

## **This week's reading:**

**April 30:** 2 Samuel 16 – 18

**May 1:** 2 Samuel 19 – 21

**May 2:** 2 Samuel 22 – 24

**May 3:** 1 Kings 1 – 3

**May 4:** 1 Kings 4 – 6

**May 5:** 1 Kings 7 – 9

**May 6:** 1 Kings 10 – 12

**May 7:** 1 Kings 13 – 15

## **Summary:**

**April 30:** 2 Samuel 16 – 18

2 Samuel 16 – 18 recount: the fleeing of Jerusalem by David, the sin of Absalom as he rules in place of his father, the defeat and death of Absalom.

**May 1:** 2 Samuel 19 – 21

2 Samuel 19 deals with David reclaiming his throne and dealing with the fallout of the rebellion. (**Note:** David's failure with his family is seen in his remorse and lack of joy at victory during the "civil war". Everyone has blind spots, this is David's.)

2 Samuel 20 is another revolt against David by Sheba that is quickly dismissed. (**Note:** Further bloodshed by Joab is also seen here. David is not always surrounded by the best of people.)

2 Samuel 21 is a sad affair where a promise made by Joshua is broken and retribution is demanded. (**Note:** God does not forget, and deals with his people. A sin committed by Saul, in violation of a covenant made by Joshua, is put upon the nation ruled by David until atonement is made. This is a vile story, but shows the consequences of sin are legion.)

**May 2:** 2 Samuel 22 – 24

2 Samuel 22 & 23 are songs of praise of David and a counting of his officials.

2 Samuel 24 shows: the sin of David, his repentance, the forgiveness of God.

**May 3:** 1 Kings 1 – 3

1 Kings 1 – 3 deal with: the ascension of Solomon to the throne (including all the intrigue that accompanies such a move), Solomon's consolidation of power, and God's blessing upon the reign of Solomon. (**Note:** Solomon is the son of Bathsheba. Like Rahab, Ruth, and Tamar; unusual family circumstances are used of God in constructing the family line of the Messiah (Jesus). This is not a surprise as Jesus takes all our infirmities, including weird family history.)

**May 4:** 1 Kings 4 – 6

1 Kings 4 recounts Solomon's officials & wealth. (**Note:** Remember these blessings as Solomon's reign continues along.)

1 Kings 5 shows political alliance with other kings.

1 Kings 6 begins the Temple construction.

**May 5:** 1 Kings 7 – 9

1 Kings 7 describes Solomon's palace and the Temple work being done.

1 Kings 8 the Ark is brought into the Temple and Solomon prays and dedicates the work. (**Note:** God is dwelling with His people and they are praising Him. Notice still the

connection to Moses & Deuteronomy as Solomon calls upon God to remember to be merciful when Israel sins and repents.)

1 Kings 9 completes the Temple as God addresses the people before recounting the payment to Hiram for supplying material for the Temple & palace.

**May 6:** 1 Kings 10 – 12

1 Kings 10 is the famed account of Sheba, a queen, who visits Jerusalem. **(Note:** The blessings of God on Israel and her king are a result of their faithfulness to Him. This is the means by which they testify to the world and you see that in the queen praising God for Solomon and his wealth.)

1 Kings 11 shows the sin of Solomon as his wealth and prestige turn him away from the worship of God before his death is recorded. **(Note:** Solomon doesn't make it 15 chapters; this is why God commanded Joshua and the armies to wipe out everything in Canaan: the people would be a snare. Solomon's intermarriages are political alliances; a trusting of the world and her systems instead of God and His provision. The drift into sin is total in nature.)

1 Kings 12 splits the kingdom of Israel as Rehoboam continues his father's pride and sin. **(Note:** Now the northern Israel & the southern Judah are two idolatrous kingdoms.)