off?
2:1-46	<p>More Special Characters to Remember</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adonijah. Solomon has him killed for asking to marry his dad's bed-warmer, Abishag – which could play out later for another run on the throne Joab. Solomon had him killed for treason

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abiathar. Solomon retires him from high priest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the only incident in Scripture of an anointed individual (i.e., priest, prophet, shepherd, or king) being removed from office by man for bad behavior. This was in fulfillment of an earlier prophecy..... 1Sam 2:27-36
	<p>SIDE NOTE: When is it Appropriate to Remove a Church Elder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nowhere in Scripture (OT or NT) do we see corrupt priests or church elders being removed from office or being asked to step down from their God-ordained positions – EXCEPT when Solomon thrust out (KJV), expelled (ESV), banished (HCSB), dismissed (NASB), removed (NIV), deposed (NLT) Abiathar from being High Priest for siding with Adonijah as he sought to be King of Israel in lieu of Solomon – BUT Abiathar's dismissal was in fulfillment of a prophecy concerning Eli's household eventually being removed..... 1Kings 2:27; 1Sam 2:27-36 Considerations. God never told Eli to remove his 2 wicked sons (Hophni & Phinehas) from the priesthood. These men were guilty of horrendous sins while in office, including open fornication/adultery, which God calls a "horrible thing" (Hos 6:10). Instead, God told Eli to rebuke his errant sons. When Eli failed to correct his boys and they failed to repent, then God slew them & pronounced a prophecy against the House of Eli.... 1Sam 2-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall that priests were in a "perpetual priesthood" which meant they could not be removed from office except by death Ex 40:15 but God never challenged them to step down, but to step up. Likewise, in the NT, we see elders challenged to correct some bad behavior, but never fired or asked to resign from their God-ordained positions. Again, is our church <input type="checkbox"/> a business, <input type="checkbox"/> a bank, or <input type="checkbox"/> a family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus may have called the spiritual leaders of His day vipers and hypocrites (Mat 3:7), evil & adulterous (Mat 12:39), and fools & blind men (Mat 23:17), but He did not tell the people of His day to overthrow their spiritual leaders but to do what their leaders told them to do and not to follow their poor example Mat 23:3 Paul told the Ephesian elders to "be alert" for false teachers rising up from amongst themselves Act 20:30 Timothy (an Elder) was to rebuke bad elders publicly so others would be fearful of sinning. (How is this done) 1Tim 5:20 John (the Apostle/Elder) said he would deal with Diotrophes personally, that is, Elder to Elder 3John 9-10
3:1-28	<p>Solomon Was Wise, But Not Always Prudent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solomon formed a marriage alliance with Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He begins doing his own thing – chasing his passions v5. Yet God was still willing to bless Him because "Solomon loved the Lord" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would we ask from God if He gave us a wish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> More Money? <input type="checkbox"/> Love? <input type="checkbox"/> Better Looks? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? v16. Why weren't the harlots stoned instead of receiving a court hearing from the King? What was at stake was not their assumed immorality, but the life of a baby.
4:1-34	<p>Solomon is Blessed Beyond Measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-19. Great leaders often have great managers v20. Judah & Israel were able to multiply v21. Israel reached its greatest boundaries v24. Israel had "peace on all sides" vv29-34. God gave Solomon his wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can we have such wisdom? James 1:5 Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of which we only have 1000 proverbs and 1 poem

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- How can we get some of God's wisdom to get through life?
- Before making life-changing decisions we should ask God for His wisdom and consider any consequences of our actions
- Besides just asking for wisdom, do we need to be obedient?

NEXT WEEK: 1Kings 5-8. Highlights of Solomon's reign

