

This week's reading:

May 7: 1 Kings 13 – 15

May 8: 1 Kings 16 – 18

May 9: 1 Kings 19 – 22

May 10: 2 Kings 1 – 2

May 11: 2 Kings 3 – 5

May 12: 2 Kings 6 – 8

May 13: 2 Kings 9 – 11

May 14: 2 Kings 12 – 14

Summary:

May 7: 1 Kings 13 – 15

1 Kings 13 sees the downward slide of God's people, you also see a short anecdote about the disobedience of even some of the prophetic voices. **(Note:** Even the prophets are disobedient to God during this time. Nothing has changed since the judges, Israel's sin has grown. The people even recognize the reason for the prophet's death, but the nation continues to slide.)

1 Kings 14 brings further warning and judgment against Israel & Judah.

1 Kings 15 continues with war and royal succession in the nations. **(Note:** There is good and bad, but the big thing is the patience and testimony of God. Remember that the prophets never leave Israel, in spite of her sin.)

May 8: 1 Kings 16 – 18

1 Kings 16 gives a run-down of the kings of Israel leading up to Ahab.

1 Kings 17 has the prophet Elijah confronting the sin of Israel and the blessing of God. **(Note:** This is why the context of Scripture matters. If you've been following along, you are rooting for Elijah as this people deserve some judgment.)

1 Kings 18 is the famous Mt. Carmel showdown where God is vindicated and Baal worship condemned. **(Note:** God, publicly, proves Himself against Baal. This was always true, but the sin and idolatry of Israel made the display necessary.)

May 9: 1 Kings 19 – 22

1 Kings 19 shows the continued sin of Ahab & Jezebel as well as the future "judge" of Israel. **(Note:** Elijah's continued work is his final work; God's work continues in spite of who the prophet, king, or sins are.)

1 Kings 20 – 21 show the power of God and the lack of repentance from Israel.

1 Kings 22 gives the final fall of Ahab. **(Note:** Despite God's patience and provision for Ahab, his sin wins out over him. The judgment of God is complete and as predicted.)

May 10: 2 Kings 1 – 2

2 Kings 1 begins with Elijah pronouncing judgment and God judging the hearts of those who seek him.

2 Kings 2 sees Elijah taken up to heaven and Elisha sent out to continue the mission.

(Note: As was promised, God's work continues regardless of who the prophet is or how few of them there are.)

May 11: 2 Kings 3 – 5

2 Kings 3 shows the sin of Israel in spite of the work of Elijah & Elisha.

2 Kings 4 & 5 show the power of God through Elisha.

May 12: 2 Kings 6 – 8

2 Kings 6 & 7 again see the power of God to protect and preserve His people in the face of great struggle. **(Note:** God delivers the Israelites as a mercy and proof of the ministry of Elisha. Even in the prophetic coming true, God and Elisha are blamed (not their sin) by the Israelites.)

2 Kings 8 sees the fame of Elisha's work as well as the chosen judgment against Israel in the person of Hazael. **(Note:** The final work commissioned to Elijah by the "still small voice" is now complete; and judgment is coming for Israel.)

May 13: 2 Kings 9 – 11

2 Kings 9 & 10 bring yet another king to Israel to bring down Ahab's house only to fall into idolatry himself. **(Note:** The cycle of apostasy that was so clear in Judges is still clear in Kings. Israel is not better with their king, and may in fact be worse than before. The rejection of God by Israel was never going to go well.)

2 Kings 11 returns to Judah to see the rise of Athaliah and her sin before Joash and his reforms. **(Note:** Judah, as a nation, will be treated differently from her northern neighbor Israel and the reason for this is the Messiah. The Messiah will come from Judah—Genesis 49—and from the line of David—2 Samuel 7.)