1 Kings 12-22

**Read 1 Kings 12: 1-19 – Discuss**

To whom does Reheboam listen? How is God at work in this story?

**Read 1 Kings 12:20-30 – Discuss**

Discrepancy in the text (1 tribe or 2) – can be explained by Judah being a large kingdom that probably absorbed the tiny tribe of “Benjamin” into its ranks.

**Read 1 Kings 13:1-10 – Discuss**

**Summary of 1 Kings 13:11-34**

The “man of God” is lied to by a prophet and tricked into eating and drinking while in Israel. The consequence of this unintended disobedience is that a lion kills the man of God on his journey. The prophet buries the man of God in his own grave. The text tells us that even after hearing this story Jeroboam did not turn from his evil ways.

**Summary of 1 Kings 14**

The son of Jeroboam became sick. Jeroboam sends his wife, in a disguise, to Shiloh (one of the holy places of God). The wife is supposed to ask a prophet for healing for her son. The prophet gives the woman a message/prophesy that because of Jeroboam’s wickedness the child will die. The section concludes by telling us that eventually Jeroboam died and his son Nadab succeeded him.

The rest of the chapter tells us of Reheboam’s unsuccessful reign in Judah. Reheboam and the people of Judah built altars to other gods. 5 years into Reheboam’s reign the king of Egypt ransacked Jerusalem and the temple and carried off all the treasures of the House of the Lord and of the king’s house. (Did the ark of the covenant go with these treasures? – no one knows). Finally Rehoboam dies and his son Abijah (Abijam) succeeds him.

**Summary of 1 Kings 15**

Abijah continued in the ways of his father (worship of false Gods) but for David’s sake God kept this family on the throne. Abijah continued the war with Jeroboam for the 2 years of his reign before his death. Abijah was succeeded by Asa.

Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and consequently he reigned 41 years. Asa was at war with Baasha the king of Israel. As a way to end the war Asa emptied the rest of the treasures from the temple and sent them to the king of Aram thus forging a treaty which caused the Israelites to relent. Asa died and his son Jehoshaphat succeeded him.

Nadab reigned over Israel for 2 years and was assassinated by Baasha. Baasha proceeded to kill everyone in the house of Jeroboam (fulfilling God’s prophesy). He reigned 24 years.

**Summary of 1 Kings 16**

We are introduced to the prophet Jehu son of Hanai who gives a message to Baasha that since he followed Jeroboam in his wicked ways he too will have his family wiped from the earth. His son Elah reigned for 2 years before Zimri the chariot commander assassinates a drunken Elah and succeeds him as king. Zimri then killed all the house of Baasha.

Zimri reigned for 7 DAYS before the Army learned of his actions and appointed their commander Omri as king. When Zimri learned that Omri was coming he went into the royal palace and burned the house down around himself, thus dying in the fire.

Omri reigned for 12 years but he did more evil than all who were before him. Omri was succeeded by his son Ahab.

**1 Kings 16 – 18: Listen to Professor Craig Koester share about Ahab, Jezebel, and Elijah.**

Discuss: What did you hear as important parts of the story?

**Read 1 Kings 19:1-21 : Discuss**

Wadi = a shallow brook or a stream that is often seasonal.

**Summary of 1 Kings 20**

The King of Aram lays siege to Samaria (northern capital). A prophet of God tells Ahab to Attack and kill the Arameans because God will give him victory. So, in the middle of the day while the Arameans were drunk the Israelites attacked and defeated the Arameans. Despite a devastating defeat the Aramean king, Ben-hadad, lives to fight another day.

**Summary of 1 Kings 21:1-16**

A man named Naboth has a beautiful vineyard. King Ahab wants the vineyard and asks to buy it. Naboth tells him that God has forbid him to sell this land to Ahab. Ahab goes away sad. Jezabel finds out about this and asks “Aren’t you the King?”. Jezebel has some men lie about Naboth saying he blasphemed God and the King so the community stones Naboth. Ahab then takes control of the vineyard.

**Read 1 Kings 21:17-29 : Discuss**

**Summary of 1 Kings 22:1-28**

Aram and Israel (north) have peace for 3 years but then Jehoshaphat of Judah makes an alliance with Ahab of Israel to attack and conquer a border town. There is debate about whether this is “God’s will”. Most of the prophets say that this is a good idea but a prophet named Micaiah tells the kings that God is trying to entice Ahab into battle so that he will be killed. The kings go to battle anyway.

**Read 1 Kings 29-44 and 51-53 : Discuss**