

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

- Elijah becomes fearful of Jezebel, & God reproves & moves him on, while His nemesis, King Ahab, murderously acquires the field of his neighbor, yet receives mercy from God.

Passage	Comments
1Kings 19:1-21	<p>Fearful Elijah Runs Away, But He is not Alone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-2. Ahab tells his wife, Jezebel, how Elijah slew her 850 prophets. Elijah went from fearless to fearful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would you do if someone sent their entire military force out to hunt you down? vv3-8. It is easy to lose our focus after a mountaintop victory & then encounter stark, even deadly opposition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall in 17:2-6, it was OK for Elijah to hide from Ahab, because God told him to – BUT not here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would we also run and hide? Remember, Elijah was just like many of us Jms 5:17 vv9-18. “What are you doing here, Elijah? You should be elsewhere! – Oh, by the way, I have 7,000 others who have not bowed their knees to Baal” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wasn’t harsh w/ Elijah, but He did get His point across that Elijah should be more concerned about doing God’s will then being worried about his life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What has our top priority? <input type="checkbox"/> Family? <input type="checkbox"/> Work? <input type="checkbox"/> Sports? <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation? <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience to God? vv19-21. Elisha is called, but did he do wrong by saying goodbye to his parents of Lk 9:61,62 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lk 9:61-62 is someone who regrets following God or opts to wait till their parents die before following Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Elisha’s case, there was no wrongdoing <p>When should we pray and wait on the lord and when should we act? In brief, if there is sin or we should already know what we should do, God expects us to get off our knees and Fix Things or Get Moving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exodus 14:15. God asked and told Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Get the people moving!” Joshua 7:10-13. God asked & told Joshua, “Why are you praying and doing nothing? Israel has sinned. Get up and fix the problem.” 1Kings 19:9-11. God asked and told Elijah, “What are you doing here, Elijah? Get moving!”
20:1-43	<p>God blesses King Ahab with War Victory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God can still bless a wicked person or nation when they demonstrate honest repentance and humbleness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v42. BUT Ahab showed mercy when he should not have. God wanted Ahab to slay Ben-Hadad. Ahab, therefore, would die earlier for not knowing God’s will in this situation vv35-36. Another man receives the death penalty (ate by a lion) for not obeying the Lord to beat up a man of GodWHY SUCH HARSHNESS? God is a “HARD” God Mat 25:24-30

Passage	Comments
21:1-29	<p>Jezebel has Naboth Killed for His Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv17-24. Why did God do nothing about Naboth’s murder but to report the incident to Elijah? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer seems to be for God to pronounce a horrible demise on both Ahab and Jezebel vv25-26. Jezebel is given credit for inciting Ahab to commit atrocities. Was Ahab culpable? vv27-29. But Ahab repented and got his sentenced commuted till a later time. God frequently gives people time to repent 2Peter 3:9; Rev 2:20-21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any exceptions? Consider the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A man picked up wood on the Sabbath and was not offered a chance to repent Num 15:32-35 A man cursed God and was stoned Lev 24:11-16 Ananias & Sapphira were not given an opportunity to repent either Acts 5 <p>Note: These were first time occurrences of certain sins to strike proper fear of God into His people</p>
22:1-53	<p>Kings Ahab, Jehoshaphat, and Prophet Micaiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-18. King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah team up to fight King Aram of Syria & they seek God’s favor vv19-23. A behind the scenes look – God allows a spirit to speak lies to deceive false prophets to send Ahab off to die <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God could cause Ahab to die from a simple heart attack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does God go to such extreme at times? .. Deut 29:29 v34. A random soldier fired an arrow and it just happened to hit Ahab between his armor plates. Coincidence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God is fully aware of every arrow and bullet shot in war <p>When is it OK to Lie or to Withholding the Truth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are principles in Scripture where lying or withholding the truth seems justified to preserve innocent lives or when confronted with casting pearls (i.e., truth) before swine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abraham & Isaac lied about their wives being their sisters, and they both walked away blessed Gen 19, 20, 26 Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings Ex 1: 15-21 Rahab lied about the 2 spies, and she saved her family and became an ancestor of Jesus Joshua 2 King David feigned insanity to protect his life 1Sam 21:13 Jesus withheld the truth when questioned before His death Did Jesus lie when He said He had no intentions of going up to the Feast, but He went up anyway? NO – Jesus had no intentions of going up to make a spectacle of Himself as His brothers alluded .. John 7:4-14 Therefore, it seems OK to conceal the truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not for convenience’s sake, not to achieve gain – but to protect innocent lives from evil intent On the Flipside. If we want to live long, don’t lie..... Ps 34:12-13 A lying tongue is an abomination to God..... Prov 6:16-17 Israel became a nation of liars Mic 6:12 Ananias & Sapphira lied and died Acts 5:1-11

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Convenient Christianity is a Killer – we obey when it is convenient (e.g., we seem to read our Bible when it’s convenient, pray, keep the speed limit, be submissive, and give when it’s convenient to do so)
- We need to migrate from Convenient to Sincere Christianity
- God wants immediate obedience, not delayed or partial obedience

NEXT WEEK: 2Kings 1-5. 2Kings summarizes Judean & Israelite Kings. These early chapters depict Elisha replacing Elijah as prophet with twice the Spirit of God in him.

