

READ DAILY

1 KINGS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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Thank you for taking part in Baptist Youth's daily reading challenge. Over the next 25 days, we will be reading through the book of 1 Kings in its entirety. The book of 1 Kings is an amazing, fast paced, book which teaches us a lot about ourselves and, most importantly, our great God. As you read through this book, you will find out more about some of the Bible's most well-known characters such as David, Solomon, Elijah and Elisha. However, you will see how all of these characters ultimately point us to the central character of the Scriptures - Jesus Christ!

You can work through this material by yourself. Or you could grab a couple of friends and study it together (over Zoom or in a coffee shop, for example). However you decide to utilise this material, we pray that it will be a blessing to you and help you in your walk with the Lord.

To get the most out of this study, we advise that you approach each day in the following order:

- 1. Pray** that God would help you to learn something
- 2. Read** the passage for that particular day
- 3. Watch** the video explaining the passage in a little more depth (See Baptist Youth YouTube Channel from Monday 12 October)
- 4. Reflect** on the questions printed in this booklet.

God Bless

REFLECTION QUESTIONS
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DAY 1: 1 KINGS 1:1-27

1. In what ways do earthly leaders fail us? Can you think of any examples from our world?
2. How would you describe what has happened in these first 27 verses with David, Adonijah and Solomon?
3. How has 'jostling for position' caused problems in this passage? In what ways are you tempted to jostle for position?
4. God is more concerned with our character than our competence. How does this both encourage and challenge you today?
5. David is a good leader, but he is not the ultimate leader humanity needs. Who is the ultimate leader that David points us to? How is he different?

DAY 2: 1 KINGS 1:28-53

1. Can you think of a time where a mistake actually made a situation better?
2. What do you remember from verses 1-27 of chapter 1?
3. How would you sum up the events of v28-53 in your own words?
4. What does this passage teach us about God's plans?
5. Where in your life do you need to be reminded that God's plans will always come to fruition in spite of human sinfulness?

DAY 3: 1 KINGS 2

1. What 2 words would you use to describe God?
2. In the video, we said there are 3 movements in this passage. What are they?
3. From chapters 1-2, what have you learned about (i) King David (ii) King Solomon (iii) Adonijah
4. In what ways are you like Adonijah? Where do you profess to serve the king (God) with your lips but not your life?
5. How does the mercy and justice of Solomon point us to the mercy and justice of Jesus? How should you respond to this mercy today?

DAY 4: 1 KINGS 3

1. If you could have just one wish, what would it be and why?
2. Are you surprised by the wish that Solomon makes? Why?
3. In what way is Solomon both filled with glory and humility?
4. Where are you tempted to work things out in your own strength as opposed to seeking God's wisdom?
5. How does this chapter point us to the great gospel story and a great Savior for humanity?

DAY 5: 1 KINGS 4

1. What strikes you about Solomon as you read this chapter?
2. How would you describe life in Israel at this point?
3. In what ways does this passage draw us back to God's promises to Abraham?
4. How does God's faithfulness in this passage encourage you today?
5. Living under God's rule brings life and blessing. We will only experience that in its fullness in the new heavens and new earth. How does this passage make you long for that day?

DAY 6: 1 KINGS 5

1. What is the most impressive building / structure you have ever seen?
2. Why does Solomon desire to build a temple for God?
3. How does this chapter continue to show God's faithfulness to his people and his promises?
4. Israel were called to be a 'missional' people. In other words, by their example, other nations should see the joy of living under God's rule and come to worship him. In what small way do we see this happen in chapter 5? (See v7)
5. We too, as Christians, are called to be a 'missional people' (1 Peter 2:9-12). What does your life show others about what living under God's rule is like? How may that need to change?

DAY 7: 1 KINGS 6

1. As you read through this chapter, what element of the temple building is most striking to you?
2. What is the significance of the time reference in v1? (that these events took place 480 years after the rescue from slavery in Egypt?)
3. This passage reminds us that true worship is costly. In what ways might worship be costly to you today?
4. We are not just called to worship God. We are called to worship God on his terms. What does the New Testament teach us about how we should worship? (See, for example, John 4:23-24 & Romans 12:1)
5. The extravagance of the temple pointed to God's holiness and majesty. However, it wasn't to detract from the fact that God wanted relationship and obedience from his people (v11-13). In what ways are you distracted from developing your relationship with God and obedience to God?

DAY 8: 1 KINGS 7

1. What hints are there in this chapter that Solomon is developing a divided heart?
2. Are there times in your life where you start serving God out of pure motives but, somewhere along the way, find your motives tainted by selfish desires?
3. Often our destruction as Christians comes as a string of small compromises. What small compromises are you prone to?
4. As you read both chapters 6 & 7, what does the description of the temple building tell you about God?
5. In what way does the temple building point us forward to Jesus Christ?

DAY 9: 1 KINGS 8:1-53

1. What was the significance of the temple?
2. Why do you think the temple was only temporary?
3. You are God's temple on earth. How is this both a challenge and a privilege?
4. Are you ever inclined to forget that God's presence is with you always? When?
5. The temple reminds us that God wants to draw near to his people. When do you struggle to believe that God would want to draw near to you?

DAY 10: 1 KINGS 8:54 - 9:9

1. Do you ever think about the privilege it is to be alive at this point in history. In what ways?
2. In what ways have we been reminded of God's faithfulness in this passage?
3. What did God threaten to do if his people walked in disobedience?
4. The Old Testament is one long story of God's people being disobedient. What does this teach you about humanity? Do you see this tendency towards disobedience in your own heart?
5. The Old Covenant reveals our need for Jesus Christ. Do you ever feel like a failure? A bad Christian? A wreck? How does the reminder that Jesus takes your place both thrill your heart and fuel your obedience today?

DAY 11: 1 KINGS 9:10-28

1. What immoral things has Solomon done that we are reminded of in this passage?
2. In light of this, why is v25 quite surprising?
3. Where in your life right now do you find yourself going through the religious motions?
4. In what ways does Jesus act as a blessing to the nations that Solomon doesn't?
5. If someone was to say to you, 'I am a Christian because I go to church' - how might you respond to them in light of this passage?

DAY 12: 1 KINGS 10

1. If you had unlimited wealth, what is the first thing you would buy?
2. How would you describe life in Israel at this point in 1 Kings?
3. How does this passage remind us of God's faithfulness to other Old Testament promises?
4. When Jesus talks about the Queen of Sheba in Luke 11, she is held up as a positive example of someone wanting to know more about God's chosen king. Have you, like this Queen, investigated to know more about the claims of God's ultimate King, Jesus? Or do you lack the sort of zeal this Queen shows in 1 Kings 10?
5. With all this wealth, we are left wondering if money will be a snare to the great King Solomon. In what ways does wealth hinder your relationship with God?

DAY 13: 1 KINGS 11

1. Are you sometimes tempted to think that God is neutral about sin? How does this passage challenge your thinking?
2. Solomon had a dramatic fall after a period of subtle compromises. How does this pattern urge you to deal with the areas of your life where you have subtly compromised faith in God?
3. Not only do we see God's judgement in chapter 11, but also his grace. How is God's grace displayed in this passage?
4. Do you tend to view God as only just or only gracious? How does this passage help you understand that God is both perfectly just and gracious?
5. How would you sum up Solomon's reign as a king? What significance does he play in the greater Bible story?

DAY 14: 1 KINGS 12

1. Even though much seems to go wrong in this passage, how is it really an example of God's sovereignty?
2. How does it encourage you to know that God is in control over sinful chaos?
3. How has Rehoboam continued in his fathers footsteps?
4. It's clear in 1 Kings how influential leadership can be. The legacy of Solomon's poor choices can still be seen here. Furthermore Jeroboam is leading his people into more sinful practices. How can you be a godly support to your leaders?
5. Jeroboam comes 'out of Egypt' to rescue his people from slavery. Yet he failed. In Matthew 2, however, we discover the ultimate king who came 'out of Egypt' (Matt 2:15) to rescue his people. How does this passage increase your thankfulness for Jesus?

DAY 15: 1 KINGS 13

1. What, for you, makes this passage confusing or hard to understand?
2. How would you describe the state of Israel at this point in 1 Kings?
3. We learn in this chapter that God is always true to his word. He was true about his promises regarding Josiah, the altar splitting and the punishment the old prophet would face about eating with someone from Israel. How does the fact that God is true to his word both comfort and challenge you?
4. The younger prophet's sin had deadly consequences for the older prophet in this chapter. It is a reminder that our sin is not just costly to us, but also others. How might your sins be costly to those around you?
5. The voice of this younger prophet was persuasive and more attractive to the older prophet than the words God had directly spoken to him. How might other, more attractive, voices be leading you astray today?

DAY 16: 1 KINGS 14:1-20

1. What is it that makes this passage ironic?
2. What do we learn about who is really in control of our world in this passage?
3. Jeroboam tried to manipulate God through his wife in this passage. He ultimately discovered, however, that God cannot be manipulated. In what ways are you tempted to manipulate God or force his hand to do what you want? How does this passage challenge you?
4. How would you sum up Jeroboam's reign in Israel?
5. How would you describe the journey Israel has been on since the start of 1 Kings?

DAY 17: 1 KINGS 14:21 - 15:24

1. How would you describe the list of kings in Israel since the death of David?
2. In what ways is Asa a better king than those who came directly before him?
3. Even Asa, in his faithfulness, was unable to turn Israel from their wickedness. What does this tell you about the state of sin Israel have fallen into?
4. What (or who) does the absence of a faithful and capable king point us to?
5. Jesus is the one true king who leads his people to faithfulness and obedience. Are you living with Jesus as king? In what areas of your life could you more fully submit to him?

DAY 18: 1 KINGS 15:25 - 16:28

1. How would you describe this chapter in one word?
2. How does this passage show that our vertical relationship with God affects our horizontal relationship with each other.
3. Times have changed but hearts have not. What sinful problems do you see in this passage that you still see in our world today?
4. What happens in this passage which was already foretold by God earlier in 1 Kings?
5. In a world where everything feels random and out of control, God's word is steadfast. How does this bring comfort to you today?

DAY 19: 1 KINGS 16:29-34

1. How might someone look at this passage and think things are going well in Israel?
2. Why does God view things differently?
3. How does King Ahab compare to the previous kings in Israel?
4. What does our culture count as 'success'? How might God see things differently?
5. Think about your own life. Where might you be living according to the world's standard of success as opposed to Gods?

DAY 20: 1 KINGS 17

1. Why is it surprising to see someone like Elijah enter the story?
2. How is it encouraging for you that God uses weak people to accomplish his purposes?
3. How does God show that he is supreme over his enemies, the unknown and death itself in this chapter?
4. Where does the 'unknown' most cause you to fear right now? How is chapter 17 an encouragement to you?
5. How does the reality that God is supreme over death change your perspective today?

DAY 21: 1 KINGS 18

1. How would you summarise the events of this chapter?
2. In what ways has God, yet again, proven himself to be true to his word in chapter 18?
3. The people of Israel apparently tried partly serving both Baal and God (v21). In what ways do you try to serve both God and something / someone else?
4. Baal claimed to be the fertility god (in charge of the wind and the rain). However, Elijah's God still dictated when the drought started and stopped. What does this tell you?
5. The people of Israel had started worshipping false god of Baal. However, Baal got exposed for what he truly is in this passage. How have the things you tend to worship other than God been exposed in your own life? (e.g. popularity, money, success etc).

DAY 22: 1 KINGS 19

1. How would you describe Elijah's feelings at the start of this chapter? Why is that surprising?
2. Can you relate to Elijah's highs and lows in your own spiritual life? Which would more accurately describe you right now?
3. How might this passage encourage you in the dark times of your life?
4. How might this passage challenge you in the 'spiritual highs' also?
5. Elijah approaches Elisha to accompany him. How does Elisha respond to the Lord's call? How is Elisha a good example of obeying the Lord's call?

DAY 23: 1 KINGS 20

1. We might be surprised at the start of this chapter when we see how God is going to give Ahab the victory in battle. Ahab doesn't deserve blessing from God, yet he receives it. What does this teach us about God's blessing?
2. In what ways have you received God's mercy in your own life?
3. The people of Aram thought they could win the second battle against Israel 'on the plains' as opposed to 'in the hills' (v23). This was because, on the plains, the Arameans could use their chariots. The Israelites still won. Why do you think this was? What does this teach you?
4. The strange story regarding the prophet at the end of chapter 20 shows how obedience to God's word ought to be paramount, even when it is hard. Where do you find it hard to obey God's word?
5. How was the hypocrisy of King Ahab exposed at the end of this chapter?

DAY 24: 1 KINGS 21

1. In what ways do you see greed as a problem in our world right now?
2. Are there any ways in which greed is a problem for you?
3. Read Luke 19 and the story of Zacchaeus. How does Jesus transform people's approach to wealth and authority?
4. God was willing to offer mercy to someone as wicked as Ahab at the end of this chapter. How does this encourage you?
5. What do the judgements issued by God to Ahab and his family tell you about his nature?

**IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO WATCH THE RELEVANT READ DAILY VIDEO FOR EACH DAY.
THESE CAN BE FOUND ON THE BAPTIST YOUTH YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**

DAY 25: 1 KINGS 22

1. How would you describe the events of this passage in your own words?
2. In what ways did Ahab try to manipulate God in this chapter?
3. In what ways are you tempted to manipulate God or his words?
4. How does this chapter act as a warning for those who try to manipulate God?
5. How would you sum up the book of 1 Kings? What has it taught you?

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