

## WEEK 23 — THE TIME OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA

**Date:** roughly 913-841 BC

**The Story:** God is faithful to Israel and Judah when his people are faithful to him—and sometimes even when they are not. In Judah, David’s royal descendants lead their nation in following God, but inconsistently. God is patient with them, helping them generously when they seek him. In Israel, though, the kings continue in “the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit” (1 Kings 15:34, etc.)—the worship of the idols Jeroboam had set up (1 Kings 12:28-30). God sends prophets to both nations to correct, warn, and even encourage them. Prominent among the prophets are Elijah and his successor Elisha, whom God sends to restore Israel’s faith. Both men challenge kings, arouse faith in God, suffer persecution, and work miracles.

\* Kids’ readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### JUNE 5                    1 KINGS 15:1-24 • 2 CHRONICLES 13-15

**Today’s reading** covers the reigns of Kings Abijah and Asa in Judah, both of whom are strong in their faith in God at times, less strong at other times. Abijah relies on God briefly; Asa brings about religious reforms in Judah (more about him in tomorrow’s reading).

**Date:** about 913-894 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 2 Chronicles 13-15 • 1 Kings 15:25-34

**Kids’ Reading\*:** 1 Kings 16:29-33 • 1 Kings 17

### JUNE 6                    2 CHRONICLES 16 • 1 KINGS 15:25 to 17:24

**Today’s reading** starts with Asa’s later years, during which he unfortunately relies on the Arameans instead of on God. Meanwhile, in 1 Kings, Nadab reigns briefly in Israel until Baasha takes the throne from him, ending Jeroboam’s royal line as the Lord had foretold (1 Kings 14:14, 15:29). But Baasha does evil, and God does not permit his dynasty to last, either. Zimri kills him and takes the throne, but only for a few days—then the kingship falls to Omri. Omri’s son Ahab rules after him; he and his wife Jezebel do more evil than any king (and queen) of Israel before them, and God begins to oppose them through the prophet Elijah.

**Date:** about 909 BC to sometime between 874 and 857 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 1 Kings 15:25 to 17:24

**Kids’ Reading\*:** 1 Kings 18:16-46

### JUNE 7                    1 KINGS 18-19

**Today’s reading** turns our attention to a great battle in Israel—a battle between the Lord and the gods supported by Ahab and Jezebel. God sends Elijah to set up a contest with the prophets of Baal and Asherah, whom Jezebel sponsors (1 Kings 18:19). God wins, many in Israel turn back to the Lord—and Jezebel threatens to assassinate Elijah. He flees for his life, appeals in despair to the Lord, and is sent by God to anoint a successor for himself and to continue his prophetic work.

**Date:** sometime between 871 and 857 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 1 Kings 18-19

**Kids’ Reading\*:** 1 Kings 19

### JUNE 8                    1 KINGS 20-21

**Today’s reading** takes us deeper into Ahab’s reign in Israel, and into God’s struggle to win back Israel’s hearts. When Ahab listens to God, God helps him; when he doesn’t, he becomes God’s enemy. In a striking story, Jezebel helps Ahab acquire land he desires, employing ruthless corruption to do so, arousing God’s wrath.

**Date:** about 857-853 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 1 Kings 20-21

**Kids’ Reading\*:** 1 Kings 21

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ**

**JUNE 9                    2 CHRONICLES 17:1 to 19:3 • 1 KINGS 22**

**Today's reading** starts in Judah. A new king, Jehoshaphat, succeeds his father Asa. Jehoshaphat “followed the ways of his father David” and “sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel” (2 Chronicles 17:3-4). Notice that some kings of Judah follow the Lord, and others don't—but none of the kings in Israel please God. Ahab continues to reject God, and one final rejection brings about his demise. His son Ahaziah takes his place—but will Ahaziah learn from his father's mistakes?

**Date:** about 869-853 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 2 Chronicles 17 • 1 Kings 22

**Kids' Reading\*:** 1 Kings 22:1-40

**JUNE 10                    2 CHRONICLES 19:4 to 21:3 • 2 KINGS 1**

**Today's reading** brings us an account of Jehoshaphat's reign in 2 Chronicles. He is faithful—not perfectly, but sincerely. His major flaw? He associated himself too much with Ahab's family. That family, meanwhile, continues to battle the Lord; Ahaziah challenges God's prophet, Elijah, and loses, then dies soon afterward.

**Date:** about 853-848 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 2 Chronicles 20:1 to 21:3 • 2 Kings 1

**Kids' Reading\*:** 2 Kings 2

**JUNE 11                    2 KINGS 2-4**

**Today's reading** records the climax of Elijah's life—his being taken up into heaven by God without dying! Several highlights of the ministry of his successor, Elisha, follow. By God's power, he turns bad water to good, teaches a group of rowdy young men a lesson, rescues Israel's army, provides for a poor widow, and—in a stunning parallel to one of Elijah's miracles—brings a dead child back to life. He causes a poisonous stew to become edible and multiplies food to feed a large crowd (foreshadowing Jesus' even greater multiplication of bread and fish). And there's more to come! Elisha in his ministry demonstrates God's awesome power, stern judgments, and profound grace for those who need but don't deserve it.

**Date:** about 852 to sometime between roughly 848 and 841 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 2 Kings 2 • 2 Kings 4

**Kids' Reading\*:** 2 Kings 4:1-37

**Parents' Guide**

PG preview for young children

**1K 15:**27-28 (V)  
**1K 16:**9 (T), 10-12 (V), 16-18 (V), 22 (V), 34 (T)  
**1K 17:**17-20 (T)  
**1K 18:**4 (V), 9 (V), 12-14 (V), 23 (T), 28 (V), 33 (T)  
**1K 19:**1-2 (V), 4 (T), 10 (V), 14 (V), 17 (V), 21 (T)  
**1K 20:**1 (V), 12 (T), 16 (T), 20-21 (V), 29-30 (V), 35-37 (V), 42 (T)  
**1K 21:**10-16 (T, V)  
**1K 22:**11 (V), 19-23 (T), 24 (V), 30-37 (V), 38 (S)

**2K 1:**1-4 (T), 6 (T), 10-14 (V) 16-17 (T)  
**2K 3:**19 (V), 24-26 (V)  
**2K 4:**18-35 (T)  
**2Chr 13:**2-3 (V), 13-20 (V)  
**2Chr 14:**9-15 (V)  
**2Chr 15:**13 (V)  
**2Chr 16:**4 (V), 10 (V), 12 (T)  
**2Chr 18:**10 (V), 19-22 (T), 23 (V), 29-34 (V)  
**2Chr 20:**22-23 (V), 24 (T)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

**1K 15:**12 (S), 29 (V)  
**1K 16:**4 (V)  
**1K 18:**40 (V)  
**1K 21:**19-24 (V)  
**1K 22:**38 (V), 46 (S)  
**2K 2:**24 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

**2K 3:**27 (V)

C = Circumcision  
N = Nudity  
S = Sexuality  
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes  
V = Violence