

# **The Good The Bad and The Ugly Journey Through the Bible Part 12: 1 Kings 16-22**

**Bible readings:**

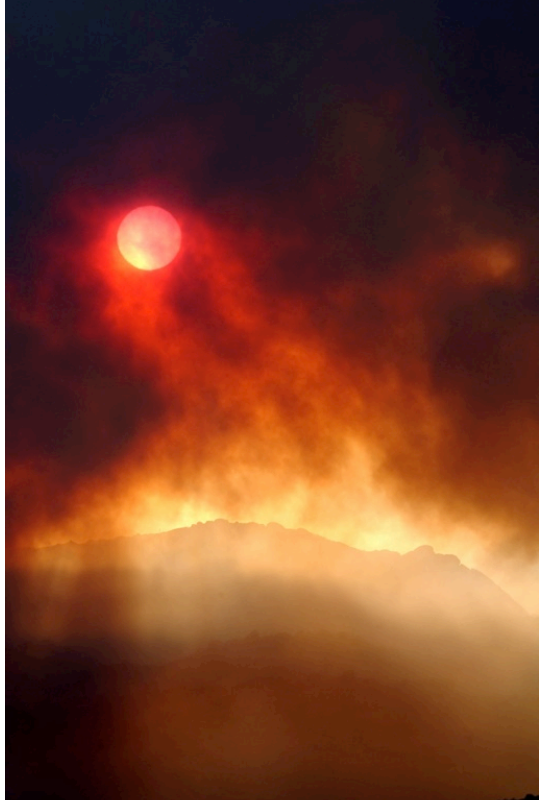
**1 Kings 16:29-17:24 (p.252)**

**Luke 4:14-30 (p.727)**

# Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel

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- **Jezebel:** Queen of Israel, beautiful, powerful, evil manipulator. Dedicated to the worship of Baal.
- **Elijah:** the most powerful and colourful prophet of God since Moses.
- **Ahab:** King of Israel, pulled between following God and Elijah and Baal and Jezebel



# 1 Kings 1-15

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- The glory and tragedy of Solomon.
- Greatly blessed but not 100% for God.
- Seduced into idol worship by his wives.
- Refused to listen to God's warnings.
- The kingdom split into the Northern and Southern kingdoms under Rehoboam.



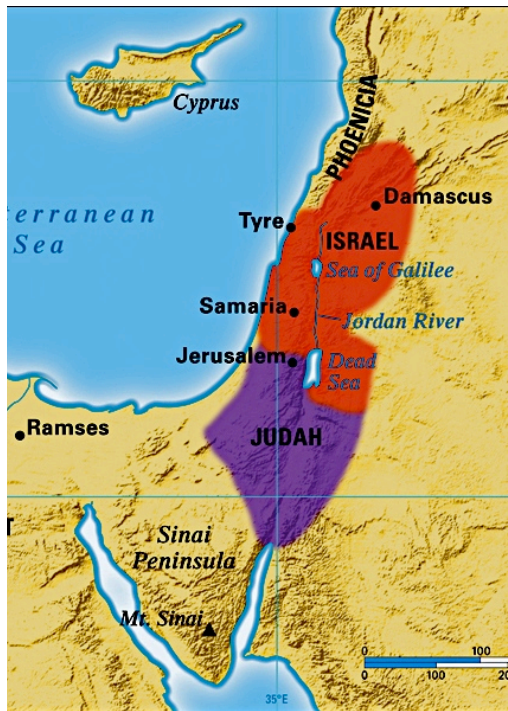
# 1 Kings 1-15

## Kings of Judah

- Rehoboam (40 years)
- Ahijah (3 years)
- Asa 41 years

## Kings of Israel

- Jeroboam (22 years)
- Nadab (2 years)
- Baasha (24 years)
- Elah (2 years)
- Zimri (7 days)
- Omri (12 years)
- Ahab (22 years)



# 1 Kings 6:29-33

- “In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”



## Who was Jezebel?

- Daughter of Ethbaal King of the Sidonians.
- Jezebel = princess of Baal
- Royal priestess of Baal.
- Powerful and ruthless, dedicated to promoting the worship of Baal.
- Practised witchcraft (2 Kings 9:22)



# The Prophets

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- The schools of the Prophets communicated the word of the Lord.
- They taught the people the Law of Moses.
- Jezebel set out to kill all the prophets of the Lord in Israel.
- Jezebel tried to stop all worship of God.



# Elijah the Prophet

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- “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before Whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.””  
(1 Kings 17:1, NKJV)
- Elijah = “My God is The Lord”

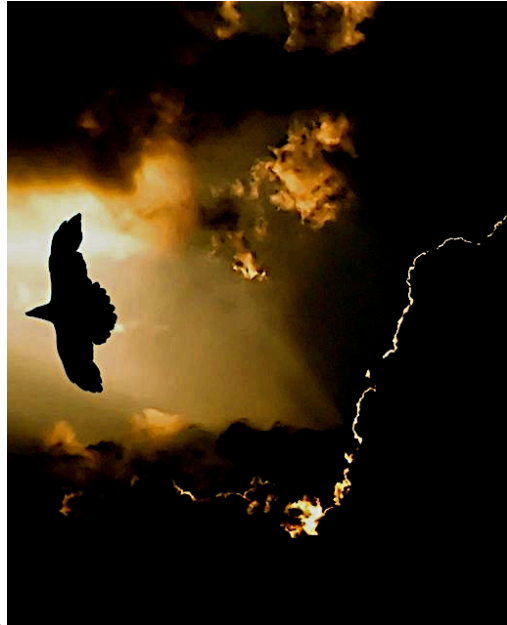




# Elijah's Challenge to Jezebel

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- Baal was believed to be the god who gave rain and fertility to the land, animals and humans.
- A basic agricultural economy was totally dependent on rain.
- God had promised through Moses, “Obey the Law and I will send rain. Worship other gods and I will stop the rain.”



# Elijah's Challenge to Jezebel

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- “No rain except at my command”
- 3 years - no rain.
- Ahab searches for Elijah.
- Animals and people dying of starvation.
- Where was Elijah?



# God prepares Elijah

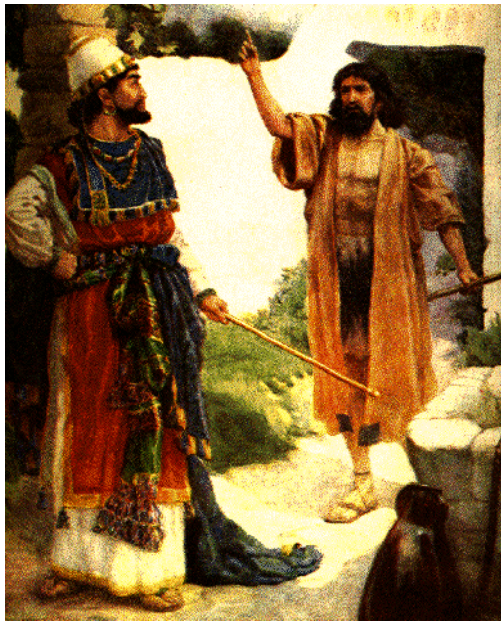
- **Test 1: 1 Kings 17:2-6**  
Learning to trust the Word of the Lord in Israel.
- **Test 2: 1 Kings 17:7-16**  
Learning that God was in charge even in Jezebel's home territory.
- **Test 3: 1 Kings 17:17-24**  
God proved that He can answer prayer in Jezebel's territory.



# Prayer Contest on Mt. Carmel

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- “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?” And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.” So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.” (1 Kings 18:17–20, NKJV)



# Mount Carmel





## Jezebel Defeated? 1 Kings 19

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- Ahab reports to Jezebel all that has happened and that 850 of her prophets of Baal have been killed by Elijah
- Jezebel is filled with rage: “I swear that by this time tomorrow I will kill you like you killed my prophets!”



# Elijah Defeated?

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- Elijah is filled with fear.
- Runs away into the desert.
- Falls down under a tree.
- Cries out to God, “I had enough! I’ve failed! Just let me die!”
- How did God answer him?





# Learning from Elijah

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1. When God promises something through His word pray for it's fulfilment.  
Continue praying until the promise is a reality.
2. You may feel that God has overlooked you, that you are in a spiritual wilderness.  
Elijah teaches you to remain faithful and ready for the day when God suddenly calls you to confront evil.

