

Outline of 1&2 Kings

1 Kings 1:1-2:46 The Rise of Solomon

David's declining health 1:1-4

Adonijah's attempt to become King 1:5-10

Solomon becomes King 1:11-52

David advises Solomon 2:1-9

David's death 2:10-12

Solomon consolidates his power 2:13-46

1 Kings 3:1-11:43 Solomon's Reign

God's first appearance to Solomon 3:1-15

Solomon demonstrates his wisdom 3:16-4:34

Solomon builds the Temple 5:1-7:51

Solomon dedicates the Temple 8:1-66

God's second appearance to Solomon 9:1-9

Solomon's pursuits 9:10-28

Solomon's wisdom and wealth 10:1-29

Solomon's decline 11:1-43

1 Kings 12:1-16:34 The Divided Kingdom and the Rise of Idolatry

The rise and fall of Jeroboam's family 12:1-15:32

The rise of Omri and Ahab 15:32-16:34

1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 1:18 Elijah's opposition to idolatry and oppression

Elijah and Elisha Class 3
1 Kings 16:25-17:7

17:1-18:46 Elijah (My God is Yahweh) battles Baalism

19:1-21 Jezebel threatens and Elijah's flees and God recalls and recommissions Elijah, call of Elisha (God saves)

20:1-22:40 Elijah denounces Ahab

1 Kings 22:41-2 Kings 1:18 Elijah's final days

2 Kings 2:1-13:25 Elisha's Work as Prophet, Miracle worker, and Kingmaker

2:1-3:27 Elisha succeeds Elijah

4:1-6:23 Elisha performs miracles

6:24-7:20 Elisha predicts a siege's end

8:1-9:13 Elisha's political influence

9:14-10:35 Jehu's purge

11:1-12:21 Joash's reform

13:1-25 Elisha's final days

2 Kings 18:1-25:30 Judah disintegrates

18:1-20:21 Hezekiah's righteous reign

21:1-26 Manasseh and Amon's wicked reigns

22:1-23:30 Josiah's righteous reign

23:31-24:20 Judah's political and moral decline

25:1-26 Babylon destroys Judah

25:27-30 Jehoiachin survives in exile

Now let's look at Elijah and Ahab

Elijah bursts on the scene in 1 Kings 17 as a reaction to the depiction of King Ahab in 16:29-34. He is stylized to be as per

Elijah and Elisha Class 3
1 Kings 16:25-17:7

Deut 18:15...a prophet like unto Moses...something we see attributed to both John the Baptist and Jesus. He is not a trained prophet or of the school of the prophets. He is from no where in particular. Tishbe in Gilead, an obscure village. Scholars are still not certain of its location. Many suggest that it is north of the Jabbok and near the brook of Cherith. He simply appears on the scene confronting King Ahab with a threat of drought for a period of years because of what the writer of 1 Kings says King Ahab has done and is doing.

King Ahab is the son of King Omri, a wealthy king of the northern kingdom...a kingdom that did not have long dynasties because the typical path to the throne was through murder. Omri had a relatively lengthy reign of 12 years. He moved the capital from Tizrah to build a new capital on the hill of Samaria. He perpetuated the civil religion or paganism of Jereboam 1 with the maintenance of the sanctuaries with the calves at Bethel and Dan. Then Ahab his son succeeds to the throne and is described as 'doing more evil than all who went before him. He continued the calf worship and pagan sites or civil religious high places. But then he forms an anti-Syrian marriage alliance with the King of Sidon, Ethbaal...note the name...by marrying his daughter Jezebel...notice the name. She introduced and her husband promoted the worship of Baal and the goddesses into Israel, the northern kingdom. He built Baal a temple and worshipped him. He established an Asherah pole...and we are told by the historian/prophet 'that Ahab did more to provoke the Lord than all the kings who went before him. Not only did he build temples to Baal...read Satan...but he also allowed Hiel of Bethel to rebuild Jericho see Joshua 6:26. Faithful to the curse he lost his first born and heir Abiram and his second born Segub...or he possibly fulfilled the curse himself by either sacrificing his sons or by placing his live sons under the foundation stones as living human sacrifices...in a virtual repeal of Joshua's conquest of Jericho and the elimination of all of their idols except the ones stolen by Achan. Now Ahab embraces Canaanite religion in open defiance of Yahweh and his commands...which as you recall were written on the stones of the altar in plain view from Ahab's capital at Samaria, at Mt. Ebal see Joshua 8:30-32

Elijah and Elisha Class 3
1 Kings 16:25-17:7

Elijah appears and dares Ahab and his Baal cult to take him and his God on with the challenge or threat of the curse of the drought. Baal claimed to be the master of rain and fertility, so in the name of Yahweh Elijah challenges Ahab and his priests and prophets of Baal to show Baal mightier than Yahweh by making it rain...supposedly Baal's specialty. Elijah, also in the name of the Lord, challenges Ahab...prophet vs. King.

Following the confrontation with the King, God tells Elijah to leave and hide by the brook of Cherith, east of the Jordan...and the Lord promised to provide for Elijah while denying provision for Ahab and his rebellious nation.

The first miracle is recorded in how God provided. God ordains ravens to bring the prophet bread and meat each morning and each evening. Ravens are notorious scavengers..eating virtually anything and everything. This is a miracle at several levels.

Nature of the prophet's helpers

Regularity of the provision...morning and evening

The balanced nature of the diet God provided and its unknown source.

This miracle is a replay of Israel's experience in the wilderness for 40 years in their sojourn to the Promised Land.

What does this first encounter with Ahab and Elijah tell us about God?

Homework: Read 1 Kings 17 carefully. Look up all cross references. Read what you can find about Zarephath.