

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

04-23-2023 // WEEK 16 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 8**. Here are a few highlights:

- **1 Kings Chapter 12:** The introduction of Rehoboam. He succeeds his father, Solomon. He is told by the older advisors to ease up on the people – building, expansion, etc. He goes to his younger friends and they counsel him to make it even tougher. He listens to the younger guys. The people rebel. Jeroboam returns. Ten tribes in the north rebel with Jeroboam leading them. He makes two golden calves for worship, delineating himself from the south altogether. Rehoboam has Judah and Benjamin in the south. From now on, the term "Israel" will mostly describe the northern kingdom. "Judah" will be used to describe the southern kingdom. **Note the division!** Two kingdoms. The southern one will have David's throne and promise. **One other note:** THIS DIVISION IS ALONG THE LINES OF SAUL AND DAVID'S BATTLES. THE FISSURES WERE HIDDEN FOR YEARS. NOW THEY COME TO THE SURFACE AGAIN.
- **Chapters 13 - 14:** Jeroboam is confronted by a prophet of God for his idolatry. Godlessness. He eventually dies. Rehoboam in the south is godless as well. Enemies are raised up as well against him and his reign.
- **Chapters 15 - 16:** Abijam follows Jeroboam in the north. **Note: All the kings in the northern kingdom are evil. Every one!** Then Nadab. Then Baasha. All bad! At the end of **chapter 16** there is the intro of Ahab, the worst of the worst. He is important to know about, along with his evil wife, Jezebel.
- **Chapter 17:** The **introduction of Elijah**, a very important biblical figure. He appears with Moses to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration in the New Testament. Called by God to confront Jezebel and Ahab. This chapter shows some of his mighty miracles.
- **Chapters 18 - 19:** Two great chapters. Elijah confronts Ahab, does battle with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (a spiritual battle) and God wins! Jezebel threatens his life, he runs, and ends up miles away, recovering from exhaustion and depression. **How God restores him is a lesson for us all:** Sleep. Rest. Food. Water. And more sleep. You also have the introduction of two important characters later on: Elisha (Elijah's successor) and Jehu (who defeats Ahab and Jezebel).

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

- **Chapter 20:** Ahab's continual wars with Syria are described here. A prophet condemns Ahab's behavior and predicts his demise.
- **Chapter 21:** Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard. He pouts to Jezebel when Naboth won't sell it. Jezebel devises a scheme to kill Naboth and give the vineyard to Ahab. Wicked. Cruel. She is a pagan queen who introduces a level of Baal worship in the north that is unimaginable.
- **Chapter 22:** Ahab's demise. God sends a lying spirit to him to lead him into battle where he dies. The prophecy about his death was fulfilled. Also, the introduction of **a good king in the south, Jehoshaphat**. Ahaziah succeeds Ahab in the north.
- **2 Kings Chapter 1:** Elijah denounces Ahaziah's kingship. Jehoram becomes king, as Elijah said would happen.
- **Chapters 2 - 3: Elijah is taken to heaven**, one of only two biblical characters who never died (the other is Enoch in Genesis). He is **succeeded by Elisha** who receives a double portion of all Elijah's gifts. Moab rebels against Israel.
- **Chapters 4 - 5:** Miracles that Elisha performs. Read them again. They are evidence of God's hand on him. Please note in **chapter 5** Gehazi, Elisha's servant, and his greed. God does not like greed! Notice how he deals with Gehazi.
- **Chapters 6 - 7:** Another miracle from Elisha and **the floating axehead**. And the amazing story of God revealing to Elisha and his servant the forces in the spiritual heavenlies available to them both when confronted with an enemy.
- **Chapter 8:** God restores land to the Shunamite widow through Elisha and the king. She was the one to whom God gave a son through Elisha and her barren womb. And God raised him from the dead through Elisha when he died. More kings in the south are introduced. **Please note that there were several good kings in the south. And some bad ones as well.**

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

I think you can see the storyline continuing here. Two kingdoms, now divided. The northern kingdom will have no good kings. Their demise is certain and swift. The southern kingdom will have a few good ones, thus delaying its demise.

Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Joseph to Moses to Joshua to the Judges to Samuel to Saul to David to Solomon to THE DIVISION OF THE TWO KINGDOMS, THE COVENANT PROMISE THROUGH THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM ... the importance of Elijah and Elisha as PROPHETS speaking truth from God.

One thing that was asked about the flow of this reading. 1 and 2 Kings is where we are. We will NOT follow with 1 and 2 Chronicles. Kings is Israel's history from man's perspective. Chronicles is this same history (much is the same) but with added information that shows us it's from GOD'S perspective. I think the maker of this reading plan divides it to make it more readable and not repeating a lot of our reading, saving it for later on. I'm pretty sure that's the intent. I think it'll make more sense later on.