

Summary of Readings

Day One: I Kings 1:1-2:12

In David's advanced age, a young virgin, Abishag, is brought to help keep him warm. In David's frail state, Adonijah makes a play for his father's kingdom by conferring with his father's friends, Joab and Abiathar, for support, which they provide. Adonijah makes sacrifices to God and declares himself King. When word reaches Bathsheba through the prophet Nathan of Adonijah's ploy, she goes to David to question why Adonijah has been made King when her son Solomon has been promised the throne. Nathan joins her in this move by also inquiring of David if this move with Adonijah was with his blessing. David confirms his earlier promise that Solomon will be King and begins to take the steps to make that official by conferring with Nathan, Zadok and Benaiah. Solomon is declared King. When word reaches Adonijah's camp of David's action, everyone flees in fear. Adonijah runs to the Temple for safety. Adonijah and Solomon meet in the Temple where Adonijah recognizes Solomon as the next King. David gives Solomon instructions as to how he should lead Israel and also instructs him to deal with Joab's rebellion, "according to your wisdom," as well as Shimei the Benjamite who had earlier cursed the house of David. David's life ends and he is buried in the city that bears his name. Solomon's reign begins.

Day Two: I Kings 3:1-28; 4:29-34

Solomon makes an alliance with Egypt by marrying the Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon is described as "walking according to the statutes of his father" at this point though he still engages in offering sacrifices at "the high places" because the Temple has not yet been constructed. During a trip to make a sacrifice, the Lord appears to Solomon in a dream and gives him the chance to ask God for anything. Solomon asks God for wisdom to "carry out my duties," which pleases God. God grants Solomon's request. God adds that he will also give to Solomon what he has not asked for including, "riches and honor." Upon returning to Jerusalem, Solomon illustrates his new wisdom by judging between two women who claim ownership of a single baby. When Solomon orders the child cut in half so that the women can each have a "piece," the baby's actual mother reveals herself in compassion for her child. The glory of Solomon's wisdom extends throughout the entire world.

Day Three: I Kings 6:1-37; 9:1-9; I Corinthians 3:16-17

Solomon begins construction on the Temple. The construction and layout of the Temple is described. After the construction of the Temple is completed, God appears to Solomon again. God affirms the work of the Temple construction and renews his covenant with Solomon saying, "if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever." Solomon is also warned of the price Israel will pay for disobedience.

Day Four: I Kings 10:23-11:13; Deuteronomy 17:14-20

As the fame of Solomon's wisdom continues to grow throughout the entire world, his wealth grows as well. In Jerusalem, "silver was as common as stones." Solomon's wealth is described in terms of chariots, horses, as well as his "foreign" wives. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, and "his wives led him astray." Solomon's wanderings lead him to making sacrifices to the gods Ashtoreth and Molech. In so doing, Solomon "did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Solomon constructs altars and temples to the gods of Moab & Molech and idols for his wives as well. God becomes angry with Solomon and says that in the next generation, God will

tear the kingdom away from Solomon's family. Solomon is spared from the full wrath of God because of the faithfulness of his father, but his son will not reign over the united Kingdom of David and Solomon.

The Deuteronomy text is Moses warning to Israel should they choose to set a King over them. Moses warns against the King growing in wealth, taking many wives, and straying from the commandments of God.

Day Five: I Kings 16:29-17:24

This text opens by telling us that Asa has become King of Judah and Ahab the King of Israel. Ahab is described as a king who, "did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him," by marrying a foreign wife, Jezebel and beginning to serve Baal. God's anger was provoked against Ahab. Chapter 17 introduces us to the prophet Elijah from Tishbe who prophesies to Ahab that a drought will come. Elijah then departs to be cared for by God in the desert. Ravens attend to Elijah's needs during the drought. When the brook that has been providing water for Elijah dries up, God send him to the Wodiw at Zarephath. Upon his arrival, Elijah asks for water and bread, but the woman informs him that she has no bread. She is starving. Elijah instructs her to make a small cake of bread to bring to him and promises her that her oil and flour will not be used up. When the woman's son later dies, Elijahs restores him to life.

Day Six: I Kings 18:1-45

Three years later, God instructs Elijah to meet up with Ahab. Obadiah, who was in charge of Ahab's palace, comes across Elijah during his search for food and initially is afraid of Elijah's instruction to tell Ahab that Elijah has come to meet him. It is at this point that we discover the Ahab has been looking for Elijah because he blames him for the drought in the land. When Ahab and Elijah meet, a showdown between Elijah and the 450 prophets of Baal is staged. On Mount Carmel, Elijah and the prophets of Baal will attempt to present a bull to their respective God for their God to consume with fire. The prophets of Baal are unsuccessful in their attempts to get Baal to consume the meat. After their unsuccess, Elijah has his altar doused with water three times until the water filled the trenches surrounding his altar. Elijah prays to God to consume the meat by fire and the fire of God fell on the sacrifice and burned up the offering. The people are amazed and Elijah directs them to sieze the prophets of Baal and slaughter them. Elijah sends Ahab away saying that a heavy rain is coming. Seven times Elijah prays to God for the rains to come and when they do, Elijah races ahead of Ahab who is returning to Jezreel.

Day Seven: I Kings 19:1-21

Ahab returns to Jezreel and tells Jezebel all that happened on Mount Carmel. Jezebel makes a vow to kill Elijah and when word reaches the prophet of Jezebel's threat, Elijah grows fearful and flees. He escapes to the desert and prays to God that he might die. Elijah is instructed during this low point to eat a cake of bread provided for him and drink from a jar of water. Elijah travels for forty days and nights to the Mount of Horeb where he entered a cave to sleep. God speaks to Elijah in the cave asking, "what are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah responds despondently claiming that he is, "the only one left." God instructs Elijah to go outside as the Lord is about to pass by. Three events take place before Elijah, a powerful wind, an earthquake and a fire but God was not present in any of them. Instead, a small voice says again, "what are you doing here, Elijah?" When Elijah again responds with despair, God instructs him to return by the way he came and anoint Jehu King over Israel, Hazael King over Aram, and Elisha as the next prophet. God also tells Elijah that there are seven thousand left in Israel who have not bowed down to Baal. When Elijah returns, he finds Elisha plowing in the fields. Elisha leaves his home to follow Elijah.

Transfer of Power

Worth noticing...

Adonijah tries to _____, Solomon _____.

David deals with _____.

Relatively _____ transfer of power.

Construction of the Temple

**Secrets of Jerusalem Temple Mount, By Leen and Kathleen Ritmeyer*

Two immediate effects

_____ worship.

But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; Deuteronomy 12:5

God _____ the covenant.

"I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. I Kings 9:3

Solomon's Fall

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Observations

"Where your _____ is..."

Your _____ is unique to you.

_____ doesn't happen overnight.

The Kingdom Divides

Elijah

Observations

"Don't shoot the _____."

Physical drought follows the _____.

“_____ this day” Joshua 24:14-15

Elijah prays _____ times.

Ahab & Jezebel remain _____.

Questions to Consider

- Are you living off _____ success?
- Do you know your _____?
- Where's your _____?
- How has God used the _____ in your life?
- What have you done today to _____ the path of life?
- _____ is God speaking in your life right now?
- What are you doing _____?