

## 2 SAMUEL 23-24; 1 KINGS 1-6

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 41, Year 2: 2 Sam 23-24; 1 Kgs 1-6*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read 2 Samuel Chapter 24. Whose anger was kindled against Israel when David was moved to number Israel and Judah in v. 1? To whom did David give the command to number the people from Dan to Beersheba, in v. 2? Did Joab agree with David's judgment and why, in vv. 3-4? How much time was needed to take a census of the people from Dan to Beersheba, in v. 8? What struck David after he had numbered the people and caused him to admit he had sinned greatly and begged the Lord to take away his iniquity, in v. 10? What message did Gad bring to David, in vv. 11-12? Give the three things God came to David with and which one did David choose as his punishment for taking a census of the people, in vv. 13-14. How did David respond, in v. 14? When David chose to fall into the hand of God rather than the hand of man how many men from Dan to Beersheba died in the plague the Lord sent upon the people, in v. 15? What being did God use in destroying seventy thousand men of Israel, in v. 16? As the angel stretched his hand against Jerusalem to destroy it who stopped the angel saying, "Enough!" in v. 16? When David saw the angel by Araunah's threshing place he admits his sin to God, what does he call his people who were suffering under the pestilence of God, in v. 17? Who was willing for God's hand to be against him and his father's house rather than the people continuing in suffering under the Lord's plague?

Give the prophet's name who instructed David to build an altar unto the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, in v. 18. How did Araunah react as David and his servants approached, in v. 20? What business did David conduct with Araunah and for what purpose was the purchase made, in vv. 21-25? What reason does David give Araunah for purchasing his threshing floor and building an altar there? What were the three things Araunah offered David free of charge when the king came to his threshing floor to offer a sacrifice unto the Lord? Why did David refuse Araunah's offer of oxen and threshing instruments of oxen for wood? When David offered burnt and peace offerings unto the Lord in the threshing floor he purchased from Arannah and prayed to the Lord, what happened, in v. 25?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

2. Read 1 Kings Chapter 1. What was one of the practical provisions made for David in his old age, in vv. 1-4? When David was in a weakened condition, what did Adonijah decide to do, in v. 5? What was at least one reason why Adonijah had grown up to be rebellious and ambitious, in v. 6? Which of David's officials supported Adonijah, and which of David's officials did not join the rebellion, in vv. 7-8? What did Adonijah do in order to establish his influence and build support for his succession, in vv. 9-10? Which officials and relatives were conspicuously missing from Adonijah's guest list?

What warning did Nathan the prophet carry to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, in v. 11? What advice did Nathan have for Bathsheba, in vv. 12-14? Of what promise did Bathsheba remind David, in v. 17? What action did Bathsheba urge David to take before the decision was out of his hands, in vv. 18-20? What did Bathsheba fear if David were to die under the present circumstances, in v. 21? Who came into the king's chambers to corroborate Bathsheba's story, in vv. 22-23? Of what activities in the court did Nathan give a thorough account to the king, in

vv. 24-26? What question did Nathan ask of the king in light of what had transpired in the kingdom, in v. 27?

What did David command Zadok, Benaiah, and Nathan to do in vv. 32-34? When did David intend Solomon's reign to begin, in v. 35? How did Benaiah express his approval and his gratitude to David, in vv. 36-37? What important ceremony was performed for Solomon that had not been done for the rebel, Adonijah, in vv. 38-39? What was the mood among the people when Solomon was crowned king, in v. 40? Who brought the news to Adonijah and his supporters while they were still feasting, in vv. 41-42? How did Jonathan son of Abiathar explain what he had just seen and the noise that Adonijah could hear, in vv. 43-45? What circumstances made David's provision for the succession more authoritative and final, in vv. 46-48? What did Adonijah's guests do when they heard the news of Solomon's coronation, in v. 49? Why did Adonijah seek sanctuary at the altar of God, in vv. 50-51? How did Solomon respond to his brother's plea for mercy, in v. 52? How did Solomon show his authority over Adonijah, in v. 53?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read 1 Kings Chapter 2. What did David feel it was important to do before he died in v. 1? With what words of encouragement did David begin his charge to Solomon, in vv. 2-3? In what sense was Solomon responsible for the continuation of God's promise to David, in vv. 3-4? What actions from the past did David hold against Joab in v. 5? What did David tell Solomon to do with regard to Joab, in v. 6? What did David want to make sure Solomon did for the sons of Barzillai of Gilead, in v. 7? What wrong that David suffered did he want Solomon to settle after his death, in vv. 8-9?

What expression does the writer of 1 Kings use to describe David's death, in v. 10? How secure was Solomon's kingship from the beginning in v. 12? After Solomon became king, who came to see his mother Bathsheba, in v.13? What request did

Adonijah want Bathsheba to make for him, in vv. 17-18? How did King Solomon show honor to his mother, in vv. 19-20? Why was Solomon outraged when his mother presented Adonijah's request, in vv. 21-22? What oath did Solomon swear regarding Adonijah after Adonijah had revealed his true colors in making the request for Abishag, in vv. 23-24? What sentence was carried out against Adonijah, in v. 25?

Why did Solomon refrain from executing Abiathar although he had been one of the conspirators, in v. 26? How did the removal of Abiathar from the priesthood fulfill a prophecy from long ago about Eli's descendants, in v. 27? How did Joab, the last conspirator, react to the news of what Solomon was doing, in v. 28? Why was Benaiah forced to kill Joab in the tent of the Lord before the altar, in vv. 31-32? What order did Solomon give to Shimei, in vv. 36-37? According to Solomon, who was most familiar with the wrongs that Shimei had done to David, in v. 44? Who executed justice on behalf of King Solomon, in v. 46? By the end of the chapter, what was the result of all of the decisions made by King Solomon?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read 1 Kings Chapter 3. What country did Solomon make an alliance by marriage with, and what major projects did Solomon undertake in v. 1? Where were the people of Israel making sacrifices at this time, in v. 2? How did Solomon show that he loved God in v. 3? What was one area in which Solomon did not entirely please God? What impressive sacrifice did Solomon offer at Gibeon, in v. 4?

What did God say to Solomon in a dream while he was at Gibeon in v. 5? How did Solomon see his own place in the history of God and Israel, in v. 6? What did Solomon find humbling about being king, in vv. 7-8? In Solomon's view whose nation was Israel? What request did Solomon make of God and for what purpose in v. 9? How did God feel about what Solomon had chosen to request in v. 10? What difference did it

make that Solomon asked God for wisdom, in vv. 10-14? What other things might Solomon have asked for when God gave him one request, in v. 11? What did God promise to Solomon in response to his request in v. 12? What did God promise to Solomon that he had not asked for, in v. 13? What blessing did God offer to Solomon if he would walk in His ways as David had, in v. 14? What did Solomon realize when he awoke from his sleep, in v. 15? How did Solomon offer his praise and thanksgiving to God?

What series of events was described by one of two prostitutes who came to Solomon, in vv. 17-21? What version of events did Solomon hear from the second prostitute, in v. 22? How did Solomon confirm his understanding of the situation before he proceeded, in v. 23? How did Solomon propose to settle the argument, in vv. 24-25? How did Solomon settle the matter, in vv. 24-27? How did the two women react differently to the prospect of "dividing" the baby, in v. 26? What was Solomon's ruling in the case of the disputed child, in v. 27? What was the reaction when word got out about Solomon's ruling, in v. 28?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read 1 Kings Chapter 4. What were some of the measures of the prosperity of Israel and Judah, in vv. 20-21? What was one of the key national blessings during Solomon's life time, in v. 25? What was God's primary gift to Solomon in v. 29? How did Solomon's wisdom compare to that of the wisest men of his day, in vv. 30-31? What were some of Solomon's intellectual accomplishments, in vv. 32-33? What was the response of other kings when they heard of Solomon's wisdom, in v. 34? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?
6. Read 1 Kings Chapter 5. Why did Hiram king of Tyre send envoys to King Solomon and what intention did Solomon declare to Hiram in his return message, in vv. 1-5? What assistance did Solomon ask from Hiram in his project to build a temple for the Lord, in v. 6? How did Hiram react to

Solomon's message and his plans for the future, in v. 7? What did Hiram request in return when he agreed to supply all of David's building materials, in vv. 8-9? What goods and resources changed hands between Israel and Tyre, in vv. 10-11? What promise did God fulfill for Solomon in v. 12? What was the relationship between Tyre and Israel during the reigns of Hiram and Solomon? Why were Solomon and Hiram able to help each other in v. 12?

How did Solomon recruit and organize the workers from Israel in vv. 13-14? What was prepared as the foundation for the temple in v. 17? What international partnership was involved in building the temple, in v. 18? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

7. Read 1 Kings Chapter 6. What are the different ways of expressing the date that the temple was begun, in v. 1? What was unusual about the building activity on the actual temple site, in v. 7? Besides stone what was the chief building material for the temple, in vv. 8-10? What word did Solomon receive from God concerning the temple, in vv. 11-13? What was God's promise to David, which He vowed to carry out if Solomon and Israel were obedient, in vv. 12-13?

What was a unique characteristic of the inner sanctuary and its furnishings, in vv. 20-22? What impressive sculptures were to be found in the inner sanctuary, in vv. 23-28? What symbols appeared throughout the temple, carved into the wood, in vv. 29-35? How long did it take to complete the temple, in vv. 37-38? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

## 1 KINGS 7-13

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 46, Year 2: 1 Kings 7-13*
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read 1 Kings Chapter 8. When did Israel bring the Ark of the Covenant into the newly completed temple, in vv. 1-2? What religious activity was taking place while the ark was being brought to the temple, in vv. 3-5? Where was the Ark of the Covenant placed in the new temple, in vv. 6-8? What did the ark contain, in v. 9? What happened when the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, in v. 10? How did Solomon explain the significance of the event to the people, in vv. 12-21?

What praises did Solomon offer at the beginning of his prayer, in vv. 22-24? How did Solomon express his awe and humility before the Lord, in vv. 27-28? How did Solomon ask God to regard the temple and the prayers offered there, in vv. 29-30? What sorts of prayers did Solomon envision being offered at the temple, in vv. 31-40? Why did Solomon pray that even the foreigner's prayer would be answered, in vv. 41-43? What cycle of sin and repentance did Solomon consider inevitable, in vv. 46-51? Of which of His own actions does Solomon remind God in asking Him to remember His people, in vv. 52-53? What were three aspects of Solomon's blessing of the whole assembly, in vv. 56-61?

How long did Israel celebrate the dedication of the temple, in vv. 62-65) What was the mood of the people as they returned to their homes, in v. 66? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

2. Read 1 Kings Chapter 9. When did the Lord appear to Solomon a second time, in vv. 1-2? What positive response did God make to the prayers Solomon had offered at the dedication of the temple, in v. 3? What "if" did God reiterate to Solomon concerning his relationship to God, in vv. 4-5? What did God promise to do if Solomon or his descendants failed to obey His commands, in vv. 6-9?

During what time period was Solomon busy with building the temple and palace, in v. 10? How did Hiram feel about the gift Solomon gave him in thanks for the raw materials for the temple, in vv. 11-13? For what sorts of projects did Solomon conscript laborers, in vv. 15-19? Who provided the slave labor in Solomon's kingdom, in vv. 20-21? What sorts of positions were filled by Israelites, in vv. 22-23? How did Solomon go about fulfilling the temple obligations, in v. 25?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read 1 Kings Chapter 10. Why did the queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon and what gifts did the queen bring to Solomon, in vv. 1-2? What was the queen's reaction to Solomon's wisdom and his court, in vv. 4-7? Why did the queen of Sheba offer praise to God, in v. 9? What did the queen of Sheba receive from Solomon before she returned to her country, in v. 13?

What were some of the measures of Solomon's wealth, in vv. 14-17? What was the availability and value of precious metals in Solomon's day, in vv. 21-22? In what two areas was Solomon graced with greater wealth than anyone else in the world, in v. 23? Why did people continually come seeking an audience with Solomon, in vv. 24-25? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read 1 Kings Chapter 11. What was one of Solomon's primary downfalls and areas of disobedience against God, in vv. 1-2? How many wives did Solomon marry, in v. 3? What happened to Solomon's devotion to God as he got older, in v. 4? What gods



did Solomon allow to be worshiped in Israel because of his foreign wives, in vv. 5-8? What reason did God have to be especially angry with Solomon, in vv. 9-10? What word did God speak in judgment of Solomon, in v. 11? Why did God choose not to utterly destroy Solomon and remove the whole kingdom from him, in vv. 12-13?

What was the history of the first enemy God raised up against Solomon, in vv. 14-22? To which of David's battles did Rezon's enmity harken back, in vv. 23-25? Which of the rebels against Solomon came from the ranks of his own officials, in vv. 26-28? What prophecy did Ahijah reveal to Jeroboam when they were alone, in vv. 29-33? What conditions would Jeroboam have to meet in order for God to be with him, in vv. 34-39? How did Solomon respond to the presence of Jeroboam, in v. 40?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read 1 Kings Chapter 12. Where did Solomon's son Rehoboam go to be crowned king, in v. 1? Where was Jeroboam when he heard the news of Solomon's death, in v. 2? What request did the people want Jeroboam to bring to Rehoboam on their behalf, in vv. 3-4? Initially, what did Rehoboam tell the people who came to him, in v. 5? What did the elders of Israel, Solomon's advisors, advice Rehoboam, in v. 7? To whom did Rehoboam turn for a second opinion, in v. 8? What advice did the young men give Rehoboam, in vv. 10-11? What did Rehoboam ultimately decide to tell the people, in vv. 12-15?

How did Jeroboam and the people respond to Rehoboam's harshness, in v. 16? What happened when the king tried to conscript forced labor from among the Israelites, in vv. 18-19? Whom did the people of Israel proclaim king, in v. 20? What part of the kingdom was loyal to Rehoboam, in v. 21? Why was Rehoboam preparing for war?

What word did Shemaiah bring to Rehoboam from the Lord, in vv. 22-24? Why did God instruct Judah not to fight? Where did

Jeroboam consolidate his power as king of Israel, in v. 25? Why did Jeroboam see traditional religious practices as a threat to his power and an advantage for Rehoboam, in vv. 26-27? What prompted Jeroboam to make two golden calves, in v. 28? To what human vice did Jeroboam appeal in offering Israel alternate sites for worship? What became of the moral and spiritual climate of Israel when worship was instituted at Bethel and Dan, in vv. 29-30?

Where did Jeroboam build shrines at, and who were the priests who served at Jeroboam's command, in v. 31? What practice of Judah did Jeroboam imitate by creating a new festival, in vv. 32-33? What role did Jeroboam play in the worship at the festival? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

6. Read 1 Kings Chapter 13. Where did the prophet come from who met Jeroboam making sacrifices at the altar, in v. 1? What did the man of God say would happen to the altar at Bethel, in v. 2? What sign did the man of God claim would confirm the prophecy, in v. 3? What did Jeroboam try to do when he heard the prophecy, in v. 4? What happened to Jeroboam when he tried to capture the man of God? What happened at Bethel to confirm the truth of God's Word through the prophet, in v. 5?

What did the man of God do at Jeroboam's request, and what did God do in answer to prayer, in v. 6? What invitation did the king extend after he had been healed, in v. 7? How did the man of God respond to the king's invitation, in vv. 8-10?

Where did the second prophet catch up to the man of God, in vv. 11-14? How did the man of God respond to the old prophet's invitation to come back and eat and drink, in vv. 15-17? What deception did the old prophet use to get the man of God to come back with him, in vv. 18-19? What revelation came to the old prophet while he was eating with the man of God, in vv. 20-22? What happened to the man of God when he left the home of the old prophet, in vv. 23-24? What did the old prophet know

November Year 2

immediately when he heard about a lion standing beside a body on the road, in vv. 25-26? What did the old prophet do for his brother prophet whom he had tricked, in vv. 27-30? What special instructions did the old prophet give his sons, in vv. 31-32, and why?

What sinful practices did Jeroboam continue, in vv. 33-34?  
What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

## 1 KINGS 14-20

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 47, Year 2: 1 Kgs 14-20*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read 1 Kings Chapter 14. What misfortune drove Jeroboam to consult with a prophet, in vv. 1-2? What elaborate scheme did Jeroboam concoct for his wife to carry out, in vv. 2-4? What was the physical condition of the prophet Ahijah, in v. 4? How did Ahijah know the identity of his visitor, in v. 5? When Jeroboam's wife arrived, what kind of news did Ahijah have for her, in v. 6? How did God's evaluation of Jeroboam's reign that was communicated through the prophet, in vv. 7-9? What did God decree concerning Jeroboam's descendants, in vv. 10-11? What was to become of the son about whom Jeroboam had initially inquired, in vv. 12-13? Whom was God going to use to cut off the family of Jeroboam, in v. 14? For what sins did God hold the people of Israel accountable, in vv. 15-16? What happened when Jeroboam's wife returned home, in vv. 17-18?

What was the spiritual condition of Judah under Rehoboam, in vv. 22-24? How did God use the king of Egypt to punish Judah, in vv. 25-26? How did Rehoboam choose to carry on a pretense of wealth and power, in vv. 27-28? What was the relationship between Jeroboam of Israel and Rehoboam of Judah, in v. 30? What was the name of the son that succeeded Rehoboam in Judah, in v. 31? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

2. Read 1 Kings Chapter 15. How long did Rehoboam's son reign when he succeeded his father, in vv. 1-2? What way was Abijah like his father, in v. 3? Why did God strengthen Jerusalem in

spite of Abijah's disobedience, in v. 4? What was the chief instance in which David failed to keep God's commands, in v. 5?

How long was Abijah's son Asa in power in Jerusalem, in v. 10? What were some of the righteous actions taken by Asa, in vv. 11-14? What was the relationship between Judah and Israel during the time of Asa, in v. 16? What did Israel's fortification of the city of Ramah do to Judah, in v. 17? Where did Asa seek help for Judah's predicament, in v. 18? How did the king of Aram help Asa, king of Judah, in vv. 20-21?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read 1 Kings Chapter 16. Who was the prophet that God sent to pronounce judgment on Baasha, king of Israel, in v. 1? What was Baasha's problem, in vv. 2-4? Who was Baasha's successor, in v. 6? Of what deed was Baasha considered guilty although he had been God's tool to punish Jeroboam, in v. 7? Who led the revolt against Baasha's son named Elah, in vv. 8-10? How did Zimri treat Baasha's family once he became king, in vv. 11-12? For what actions did God hold Baasha and his family accountable, in v. 13?

How long did Zimri manage to hold on to power in Israel, in v. 15? To whom did the Israelites turn for leadership when Elah was dead, in vv. 16-17? What became of the rebel Zimri, in v. 18? Which of the two factions was successful in replacing Zimri, in vv. 21-22?

What kind of a major project did Omri undertake as king, in vv. 23-24? Who was the first king of Israel to rule from the city of Samaria? How did Omri compare to his predecessors, in vv. 25-26? What was God's assessment of idols, in v. 26?

How did Ahab compare to the kings of Israel before him, in v. 30? What new form of worship did Ahab add to Israel's idolatry, in v. 31? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read 1 Kings Chapter 17. Where did the prophet Elijah come from, and what was the prophecy that Elijah took to Ahab, king of Israel, in v. 1? After speaking with Ahab, why did God direct Elijah to hide, in vv. 2-3? How were Elijah's needs met while he was alone in the desert, in vv. 5-6? Where did God send Elijah after the brook dried up, in vv. 7-9?

What two requests did Elijah make of the widow at Zarephath, in vv. 10-11? What did the widow consider inevitable for herself and her son during the drought in Israel, in v. 12? What step did Elijah ask the widow to take in faith, in v. 13? What promise did Elijah make if the widow would be obedient to God, in v. 14? What did the Lord do for Elijah, the widow, and her son, in vv. 15-16? What did the woman of Zarephath assume when her son became ill and died, in vv. 17-18? When Elijah took the son from his mother, what question did he have for God, in vv. 19-20? How did Elijah go about petitioning God for the boy's life, in vv. 21-22? How did the widow react when her son was returned to her alive, in vv. 23-24?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read 1 First Kings Chapter 18. What did God tell Elijah to do after almost three years of drought, in vv. 1-2? What was Obadiah's story, in vv. 3-4? What were Ahab and Obadiah looking for as they traveled through the land, in vv. 5-6? Whom did Obadiah meet in the course of his journey, in v. 7? What attitude did Obadiah have toward Elijah, in v. 7? Why was Obadiah dismayed by Elijah's orders, in vv. 8-12? What did Obadiah assume about Elijah's ability to escape the king? Why did Obadiah feel he didn't deserve to die at the hands of an angry Ahab, in vv. 12-14? What promise did Elijah make to allay Obadiah's fears, in v. 15?

Whom did Elijah hold accountable for Israel's troubles, in v. 18? What groups did Elijah want to assemble, in vv. 19-20? How did the people respond when Elijah confronted them with their double-mindedness, in v. 21? How did the people respond to

the confrontation Elijah proposed between Baal and God, in vv. 22-24? How did Elijah taunt the prophets of Baal when their god did not ignite the sacrifice, in vv. 27-29? What preparations did Elijah make in the sight of the people before he prayed to God, in vv. 30-35? How did Elijah address God in prayer, in vv. 36-37? What happened to the altar of the Lord when Elijah prayed, in v. 38? How did the people react when they saw fire burn up Elijah's offering, in v. 39? What vengeance did Elijah exact against the prophets of Baal, in v. 40? What prediction did Elijah make to Ahab concerning the drought, in v. 41? In what attitude did Elijah wait for the Lord's answer, in vv. 42-44? What happened when the power of the Lord came upon Elijah, in v. 46?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

6. Read 1 Kings Chapter 19. Why was Queen Jezebel determined to kill Elijah the prophet, in vv. 1-2? What did Elijah pray for when he had fled to a lonely place, in vv. 3-5? How did God miraculously care for Elijah in the desert, in vv. 6-9? What did God say to Elijah when the prophet had taken refuge in a cave, in v. 9? How did Elijah express his despair about his circumstances, in v. 10?

What did God command Elijah to do, in v. 11? What disturbances of nature did Elijah witness from inside the cave, in vv. 11-13? In which of the manifestations that Elijah saw was God present? What question did God repeat in the gentle whisper, in v. 13? What was Elijah's reply after seeing the demonstrations of God's power, in v. 14? What order did Elijah receive from God in vv. 15-17? How many faithful worshipers did God report to be in Israel, in v. 18? Where was Elisha when Elijah found him, in v. 19? What symbolic action did Elijah perform when he found Elisha? What did Elisha call his family together to do before he left to follow Elijah, in vv. 20-21?

What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

7. Read 1 Kings Chapter 20. What was Ahab's predicament when Ben-Hadad besieged Samaria, in vv. 1-3? After Ahab had agreed to be subservient to the king of Aram, what more was demanded of him, in vv. 4-6? How did the elders of Israel advise Ahab to respond to the latest demand from Aram, in vv. 7-9? What did Ben-Hadad swear to do to Ahab and Israel, in v. 10? What did Ahab say in v. 11, and why?

What did one of God's prophets tell Ahab about the outcome of the ensuing battle, in v. 13? How did Ahab develop the specific battle plan, in vv. 14-17? What did Ben-Hadad assume about his ability to subdue Israel, in v. 18? What was the result of the battle between the young officers and the Syrian's army, in vv. 19-21? What warning did Ahab receive from the prophet after his victory, in v. 22?

What false conclusion did the Syrians draw from their defeat in the first encounter, in vv. 23-27? Why did God determine that He would cause the small army of Israel to defeat the large army of Syrians on the plains, in v. 28? What was the extent of the disaster that came upon the Syrians, in vv. 29-30?

What plan did Ben-Hadad's official come up with to save his life, in vv. 31-32? What did Ahab do when he had Ben-Hadad at his mercy, in vv. 33-34? What dramatic action did the prophet take in order to have an illustration when he confronted Ahab, in vv. 35-38? What parable did the prophet tell to get Ahab to condemn himself, in vv. 39-40? What sentence did the prophet pronounce on Ahab for not killing Ben-Hadad, in v. 42?



## 1 KINGS 21-22; 2 KINGS 1-6

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 48, Year 2: 1 Kgs 21-22; 2 Kgs 1-6*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read 1 Kings Chapter 21. What did Ahab want from Naboth, in vv. 1-2? On what grounds did Naboth refuse to sell his vineyard, in v. 3? What was Ahab's mood when he didn't get what he wanted, in vv. 3-4? What did Ahab's wife Jezebel do, in vv. 5-10? What conspiracy took place in Naboth's city in response to Jezebel's letters, in vv. 11-14? What news did Jezebel take back to Ahab, in vv. 15-16?

What did God command Elijah to do, in vv. 17-19? How did Ahab greet Elijah when they met, in v. 20? What was the judgment Elijah pronounced on Ahab and his house according to vv. 20-24? What additional information is given to us about Ahab, in vv. 25-26? How did Ahab react to Elijah's words in v. 27? What was God's response to Ahab's penitence, in vv. 28-29?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

2. Read 1 Kings Chapter 22. How had affairs changed between the rival kingdoms of Israel and Judah, in vv. 1-3? What was bothering the king of Israel? What favor did the king of Israel ask of the king of Judah, in v. 4? What one condition did Jehoshaphat impose before he went into battle with Ahab, in vv. 4-5? What was the unanimous counsel of the four hundred prophets, in v. 6? What did Jehoshaphat find lacking in the advice of the prophets, in v. 7? What did Ahab tell Jehoshaphat about the one remaining prophet of the Lord, in v. 8? Where were the two kings when Micaiah was summoned before them,

in vv. 10-12? How did the messenger who summoned Micaiah advise him to counsel the kings, in v. 13? What one criterion did Micaiah use to determine what he would say, in v. 14? What was the first answer that Micaiah gave to Ahab, in v. 15? How did Micaiah's message change when the king insisted he wanted the truth, in vv. 16-17? What story did Micaiah tell about a consultation in heaven, in vv. 19-23? What did Ahab decide to do with Micaiah while he went to war, in vv. 26-27?

How did the two kings dress when they went into battle against Ramoth Gilead, in vv. 29-30? Why did Jehoshaphat narrowly miss being killed in battle, in vv. 31-33? How was Ahab wounded in spite of the fact that he had concealed his identity, in v. 34? How did the armies of Israel and Judah react when they heard of Ahab's death, in v. 36? Although Ahab was given a king's burial, how was the prophecy against him fulfilled anyway, in vv. 37-38?

What kind of king was Jehoshaphat in v. 41-44? What were some of Jehoshaphat's accomplishments and failures, in vv. 43-50? How was Ahaziah like his father Ahab, in vv. 51-53? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read 2 Kings Chapter 1. When Ahaziah was injured accidentally, what did he send messengers to do, in v. 2? With what message did God send Elijah to intercept the king's messengers, in vv. 3-4? What did the messengers do after speaking with Elijah, in vv. 5-6? How did the messengers describe for the king the man they had met, in vv. 7-8? What did Ahaziah know immediately when he heard the description of the man who sent him the message?

What order from the king was delivered by a captain and fifty men, in v. 9? What was Elijah's dramatic answer to the captain who came to capture him, in v. 10? What happened to the second captain and his men, in vv. 11-12? With what attitude did the third captain approach Elijah, in vv. 13-14? How did God instruct Elijah to react to the third captain who came to get him,

in v. 15? What message did Elijah personally deliver to the king, in v. 16? What became of Ahaziah, king of Israel, in v. 17? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read 2 Kings Chapter 2. Although Elijah and Elisha were in the habit of traveling together, why did Elijah try to go to Bethel on his own, in vv. 1-2? What was Elisha's reply to Elijah's suggestion that he stay behind? What did the prophets at Bethel want to make sure that Elisha knew, in v. 3? What was Elisha's reply to the prophets who told him his master would be taken that very day? What journey did Elijah propose to take alone but could not because Elisha would not leave him, in v. 4? How did the prophets at Jericho greet Elisha, in v. 5? Where did Elijah and Elisha go, in v. 6? What remarkable event was witnessed by fifty prophets at the Jordan River, in vv. 7-8?

What was Elijah's question for Elisha when they were alone, in v. 9? What did Elisha want to inherit from Elijah? On what condition did Elijah say Elisha's prayer would be granted, in v. 10? What amazing event did Elisha witness, in vv. 11-12? What was Elisha's first test of whether Elijah's power had come upon him, in vv. 13-15? What did Elisha know about whether Elijah could ever be found on this earth, in vv. 16-18? What problem did the city elders bring to Elisha, in vv. 19-22? What befell some youngsters who taunted Elisha, in vv. 23-25? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read 2 Kings Chapter 3. What sins of previous kings did Joram discontinue and which did he embrace, in vv. 1-3? What tribute did the king of Israel require of the king of Moab, in v. 4? Why did Joram need to amass an army against Moab, in v. 5? Who did Joram secure as an ally against Moab, in vv. 6-7? What problem did the three armies encounter after they had been in the desert for seven days, in vv. 8-9? What part did the king of Israel assume God was playing in his army's predicament, in v. 10? What did Jehoshaphat want to do before he jumped to conclusions about God's will, in vv. 11-12? What sort of greeting

did Elisha have for the king of Israel, in v. 13? What assumption had driven Joram to seek out Elisha?

Why did Elisha agree to tell the three kings what God had to say, in v. 14? What message did Elisha deliver, accompanied by a harpist, in vv. 15-19? When was Elisha's prediction proven to be true, in v. 20? How had the Moabites responded to the armies gathering against them, in v. 21? What did the Moabites incorrectly presume about the redness on the valley floor, in vv. 22-23? How badly did the battle turn against Moab, in vv. 24-25? At the siege of what city did the king of Moab offer a staggering sacrifice, in v. 27? How did the momentum of the battle change after the king of Moab sacrificed his son? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

6. Read 2 Kings Chapter 4. What was the predicament of the widow of one of the prophets, in v. 1? How did Elisha make use of what little the widow had to provide for her by faith, in vv. 2-6? When did the oil stop flowing for the widow and her sons, in v. 6? How did the miracle of the oil take care of the widow's financial difficulties, in v. 7?

What do we know about the woman who extended hospitality to Elisha from vv. 8-10? What did the woman request when Elisha offered to reward her, in vv. 11-13? How did Elisha learn of a need the Shunammite woman had but did not verbalize, in v. 14? What promise did Elisha make to the Shunammite woman, in vv. 15-16? What calamity befell the family in Shunem after several years, in vv. 17-20? What action did the woman take after her son died, in vv. 21-25? What did the woman tell Gehazi about her predicament, in v. 26? How did the woman tell Elisha about her problem, in vv. 27-28? What did the Shunammite woman insist that Elisha do, in vv. 27-30? How did Elisha propose to meet the woman's need, in v. 29?

What different measures were taken before life returned to the widow's dead son, in vv. 31-35? What was the Shunammite woman's response to the return of her son, in vv. 36-37? How

did Elisha reverse an inadvertent but deadly mistake for a group of prophets, in vv. 38-41? What resources were at Elisha's disposal when he fed a hundred men, in vv. 42-44? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

7. Read 2 Kings Chapter 5. What made Naaman a great man in Aram, in v. 1? How was God involved with the fortunes of the pagan nation of Aram? How did Naaman learn about the healing powers of the prophet of God, in vv. 2-3? When the king of Aram approved Naaman's expedition, to whom did he send the commander, in vv. 4-6? How did the king of Israel react when he received the letter from the king of Aram, in v. 7? What message did Elisha send to the king when he heard of the letter and the king's reaction, in v. 8? What promise did Elisha make to Naaman, in vv. 9-10?

What was Naaman's reaction to the instructions to wash in the Jordan, in vv. 11-12? How did Naaman's servants reason with him to help him overcome his pride, in v. 13? What happened when Naaman obeyed Elisha's instructions, in v. 14? How had Naaman changed internally by the time he went back to Elisha, in v. 15? What did Naaman offer to Elisha out of gratitude? How did Elisha respond to the offer of gifts, in v. 16? How did Naaman propose to live as a believer in the Lord God in a pagan land, in vv. 17-18? What terms did Naaman and Elisha part on, in v. 19? What bothered Gehazi about the way Elisha had treated Naaman, in v. 20? What did Gehazi try to do, without Elisha's knowledge, to enrich himself, in vv. 21-24? How did Elisha find out about what his servant had done, in v. 25? What was Gehazi's punishment for being deceitful and greedy, in vv. 26-27? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

8. Read 2 Kings Chapter 6. Why did the prophets want to build a new community living and meeting space, in vv. 1-2? What hesitations, if any, did Elisha have about the proposed building project? What did the prophets want from Elisha, in 3? What building material was chosen by the prophets, in v. 4? What

accident befell upon one of the workers, in v. 5? Why was the worker especially distressed about the loss of an axe-head? From what material was the axe-head made that was used to cut down trees? To whom did the younger prophet turn when he found himself in a predicament? What question did Elisha ask the prophet who had lost the axe-head, in v. 6? What strange action did Elisha take at the place where the axe-head dropped, in v. 6? What miraculous occurrence followed when Elisha threw the stick in the river? What command did Elisha issue when the axehead floated up, in v. 7? How did the potentially disastrous incident of the lost axe-head end?

What was the size and origins of the army besieging Samaria, in v. 24? What were the living conditions and prices of goods for the people trapped inside the city of Samaria, in v. 25? Who called out to the king of Israel as he was walking along the wall, in v. 26? How did the king express his sense of helplessness in the current conditions, in v. 27? What awful grievance did the woman detail for the king, in vv. 28-29? What was the king's reaction to the woman's story, in v. 30? What action symbolic of mourning and repentance did the people see the king had already taken? Who did the king of Israel hold accountable for the suffering in Israel, in v. 31? What did Elisha predict to the elders assembled with him before it ever occurred, in v. 32? What was the king of Israel ready to do in his desperation, in v. 33? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?