

Lesson 12: 1 Kings 16:29 to 19:21 The Prophet Elijah

Chapter 16 sets the stage for this next section of 1 Kings. These verses explain just what the kings and their subjects, in Israel, did to anger the LORD. Judah was fairly stable at this time, while in Israel, kings are assassinated and idol worship is widely practiced. King Zimri was king for only seven days! During his short reign, he killed every male member of the house of Baasha, that is, all the male descendants of King Baasha and his son King Elah. Just before Zimri was about to be captured by outraged Israelites under the leadership of Omri, Zimri committed suicide by burning down his own house while he was inside. Omri became king of Israel and established the city of Samaria. Omri angered the LORD by continuing to worship idols and leading the people of Israel into lives of sin and idolatry.

1. Read 1 Kings 16:29- 34 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. King Omri did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD. Who succeeded him on the throne of Israel?
- b. What do these verses tell us about Omri's successor?

2. Read Joshua 6:26 and Deuteronomy 28:15-19, 24-25 here:

Joshua 6:26 ²⁶On that occasion Joshua imposed the oath: ***Cursed before the Lord be the man who attempts to rebuild this city, Jericho.*** At the cost of his firstborn will he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son will he set up its gates."

Deut. 28: 15-19, 24-25 But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, your God, carefully observing all his commandments and statutes which I give you today, all these curses shall come upon you and overwhelm you:¹⁶ May you be cursed in the city, and cursed in the country! ¹⁷ Cursed be your grain basket and your kneading bowl! ¹⁸ Cursed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! ¹⁹ May you be cursed in your coming in, and cursed in your going out! ²⁴ For rain the Lord will give your land powdery dust, which will come down upon you from the heavens until you are destroyed. ²⁵ The Lord will let you be beaten down before your enemies; though you advance against them from one direction, you will flee before them in seven...

- a. These verses are a part of the LORD's promises made to Moses and to Israel as a part of the Covenant. What are the sins of King Ahab in the following verses?
1 Kings 16:31
1 Kings 16:32
1 Kings 16:33
1Kings 16:34
- b. After reading Deuteronomy and Joshua above, what would you expect might happen to the covenant people who turned away from the LORD and blatantly followed idols?

3. Read I Kings 17: 1-16 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. How did the LORD spare his prophet, Elijah, from hunger and thirst during the drought?
- b. When the drought dried up the wadi, where did the LORD send Elijah next?
- c. The widow in this story lives in Zarephath of Sidon, a Phoenician city. How does this story show God's love and care of both widows and foreigners?

d. What miracle happens in these verses?

4. Read 1 Kings 17: 17-24.

- a. When the widow's son stops breathing, what does she believe is the cause of his illness?
- b. How does Elijah revive or resuscitate the widow's son?
- c. How was the widow changed by her experiences with Elijah?

5. Read 1 Kings 18:1-15.

- a. Where does the LORD send Elijah this time?
- b. What do we know about Obadiah? (See 18:3, 4, 7, and 13)
- c. What do we know about Jezebel? (See 18:4, 19)
- d. What is Obadiah afraid the king will do if he tells him "Elijah is here"?

6. Read 1 Kings 18:16-24. a. What does Elijah propose to the people and *why*?

7. Read 1 Kings 18:25-46. The test begins.

- a. Elijah teases the priests as they try to get Baal to bring fire (and rain) down. Why does Elijah say Baal did *not* respond in 18:27? Compare translations of this verse.

b. Now it is Elijah's turn. What does he do to the altar, bull, and grain to make it even more difficult for the sacrifice to burn? (18:34)

c. How did the LORD answer Elijah's prayer? (18:38)

d. How did the people respond?

e. What happened to the prophets of Baal?

f. What does Elijah pray for next? (18:41-45)

g. Why was Elijah able to out run Ahab and his chariot?

8. Read 1 Kings 19:1-21 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

a. What does Jezebel threaten to do to Elijah? (19:1-4)

b. Elijah flees. How does an angel (messenger) help him? (19:5-8)

c. What tasks does the LORD give Elijah in 1 Kings 19:16-18?

d. What task does Elijah complete first? (1 Kings 19:19-21)