

1 Kings part 2

Tonight we're entering into the 11th book of the bible 1 kings

A few things to remember - 1st Kings, as well as 2nd Kings, is the continuation of Israel's history, and in particular the continuation of that period of Israel's history known as 'The Monarchy.' 1st and 2nd Kings we said last week cover some 400+ years in the history of the nation of Israel.

Whats this book about? - The theme of all of the books of the kingdom is to highlight the importance of good and godly leadership...and this is driving home by showing us the destructive consequences of kings and leaders who don't follow God's ways

Recap: Last week we looked at a guy named Solomon and his accession to the throne

- A. We saw David call him to be king - 2:1...*Be strong, and show yourself a man,³ and **keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments...***
- B. Then we this humble young man with a deep dependency on God - He offered 1000 brunt offering essentially saying "God I'm yours"
- C. When God appeared to him and asked him what he wanted - 1 Kings 3:9 (ESV) ⁹ *Give your servant therefore an **understanding mind (Or literally, a hearing heart)***
- D. So God gave him that and much more Wisdom - Riches - His name become wold renown

That was the first 5 Chapters...in a nutshell

Chapters 5-10 Solomon's accomplishments

*Now, Chapters 9-10 speak about the wealth of the Land...**the gem of these chapters focus on Solomon's Greatest achievement - the building of the temple***

A few weeks ago saw David's desire to build a house for God in Samuel 7 And God essentially say's "No" Your son is gonna build my house...but because of this I will establish your throne forever and ever...that would happen through Jesus...but here we see what Solomon did

*1 Kings 6:1 (ESV) ¹ In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, **he began to build the house of the Lord.***

Summary - Now if you were with us, when we began this series...you remember when we covered the book of exodus...The construction of the Tabernacle...

A. Show Picture of Tabernacle

- 1. It was to be the dwelling place for God, it was to be a place of worship...and every furnishing that filled the tabernacle was filled with imagery and symbolism...The temple was the permanent version of that*

B. Show Picture of Temple

- 1. The temple was built by 30,000 Israelites - 150,000 Canaanites - artists - Craftsmen*
- 2. The Temple faced east and was built after the general plan of the Tabernacle...but twice the size - 90 feet long - 30 feet wide - 45 feet high*

3. *This would become the national pride for Israel...and one of the wonders of the world at this time*

Chapters 6-7 are all about the the building of the temple...

*And then 1st Kings 8 recounts Solomon **dedicating the temple...** everything is set, but before the gates could open, the temples crown jewel had to be in it's rightful place...*

*1st Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, **to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David,** which is Zion. ² And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. ³ **And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.** ⁴ **And they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up.** ⁵ And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, **sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.** ⁶ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim...v.9 **There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel,** when they came out of the land of Egypt.*

Summary: So here's the picture...The temple was the centerpiece of the nation. The Ark of the Covenant was the centerpiece of the Temple, The Law (those 2 stone tablets) were the centerpiece of the Ark of the Covenant...and get this - **Jesus would be the center piece to the Law - Matthew 5:17 (ESV) Jesus would says...¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come**

*to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them.***

- A. *The law required required sacrifice for sin - Jesus was the perfect sacrifice - Hebrews 10*
- B. *The law spoke of the righteousness of God - Jesus is the righteousness of God - Seen in his perfect life*
- C. *The Ark of the covenant was where man would go to meet with God...**For us has now been replaced by Jesus***
- D. *Jesus would fulfill the righteous requirement of the Law by coming living a perfect life...and offering himself as the perfect once fore all sacrifice for the sins of man kinds therefore meeting God's righteous requirement*
- E. **Here's the point:** *Jesus is our ark of the covenant - He's is the one and only place where the Holy God of the universe will meet with sinful man — God says, I will meet you there. And it was there that blood was sprinkled to atone for sin*
 - 1. **Our take away** - *Jesus must be the centerpiece of the Church, the centerpiece of our worship — there is no point of church, there is no point of worship — without Jesus.*

*1 Kings 8:10–11 (ESV) ¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister **because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.***

Summary: *The concept of the glory of the Lord — **The basic meaning of the word is — to be heavy, or to be weighty.** The weightiness of the Lord filled the structure that Solomon had built for the worship of the Lord...this moment wasn't just a tradition...it was about transcendence*

- F. **This reminds us** — *God shows up when we meet to worship Him.*

Monday, September 18, 2017

1. **How awesome!** *The temple was seven years in the making. And before they opened it up for the people, they brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies. And when they come out this band starts playing their hearts out. The people are celebrating and worshipping the Lord. And God shows up.*
2. **Now here's the picture** — *When we gather to worship our Jesus, and we make Him the center of our attention — He shows up...He speaks to us...He works in our lives, in our hearts*
3. **Guys, I want to encourage you** — *When we ask the question "Why have you come? I pray your answer will always be...To worship Jesus*

And in response to all of this Solomon stood up before the people. He raised his arms. And then he dropped to his knees. And he began to pray. And he said something to this effect — "God, there is no God like you! God, we built you this temple. But the heavens and the heavens of heavens can't contain you. This is just a touch of who you are. You're so glorious. And yet, Lord, it pleases you to manifest your presence to us in this place! And then he began to intercede for the people

Chapter 10-11 Solomon's decline

These are the highlights of King Solomon's life...I wish this book would have ended this way...but by chapter 10 we start to see a shift in Solomon life...we don't see a humble and desperate King...we see Solomon -
Confident successful king - surrounded by an excess of riches - with a taste for foreign women...

1 Kings 10:18–26 (ESV) ¹⁸ The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with the finest gold. ¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and the throne had a round top, and on each side of the seat were armrests and two lions standing beside the armrests, ²⁰ while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. The like of it was never made in any kingdom. ²¹ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the

vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver; silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon

Here's the picture: *Solomon's favorite purchase was always the next one...he wants bigger. and brighter, and more opulent*

²³ Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. ²⁴ And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.

Here's the picture: *Solomon is an intentional celebrity*

1 Kings 11:1–5 (ESV) ¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³ He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

Summary: *Remember In deut 17 “God said...Kings are not to marry foreign women, and their not gather much riches...and they are to say in my word”...Solomon has broken them all*

Look at the Lord's rebuke...

*1 Kings 11:11–13 (ESV) ¹¹ Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and **you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.** ¹² Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of*

the hand of your son. ¹³ However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”

Summary: *Do you remember David’s commission to his Son...”**Keep, guard, protect, tend to your relationship with God**” Yet here we see Solomon kept up everything else but His obligation with the Lord - His house - Public image - Social life - Sexual Desires - **But he did not KEEP/ PROTECT/ GAURD - His relationship with God***

- A. **Here’s the point:** *Never lose sight of your relationship with God...it’s the most important thing your will ever have*

The next portion of Solomon’s life plays out a similar story

- A. *God calls a one of Solomons’s servants by the name of Jeroboam and tells him that he’s gonna take away 10 of the tribes...only leaving Him with 1 the tribe of Judah (the Levites made up the 12, but they wouldn’t have been counted because they were set apart to the service of the Lord) and give them to Him*
- B. *V.11 tells us that Solomon turns into Saul...He tries to kill him..*

Chapter 12 (the Kingdom is divided)

This is a big chapter...because we see the kingdom that was once united under David torn in two, and we get a really interesting glimpse at these 2 kings Reheboam and Jeroboam

1. Reheboam

Reheboam served as a catalyst for the division of the nation. At the time of Reheboam’s coronation the people from the 10 northern tribes expressed their opinion about his dad’s labor policies; and they wanted him to understand that things couldn't continue as they had for the last 40 years

*1 Kings 12:3–6 (ESV) ³ And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, ⁴ “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.” ⁵ He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” ⁶ Then **King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men**, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” ⁷ And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.”*

Summary: These “old men” were really wise. They were telling Rehoboam that the key to authority is humility. Let me repeat that — the key to authority is humility.

Of course, our Lord Jesus is the ultimate example of this. *In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Jesus did not come to tax us. Jesus came to serve us.

Here’s the point: And while we — as those who are called the followers of Jesus, disciples of Jesus — while we bicker over who is great, Jesus constantly washes our dirty feet. We saw that lived out in reality the night before He died, right?

- A. *Jesus says, “I’ve got to tell you, man, one of you guys is going to betray me. And I’m going to be killed.” And they start asking, “Is it me? Is it me?” And before you know it, the conversation shifts. And I don’t even know how. It’s so hard for me to get my head around it — not that I’m foreign to it — but just how it happens, how wrecked we are without God.*
- B. *It shifts from — “Am I on the one that’s going to do that to you?” It shifts to — “Who is going to be the greatest in the kingdom? Who’s the greatest at this table?” And Jesus gets up and washes their feet. He says, “I’m going to leave you a little lesson before I go die for your sins. If you want to be the greatest; the greatest among you is*

going to be the servant. And you're not greater than your master. This is how I need you to live. You need to be washing one another's feet, not bickering over who's greatest."

C. Jesus is awesome! There is none like Jesus!

And so their counsel is really wrapped up in the heart of God when they said, "Serve these people. That's how you be the best king."

1st Kings 12:8 But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him."

Summary: *So he blew off the counsel that reflected the heart and the wisdom of God. And he went with the counsel that reflected the heart and wisdom of fallen man.*

- A. His response was — bad in judgment, and harsh in words*
- B. Rehoboam's harshness and arrogance —it didn't merely result in the 10 northern tribes rejecting him; it resulted in those tribes rejecting the entire dynasty of David*
- C. **This is what Alexander Maclaren had to say** — "Neither the foolish speaker (that would be Rehoboam) nor any man in that crowd dreamed of the unnumbered evils to flow from that hour. Since issues are so far beyond our sight, how careful it becomes us to be of motives! Angry counsels are always blunders. No nation can prosper when moderate complaints are met by threats....."*
- D. Wow! — "moderate complaints met by threats." That works in the family, parenting our kids. It works in the church.*

This next verse is interesting

1 Kings 12:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord that he might fulfill his word, which the Lord spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Summary: *So here's the situation, Rehoboam chose not to listen to listen to wise counsel and this was the first domino in him losing almost all of his kingdom...but here we are reminded that In chapter 11 God had said this would happen...and now it's come to past*

A. *1st Kings 12 is really important because it provides us with a look at a moment in history that addresses the question – **Is there human responsibility here? Or is this entirely a matter of Divine sovereignty?***

1. *So let's try to get perspectives here:*

- a) ***From Our perspective** we find a rash, proud, young king; and opposing him is a dissatisfied people saying, "Man, you've got to lighten our work load."*
- b) *Both parties — Rehoboam and the 10 northern tribes — each wanted their own way.*
- c) ***From heaven's perspective** the Lord working out His great purposes — despite men's sin, and by way of men's sin. it's presented in a very seamless way. There's a continuity that you just stand back and go, 'Wow!' Only God could do this!*
- d) ***Here's the point:** Guys, the death of Jesus on the cross, which is the single greatest sin and crime in the history of mankind, was at the same time the accomplishment of God's most merciful eternal purposes*
- e) *Look at Acts 2:23 Peter speaking to His country men says **"this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and***

foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

II. Here's the point: The sovereignty of God in the plan of redemption does not in the least affect the freedom of choice or the guilt of those involved in the cross of Jesus....So we see it from Earth. We see it from Heaven

Alright so what we're about to read is Kingdom is dividing.

- A. From this point on in the history of Israel — the name 'Israel' refers to the 10 northern tribes; and the name 'Judah' referred to the southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah.
- B. The southern kingdom lasted until about 598 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed; and its inhabitants carried away by the Babylonians
- C. Now think of this, guys:
 - 1. The northern kingdom would have 0 good kings — 0.
 - 2. Judah, the southern kingdom, would have 19 kings, of which only 8 were good.

2. The Kingdom divided

The remaining narrative of 1st Kings goes something like this — It covers 85 years. And it's going to talk about 8 kings in the north and 4 kings in the south, and how they relate to each other...let's read about it

1 Kings 12:20–22 (ESV) ²⁰ And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only. ²¹ When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight

against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

So there you have it...the kingdom is divided...

1 Kings 12:22 (ESV) ²² But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God ²³ “Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, ²⁴ ‘Thus says the Lord, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.’ ” So they listened to the word of the Lord and went home again, according to the word of the Lord.

Summary: *Here’s a guy who was unheard of; and God spoke to him, and said, “You need to say this to Rehoboam.” And this nobody goes to the king, and to these 180,000 guys, and says very simply what God said to say.*

3. Jeroboam

Summary: *Jeroboam becomes the king over the 10 northern tribes. Remember back in 1st Kings 11:38 God promised that He would establish for Jeroboam a parallel dynasty to the House of David if Jeroboam would walk in obedience to the Lord like David.*

This was what the voice of the Lord was saying to him...But look at who he’s listening too

1 Kings 12:26–30 (ESV) ²⁶ **And Jeroboam said in his heart,** “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. ²⁷ If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” ²⁸ **So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold.**

Summary - Here we see that Jeroboam was listening to every voice but the right voice...

- A. He was listening to himself - "Preserve your kingdom"
- B. He was listening to Ungodly counsel "Build golden calves"
- C. But He wasn't listening to the the Voice of the Lord:

Notice this...Because Jeroboam was listening to the wrong voice...He past on the wrong message

*And he said to the people, "**You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough** (or in other words...going all the way to Jerusalem is too difficult for you) **Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.**"²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.³⁰ **Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.***

Summary: I think it's interesting, to see the angle the Jeroboam took to pitch this new religion to the people...He said "it's too far...worshiping God shouldn't cost you anything!" He sold it to them on the bases of convenience

It's like he's living in 2017

1. What a contrast to what Jesus said to His disciples in — **Matthew 16: "24 If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."**
2. **Why is 1st Kings so important to us?** — Well, because it teaches us this — If you're looking for an easy way to serve God; If you're looking for an easy way to worship God — then it is not the right way; it's the way of man; it's not the way of God

Chapters 13-16

Now in these chapters we see a string of wicked kings excluding one by the name of Asa found in chapter 15...Now as you look, and read through the rest of this book, it's important to note that for the remainder of this book all of these kings that are mentioned in this book, they take a back seat in to the ministry of the prophets, men of God who stood in the midst of the moral and spiritual darkness and proclaimed that God was calling individuals to stand up and serve him. How black was the backdrop that these prophets ministered in? Look at —

*1 Kings 16:29–33 (ESV) ²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. ³⁰ **And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.** ³¹ **And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians,** and went and served Baal and worshiped him. ³² He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.*

Summary: *if it weren't bad enough for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel. Jezebel re-introduced Ba-al worship to the land of Israel. She imported 450 priests and prophets of Baal, placed them under the political umbrella of the Ahab's northern kingdom by subsidizing their occultic activity — essentially making anyone who believed in the one, true and living God a traitor to the king.*

So it's against this black backdrop that we are introduced to one of the most, if not the most, famous of the prophets —

Chapter 17 - Elijah.

This guy's life speaks profoundly to the man or woman who desires to be used by God, but wonders if they ever could be used by God.

Six chapters are devoted to this guy, beginning in 1st Kings 17 out to the end of 1st Kings. And then his life continues into 2nd Kings.

1 Kings 17:1 (ESV) ¹ **Now Elijah...**

Summary: *Seemingly out of no where Elijah just shows up out of the blue We don't know anything about this guy. We don't know how old he is when we meet him in 1st Kings. Is he 14, or is he 40? We don't know anything about him. He steps onto the pages of Scripture out of nowhere.*

- A.** *He's not formally trained.*
- B.** *He's not formally schooled.*
- C.** *He has no political protocol.*
- D.** *But one thing is made crystal clear...He loved God - 1 Kings 19:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous (Zealous) for the Lord, the God of hosts...*
- 1.** *Here's the crazy this relatively unknown man...because of his zeal for God did great thing*
 - a)** *He would be the first to raise the dead (this chapter)*
 - b)** *He would shut up the heavens of 3 1/2 years*
 - c)** *He would not taste death but be carried ups to heaven*
- E.** ***Here' the question:*** *Here the Holy Spirit is letting us know that pedigree, training, schooling and credentials are not the deciding factor in being used by God*

F. *So many times we think that there are deciding factors that are tied to the value system of the world. I'm not diminishing training, schooling, abilities, and credentials. But they're not the deciding factor.*

G. *Love for the Lord is the essential qualification for serving the Lord*

v.1 **Now Elijah** the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, **said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."**

Think about this - *He comes out of nowhere; and he stood before two of the most wicked people in all of the Bible (Ahab and Jezebel); and he says this — "As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." And then he just simply turns around and walks out...and you know what it happens 3 1/2 years*

A. *I try to imagine the look on the faces of Ahab and Jezebel...He did that in a time, and in a culture where —everyone was worshipping other gods...*

B. **He Stands up for the one true God** - *His life is really uncomfortable to the person who wants to come and sit in church, and then go out and live the rest of their time for some other master passion*

C. *His life will speak to the man or woman, young or old, that looks at the world around them, and says — "I'm just one person. Nobody knows who I am. Nobody knows who my parents are. I have no qualifications to think of. I have no training to put forth. What could I ever do? But, God, I love you. Here I am."*

D. *Elijah's life speaks to that man or woman in such a profound way to encourage you*

Chapter 18

Now He shows up 3 1/2 later...

1st Kings 18: 17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" And Elijah answered I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. 19 Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." 20 So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him..... 23 Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. 24 And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God."

Summary: *Now this is without a doubt one the greatest spectacles in the entire Bible! It all happens upon Mt. Carmel. And it all happens in one day. There's the challenge. There's the contest, and the fire falling from heaven. And then there will be the return of the rain*

*I. **Here's the Picture:** There's Ahab — he'd be in his royal garb. There are 450 prophets of Baal dressed in all of their priestly attire — sashes and robes. There were hundreds of thousands of Israelites gathered around, looking at this spectacle. **And then there is this solitary figure with long hair and a leather belt.** It's one simple obscure man...challenging an entire nation...one man calling them back to the God they once loved and followed...but compromise has pulled them away*

*A. **Think about the fact that He didn't know what was gonna happen, he was just told to go in obedience** - So counter to our high strategy church culture*

Now Elijah poses a challenge — The challenge is not to the prophets of Baal. It was to God's people.

1st Kings 18:21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

Summary: *Elijah just offered clarity. He said, "Here's clarity. There are two opinions" That's all there is! There's black and white; There's right and wrong; There's light and darkness.*

- A. **Here's the point:** If you are standing at church on Sunday, talking 'Christian-ise'; and then you go out and you're doing whatever you want the rest of the week — that is not an opinion; that's called limping between two opinions*
- B. You have been given the word, you have been given the resources...Chose who your gonna serve already*
- C. What's sad is that — outside of the church there are atheists who have complete clarity — they know where they stand...but people who come to church, week in and week out — they're not so clear.*

Look at these profits of beal...they were a lot of things, but one thing they weren't was flaky

1 Kings 18: "28 And they (the prophets of Baal) cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them."

They had plenty of clarity, right? They were committed.

A commentator by the last name of Wiseman said this — "The practice of self-inflicted wounds to arouse a deity's pity or response is attested in Ugarit when men 'bathed in their own blood like an ecstatic prophet.'"

They had all the clarity they needed for doing what they did. God's people didn't have clarity. And Elijah is there saying, "Let's make things clear."

1st Kings 18:29 And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

So despite their rantings, their ravings, their self-mutilation — no fire came from heaven.

1 Kings 18:30 (ESV) ³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down

There was once an altar of the LORD at Carmel — and in Israel in general. But it was now a wreck — not just because it was ignored — it had been thrown down. Elijah is looking to revive something that once was, and now is not

1st Kings 18: 36 And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.""

In other words — God, would you work so that people will know that this is your will?

1st Kings 18:37 Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."

So 1st Kings closes with this magnificently obscure guy who came out of nowhere, and stepped into a world that was a train wreck of idolatry.

And he becomes not only the major character of the second half of the book...He becomes one of the most important characters in the history of humanity

- A. *God is still looking for a man, looking for a woman, whose very lives would say, "My God is the LORD Jesus Christ."*

Conclusion

*How does this book point to Jesus? Because **Jesus is a better king***

- A. As great of a king as Solomon was...He was just a flawed man who would eventually succumb to the Pull of the World...lust the of the eyes/flesh/pride of life**

1. *Jesus has no failure in him - He was tempted by satan in Matt 4*

1. *Lust of the flesh (bread)*

2. *Pride of life (If your the Son of God...Throw yourself down)*

3. *Lust of the eyes (All the kingdoms of the world...if you bow)*

4. Yet Jesus endured temptation...didn't succumb to the Paul of the World...endured the cross to save fro himself a people

- B. In 1 and 2 kings we are confronted with Kings were controlled by their desire to keep their thrones But Jesus**

1. *Jesus came to serve*

- C. In Solomon we saw one who was filled with the Wisdom of God**

1. *Jesus IS the wisdom of God...in him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge Col 2:3*

App: *The kings of this world will always fail...Jesus won't...bow to Jesus*

Monday, September 18, 2017