

June

1 Kings, 2 Kings

June 1 – 1 Kgs. 1-2 Adonijah and Solomon – How does God show He's in charge of any political intrigue? What were the last words of David to Solomon? What event established Solomon as the king of Israel and Judah?

June 2 – 1 Kgs. 3-4 Solomon asks for wisdom – What warnings are already present in the first verses of ch. 3? Why did Solomon pray for wisdom? What is true wisdom? What is the purpose of listing Solomon's officials, daily provisions and wealth?

June 3 – 1 Kgs. 5-6 Building the Temple – Why did Solomon build the temple? Why was no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool heard at the Temple site while it was being built?

June 4 – 1 Kgs. 7-8 Palace and Ark to the Temple – How did Solomon's palace compare to the Temple? What does this mean? What was the value of the Temple and its furnishings? What does this say about our sanctuaries and furnishings for our "temple"? How did God show His presence when the ark was brought to the Temple? How does God show His presence today? What does Solomon's prayer reveal about Solomon at this time?

June 5 – 1 Kgs. 9-10 2 visitors to Solomon – What solemn message did the LORD have for Solomon? What right did Solomon have to give away 20 towns in Galilee? Why did the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon?

June 6 – 1 Kgs. 11-12 Solomon's family downfall – How many wives did God want for Solomon? Why? What happened to Solomon's wisdom? What warning does this give to us? Note the refrain: "The LORD raised up against Solomon..." What message did God give through Ahijah? How did God show His justice? How did He show His mercy? What amazing promise did God make to Jeroboam? (11:37-39) How did Rehoboam show his foolishness? Why did he do this? How did Jeroboam show his foolishness? (12:26-33)

June 7 – 1 Kgs. 13 Man of God from Judah – How did God try to turn Jeroboam to repentance? Why didn't he repent? What terrible consequence happened to the man of God because he was deceived by a false prophet? Why didn't Jeroboam change his ways? What does this teach us today?

June 8 – 1 Kgs. 14 Ahijah's prophecy against Jeroboam – Why did Jeroboam think he could fool Ahijah the prophet? When do we think we can fool God or His representatives? How ironic that Ahijah was blind but he could "see"! How are we "blind" as far as the world is concerned, but we can really "see"? Why did God punish Jeroboam (Israel) but not Rehoboam (Judah)? (or did He?)

June 9 – 1 Kgs. 15-16 Abijah, Asa, Nadab, Baasha, others – As we read these kings, keep in mind God's covenant to David (2 Sam. 7) see 15:4 – [I place a cross next to the kings of Judah as a visual way of helping me read through and keep track of the kings of Judah vs. the kings of Israel] Note also God's great patience as these kings reign for decades! How does God show His great patience still today? Note also the sinful treaties that the kings make rather than trusting in God. What "treaties" do we make still today? What prophecy did Nadab fulfill? (15:29) Note also "but you walked in the ways of Jeroboam" 15:26; 16:2 – this will be a theme of condemnation. How do people today (especially those within the church) still "walk in the ways of Jeroboam"? What is the refrain for the kings of Israel?

June 10 – 1 Kgs. 17 Elijah fed by ravens and widow – In the midst of such sinfulness in Israel how did God use Elijah as one of His prophets? Note "in keeping with the word of the Lord" (17:16) How is this still very true today? Even a resurrection! How was this an important message for God's people then and now?

June 11 – 1 Kgs. 18 Elijah on Mt. Carmel – "After a long time..." How is this helpful for us to remember? What do we know about Obadiah? What is the irony of how Ahab addressed Elijah (18:17)? How is this still very true today? What challenge did Elijah lay down? (18:21) – How can we lay down the same challenge today? Knowing about Obadiah, how can Elijah say (18:22)? Since there was such a drought, and these sacrifices were on top of Mt. Carmel – where did they get so much water? Why seven times? (18:43)

June 12 - 1 Kgs. 19 Elijah flees to Mt. Horeb (Sinai) – What made Elijah afraid? Why is this so surprising? (not so surprising?) What causes us to fear today? How did God care for Elijah? Why the “heavenly food” twice? What was the importance of God’s questions to Elijah? (19:9, 13) What was the answer to Elijah’s fear? (see the 4 things that God told Elijah to do – v.15-16) How does God lead us to “face our fears” and provide also for us daily? How was Elisha “called” into the prophetic office?

June 13 – 1 Kgs. 20 Folly of Ahab – Why did God give wicked Ahab victory over Ben-Hadad? (v.13) What happened the next Spring? (see again v.28) What foolish thing did Ahab do? Why was he so foolish? How do we continue to see this today? What very strange “object lesson” did the prophet do to condemn Ahab? What was the “sentence” for the accused? What lesson was this to teach all of God’s people (including us today)?

June 14 – 1 Kgs. 21 Ahab and Naboth’s vineyard – How does Ahab continue to show his stubborn unbelief? Why did God allow Ahab to live so long and continue in his sinfulness? (see v.25-26) How is this still true today? What terrible curse did Elijah pronounce on Ahab? (v.19-22) Why did Ahab repent? (or did he?)

June 15 – 1 Kgs. 22 Micaiah prophecies against Ahab – Another prophet – Micaiah – how did God use him? What about the prophet Zedekiah? What was the result of Micaiah speaking the truth from God? (Where was Elijah at this time?) What does this teach us about what we can expect, and how God is in charge when we are feeling all alone in standing up for God’s will? What is the irony in “at random” (v.34) Does anything happen “randomly”? What does it mean that Jehoshaphat “did what was right in the eyes of the LORD”? (v.43) How do we “do what is right in the eyes of the LORD”?

June 16 – 2 Kgs. 1 The Lord’s judgment on Ahaziah – How did God seek to lead king Ahaziah to repentance? Why was Ahaziah so hard-headed? Why did so many of the military have to die? How is this true also today?

June 17 – 2 Kgs. 2 Elijah taken to heaven – How did Elisha know to continue on when Elijah told him to stay? Note the 50 eye witnesses (v.7-8) – why were these important? How was Elisha’s request a very wise one? (v.9) What 3 “miracles” did God cause to happen to reinforce that Elisha was now the prophet of God?

June 18 – 2 Kgs. 3 Elisha prophecies to Jehoshaphat – What reputation did Elisha have? Why was Elisha so harsh with the king of Israel? (v.13-14) What double blessings did God cause to happen for the 3 kings? (water / blood)

June 19 – 2 Kgs. 4 Elisha, the widow’s oil and resurrection – Why is this story of the widow and the oil included in the Bible? Note the similarity with Elijah’s ministry – 1 Kgs. 17. Why this story of resurrection? How did God show His wonderful care for His people? (How did the kings compare with the common people?) What NT story comes to mind with the feeding of the hundred from 20 loaves of barley bread?

June 20 – 2 Kgs. 5-6 Naaman & other miracles through Elisha – What can God do with a child’s witness? What keeps us from witnessing? Why didn’t Elisha meet with Naaman? How did Gehazi let his greed lead him to sin? What was the immediate result? Why doesn’t God deal with us this way? Again, ch. 6 – how does God show that He is desiring to bless His people? Why didn’t the kings of Israel and Judah learn from these? What “military strategy” did God work through Elisha? (Note: ch. 6 continues in ch. 7)

June 21 – 2 Kgs. 7-8 God’s working through Elisha – How does this give another example of “with God, nothing is impossible”; and how God works through the most unlikely of people? Why don’t we remember this? Why aren’t these “day School stories”? (Note the refrain in 7:16, 18, 20) How could Gehazi be speaking to the king? (see again 5:27) What a strange story of Elisha and Hazael – (and v.11-12?) Although Jehoram was not much different from Hazael; and Ahaziah – why did God continue to bless Judah? (8:19)

June 22 – 2 Kgs. 9-10 Jehu and the end of Ahab’s family – How long does God allow wickedness to continue? Why? What is God’s desire? Why the secret anointing to Jehu? What “assignment” was Jehu given? What is significant in the meeting of the kings “at the plot of ground that had belonged to Nabath” (9:21)? How did Jehu fulfill his “assignment”? How did Jehu “destroy Baal worship in Israel”? What was God’s conditional promise to Jehu? Why wasn’t it given?

June 23 – 2 Kgs. 11-12 Athaliah and Joash – How could a mother destroy her children and relatives? How could she have missed Joash? (for 6 years!) What was Jehoiada doing during this time? How could a 7-year-

old rule a nation? Why did king Joash pay off Hazael king of Aram rather than trust that God would protect him? How did Joash's life end?

June 24 – 2 Kgs. 13-14 Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Amaziah, Jeroboam II – What do we know about all the kings of Israel? How was Jehoahaz different? What is the meaning of Jehoash's visit to Elisha before he died? What is the meaning of the man who came to life when touching Elisha's bones? How did Amaziah show he was a godly king? Why did God allow Jehoash king of Israel to defeat Amaziah king of Judah? Although very evil, how did God work His blessings through Jeroboam II?

June 25 – 2 Kgs. 15-17 Kings of Judah and Israel – Amaziah reigned 52 years; Zechariah reigned 6 months; Shallum reigned 1 month, Menahem reigned 10 years (and the others)... why does God's Word record this? How was Ahaz so very different? What does that mean? Why was Israel exiled? (ch. 17) What message does this have for us today?

June 26 – 2 Kgs. 18-20 Hezekiah – Why does this king have 3 chapters? How did Hezekiah show his faithfulness to God? How did he show his sinfulness?

June 27 – 2 Kgs. 21 Manasseh and A – Why did God allow Manasseh to reign for 55 years? What reminder does this give us today?

June 28 – 2 Kgs. 22- 23:30 Josiah – after so many years, how could Josiah be such a faithful king? How could God's Word have been "hidden" for that many years? How could it be "discovered" at that time? What does this say to us today? How important is covenant renewal? How often should it be done? How do we do it today?

June 29 – 2 Kgs. 23:31- 24 Last kings of Judah – Why such short reigns? How did God carry out His threatened punishments? How did it show God's mercy and grace? What is the message for us today?

June 30 – 2 Kgs. 25 The Fall of Jerusalem – What words of hope are given in the midst of tragedy in this chapter? Why did the Babylonian captivity happen? How were God's people to react to it? What do the last verses about Jehoiachin have to do with God's covenant promises throughout the Old Testament – and the fulfillment of Jesus?