

**THE KINGS AND THE PROPHETS
FOR GOD'S HOUSE AND GOD'S KINGDOM**

Lesson One

DAVID WAS FAITHFUL TO GOD'S KINGDOM AND GOD'S HOUSE

Introduction:

[The books of 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles tell us the history of Israel during the time of many kings.]

AIM: God's heart was to build up His kingdom and His home, the temple. The question we want to ask in this series of lessons is: Who was *faithful* to God's house and His kingdom and who was *not* faithful to His house and kingdom?

Our desire and intention is to cause the children to *aspire* to be a *faithful person*. A faithful person is one who is loyal, reliable, trustworthy, dependable and cooperative. This is shown by what kind of person he is and how he behaves himself daily.

Memory Verse (for older ones): Psalm 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; that do I seek: to dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life, to behold the loveliness of Jehovah, and to inquire in His temple.

Memory Verse (for younger ones): 1 Samuel 22:14b . . . Who among all your servants is as faithful as David?

I. David was faithful as a king under God's authority—1 Kings 1:1—2:11; 1 Chron. 22:2—29:30; *Life Study of Kings, Message 2.*

- A. As a king, he defeated all the enemies and brought in peace to the kingdom—1 Chron. 11:1.
 - 1. He was a man of war fighting Israel's enemies—1 Chron. 22:7, 8; 2 Sam. 22:40.
 - 2. He conquered and subdued most of them.
 - 3. He brought peace and rest to the land—1 Chron. 22:9.
- B. Until David's time there was no one who cared to build up God's house. But David *prepared* the materials for God's house to be built later by his son, Solomon. This was a big and costly work.
 - 1. He wanted to build a house for God—2 Sam. 7:1–17; 1 Chron. 17.
 - 2. He made the preparations for the building of the temple—1 Chron. 22.
- C. Like David we want to be faithful in the things we have been given to do.
 - 1. We want to be strong to stand for what is right.
 - 2. We want to be peacemakers.
 - 3. We want to love God.

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Lesson Two

SOLOMON WAS FAITHFUL TO BUILD THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:1-2 Thus says Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, and the earth the footstool for My feet. Where then is the house that you will build for Me, and where is the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made, and so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

II. Solomon was faithful to put the kingdom in order and to build God's house.

- A. As a king, he was wise—1 Kings 1-3.
 - 1. He brought peace to the land.
 - 2. He sought for God and wisdom—1 Kings 3:2-15.
 - a. In a dream, Jehovah promised to give him whatever he requested.
 - b. He asked for wisdom and an understanding heart to judge God's people.
 - c. His wisdom was demonstrated in his judging the case of the harlot's quarrel—1 Kings 3:16-28.
- B. As one who cared for God's house, he built the temple—1 Kings 6 (It took 7 years to build—1 Kings 6:1, 37-38).
 - 1. He built it exactly according to his father's instructions.
 - 2. He dedicated the temple with his prayer—1 Kings 8:1-66.
- C. Solomon became unfaithful when he was old [this point is for the older children, 3rd-5th grade]—1 Kings 11:1-4, 9.
 - 1. He had 700 foreign wives and 300 concubines, women who were not Israelites.
 - 2. These women turned his heart away from God to other gods—(Exodus 20).
 - 3. Solomon did what was evil in God's eyes. He built altars to other gods.
- D. Like Solomon, we want to be faithful to what is given us to do.
 - 1. We want to seek God by loving Him.
 - 2. We want to act wisely.
 - 3. We want to obey our parents.
- E. Unlike Solomon we want to be like Adam and Eve—one husband with one wife as God intended from the beginning. We want our heart always to love God.

**THE KINGS AND THE PROPHETS
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Lesson Three

REHOBOAM WAS UNFAITHFUL TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Memory Verse: 1 Kings 11:38 And if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways and do what is upright in My sight by keeping My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, I will be with you and will build you a lasting house, as I built for David; and I will give you Israel.

III. Rehoboam was unfaithful and lost ten tribes of his kingdom—1 Kings 12; 2 Chron. 10.

- A. As a king, Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the elders and took the advice of the ones he had grown up with.
1. When Israel came together to make Rehoboam king, they requested that he make their load lighter.
 2. He took counsel with the elders who had attended Solomon, and they told him to be a servant and serve all the people and speak good words to them. All the people promised they would be Rehoboam's servants always, if he would do this.
 3. Rehoboam decided to speak with the young men, his friends his own age, and he forsook the counsel of the elders.
 - a. The young men's advice made Rehoboam proud and lifted up.
 - b. They told him he was stronger than his father.
 - c. They said to increase the workload and the punishment of the people.
 4. This resulted in the loss of ten tribes of his kingdom to Jeroboam who became king over the ten tribes of Israel.
- B. God's choice for the location of His house was Jerusalem. Because David and Solomon built God's house, God was with the kingdom of Judah and Benjamin—2 Chron. 11; 1 Kings 12:1–24.
1. Rehoboam wanted to fight Jeroboam and the ten tribes of Israel, but God spoke through Shemaiah, the man of God, telling him not to do this.
 2. Because they *listened* to the words of Jehovah, the kingdom of Judah and Benjamin was strengthened.
 3. The priests and Levites who had been throughout all of Israel abandoned their property and set their hearts to *seek* Jehovah in Judah and Jerusalem because Jeroboam cast them out so they could not function as priests.
- °C. We want to be faithful to *listen* and *seek God* with our whole heart and not be like Rehoboam.
1. We need to *listen* to those older than us (parents, grandparents).
 2. We need to *obey* God's Word.
 3. We need to *choose to love God* with all our heart.

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Lesson Four

JEROBOAM WAS UNFAITHFUL TO GOD'S HOUSE

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 12:5 But unto the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, unto His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go.

IV. Jeroboam was not faithful to keep the one place of worship—1 Kings 12; 2 Chron. 13

- A. As a king, he ruled over the ten tribes which Rehoboam lost—1 Kings 11:26–40; 12:1–24.
 - 1. Jeroboam was an able, hard-working servant of Solomon.
 - 2. The prophet Ahijah found Jeroboam.
 - a. Ahijah was wearing a new garment and tore it into twelve pieces.
 - b. Ahijah said that God was tearing the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and giving the ten tribes to Jeroboam because Israel had forsaken Jehovah, God.
 - c. Jeroboam then fled to Egypt because Solomon was seeking to kill him.
 - 3. After Solomon's death Rehoboam became king and Jeroboam returned to Israel.
 - 4. Israel rebelled against Rehoboam, causing the division of the kingdom.
 - 5. All Israel (the 10 tribes) heard that Jeroboam came back, so they made him king over the ten tribes.
 - 6. There were wars between Rehoboam the king of Judah and Jeroboam the king of Israel continually—2 Chron. 12:15.
- B. Jeroboam caused a division regarding God's house—1 Kings 12:25–14:20.
 - 1. Jeroboam wanted to distract the people from going to Jerusalem to worship God.
 - a. God's desire has always been to have one place of worship—Deut. 12:2–18.
 - b. Jeroboam was afraid of the people returning to Rehoboam's kingdom.
 - 2. Jeroboam set up two places of worship, one in Bethel and the other in Dan.
 - a. He made two golden calves, one for each place, and they offered sacrifices to them—(Exo. 32:2–6; Deut. 32:17).
 - b. He appointed priests who were not Levites, which was against God's way.
 - c. He set up a substitute feasts *like* the former feast in Judah.
- C. We want to be faithful to be in the place God chooses and not be like Jeroboam.
 - 1. Today, the place God chooses is the local church.
 - 2. We choose what God wants rather than what we want.
 - 3. We choose to be with the people who love God, and obey God and His word in the church life.

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Lesson Five

**AHAB'S UNFAITHFULNESS REQUIRED GOD'S SPEAKING
THROUGH THE PROPHET ELIJAH**

Memory Verse (for older children): 1 Kings 18:36b . . . O Jehovah, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things by Your word.

Memory Verse (for younger children): 1 Kings 18:37b . . . This people may know that You, O Jehovah, are God and that You have turned their heart back again.

V. God dealt with Ahab through Elijah the prophet—1 Kings 16:28b to 22:40.

- A. Ahab was more evil in the eyes of Jehovah God than all who were before him.
 - 1. He served Baal and worshipped him and other gods.
 - 2. He married Jezebel who was not an Israelite but was from Sidon, a heathen nation.
 - 3. During his reign, Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho, which brought in the curse prophesied by Joshua.
- B. Elijah appeared to Ahab to speak the word of Jehovah—1 Kings 17:1.
 - 1. The Lord's word was that there shall be no dew or rain till Elijah gives the word.
 - 2. God told Elijah to *go* hide himself by the brook Cherith.
 - 3. When the brook dried up, then God told Elijah *go* to Zarephath and stay there, a widow would feed him during the famine.
 - 4. After 3 1/2 years passed, God told him to *go* to Ahab to tell him the rain would come.
 - 5. There was a test on Mount Carmel to prove who the real God is—1 Kings 18:17-40.
 - a. Elijah instructed Ahab to gather all Israel and all the 450 prophets of Baal.
 - b. The prophets of Baal offered to their god and called on Baal to answer them until the afternoon, but to no avail.
 - c. Elijah then repaired the altar of Jehovah, made a ditch around the altar, and offered a burnt offering.
 - d. He poured water out on the burnt offering, filling the ditch.
 - e. Elijah prayed and God answered immediately by consuming *with fire* the offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and the water in the trench too.
 - f. Elijah then slew the prophets of Baal, the false god.
- C. Then Elijah went to the top of Mt. Carmel and prayed and abundant rain came—1 Kings 18:41-42.
- D. Like Elijah, we want to obey God's speaking.
 - 1. God's speaking is in His Word.
 - 2. God's word tells us to obey our parents.
 - 3. We obey God by obeying our parents.

**THE KINGS AND THE PROPHETS
FOR GOD'S HOUSE AND GOD'S KINGDOM**

Lesson Six

ELIJAH AND ELISHA WERE FAITHFUL PROPHETS LIVING FOR GOD

Memory Verse: Matthew 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

VI. According to God's speaking, Elijah found Elisha to replace him as prophet—1 Kings 19:16-21.

- A. Elijah found Elisha plowing in the field.
 - 1. Elisha was plowing with 12 yoke of oxen, when Elijah threw his mantle upon him.
 - 2. He was willing to leave his work [job] and his father and mother to go and follow Elijah.
 - 3. He slaughtered his yoke of oxen and fed the people; then he followed Elijah to minister to him.
- B. Jehovah took up Elijah—2 Kings 2:1-18.
 - 1. Elisha was faithful to follow Elijah (from Gilgal, to Bethel, to Jericho and to the Jordan).
 - 2. At the Jordan, Elijah struck the water with his mantle and it parted so they could pass over on dry ground.
 - 3. Elijah asked Elisha what he should do for him before he was taken, and Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit to be upon him.
 - 4. Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind.
 - 5. Elisha gained the double portion
 - a. He took Elijah's mantle.
 - b. He struck the water, it parted, and he crossed over the Jordan.
- C. Like Elisha, we want to be faithful to finish our work.
 - 1. To be diligent makes us happy.
 - 2. We are happy when we finish our work [job] completely.
 - 3. We are happy to take care of people's needs (i.e. parents, people, Elijah).

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Lesson Seven

ELISHA THE FAITHFUL PROPHET SPEAKING FOR GOD

Memory Verse (for older ones): 2 Kings 4:7 And she went and told the man of God [Elisha]. And he said, Go and sell the oil, and pay your debt; and you and your sons can live off the rest.

Memory Verse (for younger ones): 1 Cor. 12:25 b . . . Have the same care for one another.

VII. Elisha's life was a type or picture of the life of the Lord Jesus in the New Testament.

- A. Meeting the need of the widow with a jar of oil is a picture of Jesus feeding the multitudes (2 Kings 4:1-7, Matt. 14:14-21; John 6:5-13).
 - 1. A needy widow with two sons threatened by a creditor / A needy and hungry multitude.
 - 2. Elisha asked what do you have in your house? / Jesus asked where do we buy bread for them to eat?
 - 3. The woman had a jar of oil / A boy had five loaves and two fish.
 - 4. The woman gathered the vessels / The disciples of Jesus told the gathered people to sit down.
 - 5. The vessels were filled with oil / The people ate and were filled with the bread and fish.
 - 6. There was left over oil to live on / There was 12 baskets of food left over.
- B. Healing Naaman of leprosy is a picture of Jesus healing the ten lepers (2 Kings 5:1-16; Matt. 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-19).
 - 1. Naaman came to Elisha / Ten lepers came to the Lord Jesus.
 - a. Naaman needed to be cleansed of leprosy / The ten lepers needed to be cleansed of leprosy.
 - b. Naaman went to wash in the Jordan seven times according to the word of Elisha / The ten lepers went to show themselves to the priest according to the word of the Lord Jesus.
 - c. This resulted in Naaman's cleansing and he was very grateful / This resulted in the ten lepers being cleansed and one of the ten was grateful.
- C. Like Elisha, we want to be faithful to God's word.
 - 1. We should be faithful to listen to, believe, and obey God's word.
 - 2. Our proper speaking gives God a way to care for his people.

THE KINGS AND THE PROPHETS
FOR GOD'S HOUSE AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Lesson Eight

HEZEKIAH WAS FAITHFUL TO RESTORE THE HOUSE OF GOD

Memory Verse (older ones): 2 Chron. 31:21 And in every work that he began in service to the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandment, to seek after his God, he did it with all his heart and prospered.

Memory Verse (for younger ones): 2 Chronicles 31:20 And Hezekiah did . . . what was good and upright and faithful before Jehovah his God.

VIII. Hezekiah restored the house of God.

- A. In the first month of his reign Hezekiah cleansed and restored God's house—2 Chron. 29:1–36.
 1. He repaired and opened the doors.
 2. He brought in priests and Levites to *sanctify* [set apart] themselves and God's house.
 3. Hezekiah made a **covenant** with God to turn away God's anger from them.
 - a. He gathered all the leaders, priest and Levites.
 - b. He offered the sin offering (7 bulls, 7 rams, 7 lambs, and 7 male goats) for *reconciling* the kingdom and the house back to God.
 - c. He offered burnt offerings (70 bulls, 100 rams, 200 lambs) for *consecrating* himself and the people to Jehovah, which brought in a great revival with rejoicing.
- B. In the second month, Hezekiah took counsel with his officers and the assembly in Jerusalem and agreed to hold the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread—2 Chron. 30:1–31:1.
 1. They sent runners to **all** of Israel and Judah telling them to come to the house of God in Jerusalem.
 - a. Some laughed at them and mocked them.
 - b. But some humbled themselves and came to be of one heart to carry out Hezekiah's word.
 2. They killed the Passover sacrifice on the fourteenth day of the second month according to God's word
 3. They kept the feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing and then kept it another seven days.
 4. After all this was finished they also went out and destroyed all the idols and idol altars in all of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh.
- C. In the third month Hezekiah further arranged the service of the priests and Levites and commanded the people to give them their portions—2 Chron. 31:2–21.
- D. Like Hezekiah we need to be faithful to God's house.
 1. We must seek after God.
 2. We must listen to His word and follow it with all our heart.
 3. We must help in the service of God's house by helping clean, arrange chairs, gardening, etc.

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Lesson Nine

ISAIAH THE PROPHET CAME TO THE AID OF KING HEZEKIAH

Memory Verses: 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 Be strong and be bold; do not be afraid or dismayed . . . for there is Someone greater with us . . . with us is Jehovah our God to help us.

Isaiah 66:2b But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

**IX. Isaiah the prophet came in to strengthen Hezekiah and to speak the word of God—
2 Kings 18:9-19:37; 2 Chron. 32:1-22; Isaiah chapters 36-37.**

- A. Once God's house was restored and the feasts were established then the enemy rose up to attack God's people.
 - 1. The kings of Assyria rose up against Judah and the living God—2 Kings 15:27-29; 16:1-9.
 - a. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was carried away into captivity—2 Kings 17:1-23.
 - b. Hezekiah was weakened.
 - 2. Isaiah was sent for by Hezekiah to strengthen him and speak the word of God.
 - a. Jehovah saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from King Sennacherib's attack—2 Kings 18, 19.
 - b. After King Hezekiah (except for King Josiah), all the other kings reigning over Judah did evil in the sight of God, so God brought judgment upon Judah also.
- B. Years later, Isaiah spoke many prophecies (predictions of things to come) concerning God's judgment and salvation of Israel. He also spoke about Jesus Christ as their Savior and King who would come to bring in the restoration of Israel—Isa. 9:6; chapters 40, 53; 66.
 - 1. He foretold Jesus' birth, suffering, and death.
 - 2. He spoke a comforting word about the restoration of the kingdom through God's faithfulness to his people.
- C. Like Isaiah we need to be faithful to honor and seek Jehovah God.
 - 1. We need to pray to God.
 - 2. We need to listen and obey God's word.

**THE KINGS AND THE PROPHETS
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Lesson Ten

***JEREMIAH THE PROPHET FAITHFULLY COOPERATED WITH GOD
TO SPEAK HIS WORD***

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 1:7–8 But Jehovah said to me, Do not say, I am a youth; for everywhere I send you, you shall go; and everything I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you, declares Jehovah.

- X. Jeremiah was given the word of Jehovah in the days of Josiah, king of Judah—Jer. 1:1–19.**
- A. Jeremiah was appointed as a prophet over the nations to utter God's judgment upon them for all their wickedness.
 - 1. He was called and commissioned by God.
 - 2. He was to speak everything God told him to speak, no matter what.
 - 3. God promised to be with Jeremiah.
 - B. Jeremiah spoke to Judah, "You have forsaken Jehovah your God—Jer. 2:1–45:5."
 - 1. They lost their [healthy] fear of God.
 - 2. "My people have forgotten Me."
 - 3. They went after other gods.
 - 4. Israel was stubborn in their evil heart.
 - 5. God's heart's desire is for His people to repent of their sins and return to Him, for He loves them.
 - C. Jeremiah faithfully spoke the truth to the people, but they rejected him.
 - 1. We too need to be faithful to speak the truth. Sometimes this is not easy.
 - 2. In our speaking the truth, God is with us.
 - 3. If we are truthful God can get His purpose accomplished through us.