# Lessons This Quarter

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| 1 Kings 16:1-34 | **God Has Control Even Over Wicked Nations**  
- vv1-14. God foretells the downfall of Baasha  
  - his family members to be eaten by scavengers  
  - Why such cruelty from God?  
- vv15-34. God allows one wicked king worse than the one before (Zimri → Omri → Ahab) to rule Israel – WHY? – Possibly to justify His actions to destroy & disperse Israel and eventually set up Israel’s return, restoration and coming of Christ |
| 17:1-24 | **Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath (Sidon)**  
- v1. Elijah’s 1st prophetic announcement to Ahab is for a 3 year drought  
- vv2-6. Elijah obeys God explicitly by hiding from Ahab and being fed by unclean birds  
- vv9-16. God gives Elijah 1 more command – go to Jezebel’s home town & be fed by a widow  
- It is ironic God showed no mercy to Israel’s widows & orphans during this drought, but only to this heathen widow. WHY?................. Is 9:17  
  - Does someone’s behavior justify us or God showing mercy to them?................... Yes & No  
- The widow and her family lived comfortably during the 3 year drought (supply of food and oil)  
- v24. BUT the widow did not believe Elijah to be a ‘man of God’ and that God’s word was truthful UNTIL Elijah brought her son back to life  
- Why was it critical for this widow to believe in Elijah and in God’s word?  
  - Not only did God show mercy by relieving her physical and financial misery, but He also extended salvation to her through believing faith – “Now I know...God’s word is truth” |
| 18:1-46 | **Elijah vs the Prophets of Baal**  
- Elijah did not act presumptuously – He knew God was going to act……………………………….. v36  
- vv3-4. Obadiah (“servant of Jehovah”) was a governor of Ahab’s house – a very righteous man who had a very unrighteous boss  
  - There are 13 Obadiah’s in Scripture  
  - The Book of Obadiah was written by another  
  - This Obadiah secretly hid 100 prophets, similar to Germans hiding Jews during WW-II  
- vv19-40. Elijah against 850 false prophets  
  - The challenge is made, and God prevails  
  - v39. The people are convinced God is God  
  - v40. Elijah has the people kill Baal’s prophets  
  - v46. Elijah miraculously beats Ahab’s chariot |

# Conclusion/Applications:

- God is not locked into only showing mercy to Jews and Christians. He can show mercy to heathen widows & orphans, and to unrighteous peoples and nations when they show humbleness, repentance, willingness to know God  
- …and God often times initiates the mercy to entice people to repent and come to Him………………………….. Rom 2:4

# Next Week:

2 Kings 21-23. King Manasseh causes Judah to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed