

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 6) 09 Jan..... 1Kings 16b-22..... A Hill on Which to Stand
- 7) 16 Jan..... 2Kings 21-23..... Building a Culture for Life

INTRODUCTION

- The northern kingdom of Israel spins out of control, getting worse and worse under King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel
- The Jews compromised their beliefs with the world by succumbing to idol worship
- Elijah comes on the scene to challenge Israel to live for God
 - ♦ How do we compromise our beliefs these days?
 - ♦ How can we take a stronger stand for righteousness?

Passage	Comments
1Kings 16:1-34	<p>God has Control even over Wicked Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-14. God foretells the downfall of Baasha – his family members to be eaten by scavengers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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	<p>Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath (Sidon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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	<p>Elijah vs the Prophets of Baal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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

Passage	Comments
19:1-21	<p>Fearful Elijah Runs Away, But He is not Alone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. It is easy to lose our focus after a mountaintop victory – always be on guard • vv9,13-18. ‘Why are you here, Elijah? You should be elsewhere – Oh, by the way, there are 7000 who have not bowed their knees to Baal’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God wasn’t harsh with Elijah, but He did get the point across that Elijah should be more concerned about doing God’s will then being worried about his life • vv19-21. Elisha is called, but is there hesitance or compassion to say goodbye to parents Lu 9:61,62
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 humbleness & repentance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v42. BUT Ahab showed mercy when he should not have. God wanted Ahab to slay Ben-hadad - Therefore, Ahab would die earlier for not knowing God’s will in this situation.....v42 ♦ vv35-36. Another man receives the death penalty (ate by a lion) for not obeying the word of the Lord to beat up a man of God WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God is a “hard” God (Mat 25:14-30)
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 the 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 Ahab and Jezebel ♦ vv25-26. Notice Jezebel is given credit for inciting Ahab to commit atrocities • vv27-29. But Ahab repented and got his sentenced commuted till a later time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God gives people time to repent Rev 2:20-21
22:1-53	<p>Kings Ahab, Jehoshaphat and Prophet Micaiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah team up to fight King Aram of Syria • v22. A behind the scenes look – God allows a spirit to speak lies to deceive false prophets – it was time for Ahab to die • v34. A random soldier fired an arrow and it just happened to hit Ahab between his armor plates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is fully aware of every arrow and bullet shot in war. Nobody dies by accident!

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

