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1 Kings: A Study Outline

Old Testament Digest, Volume 2

From the *Old Testament Digest* of William MacDonald

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1 Kings

A study outline from William MacDonald's *Old Testament Digest, Volume 2* · online: kee-ministry-library.netlify.app/.../outline/1-kings

Overview of 1 Kings

The books of Kings tell Israel's story from the reign of Solomon to the Babylonian captivity, a span of over 400 years, and some believe Jeremiah put them in their present form. MacDonald notes that the two great groups in Kings are the kings, each judged by his obedience to the Lord, and the prophets, who called the wandering nation back. First Kings moves from David's last days through the golden age of Solomon and the building and dedication of the temple, to Solomon's apostasy, the division of the kingdom under Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and the ministry of Elijah in the days of Ahab and Jezebel.

Key themes

- Obedience as the measure of every king
- The temple, God's dwelling among His people
- A good start does not guarantee a good finish (Solomon)
- Man-made religion: Jeroboam's calves at Dan and Bethel
- The prophets as God's voice to a backsliding nation
- God's faithfulness: "not one word has failed" (1 Kings 8:56)
- Grace even to the wicked who humble themselves (Ahab)

Christ in 1 Kings. If David in exile pictures Christ in His rejection, Solomon, says MacDonald, pictures Him as the King reigning in millennial glory, whose first act is to purge His kingdom of all that offends. The ark, typical of Christ, is brought into its place in the temple and the glory fills the house. The temple built silently from stones prepared elsewhere pictures the living temple of God being built today. Christ is the greatest gift, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3), and Elijah's coming points on to John the Baptist (Luke 1:17).

Read 1 Kings in the NET Bible: 1 Kings 1 · MacDonald's full commentary: 1 Kings in the Digest

MacDonald's Outline of 1 Kings

I. The Last Days of David (1 Kings 1:1–2:11)
- A. Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne (1 Kings 1:1–38)
- B. Solomon's anointing at Gihon (1 Kings 1:39–53)
- C. David's charge to Solomon (1 Kings 2:1–9)
- D. David's death (1 Kings 2:10–11)

II. The Golden Days of Solomon (1 Kings 2:12–11:43)
- A. Opposition destroyed (1 Kings 2:12–46)
- B. Wisdom granted (1 Kings 3)
- C. Officers mentioned (1 Kings 4:1–19)
- D. Kingdom expanded (1 Kings 4:20–34)
- E. Temple constructed (1 Kings 5:1–7:51)
- F. Temple dedicated (1 Kings 8)
- G. Wealth and glory increased (1 Kings 9–10)
- H. Solomon's apostasy and death (1 Kings 11)

III. The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12–22)
- A. Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:1–24; 14:21–31)
- B. Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25–14:20)
- C. Abijam (1 Kings 15:1–8)
- D. Asa (1 Kings 15:9–24)
- E. Nadab (1 Kings 15:25–27)
- F. Baasha (1 Kings 15:28–16:7)
- G. Elah (1 Kings 16:8–10)
- H. Zimri (1 Kings 16:11–20)

IV. Tibni (1 Kings 16:21–22)
- A. Omri (1 Kings 16:21–28)
- B. Ahab (and Elijah) (1 Kings 16:29–22:40)
- C. Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:41–50)
- D. Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51–53)

1 · Solomon Anointed King

1 Kings 1

MacDonald tells how Adonijah's bid for the throne was foiled when Nathan and Bathsheba moved David to have Solomon anointed at Gihon.

I. David old and failing; Abishag — 1 Kings 1:1–4

II. Adonijah exalts himself — 1 Kings 1:5–10
- A. A spoiled son of an indulgent father — 1 Kings 1:6
- B. Joab and Abiathar join him

III. Nathan and Bathsheba remind David — 1 Kings 1:11–27

A. God had named Solomon before his birth (1 Chronicles 22:9)

IV. David's order: anoint Solomon at Gihon — 1 Kings 1:28–40

V. Adonijah's feast breaks up; he clings to the altar — 1 Kings 1:41–53

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 22:9 1 Chronicles 29:22 2 Samuel 3:2–4

LESSONS

- Self-promotion against God's revealed will must fail.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 1 →

2 · David's Charge and Solomon's Kingdom Established

1 Kings 2

MacDonald shows David's last charge and Solomon securing the throne by removing Adonijah, Abiathar, Joab and Shimei.

I. David's charge to Solomon — 1 Kings 2:1–9

A. Walk in God's ways; deal with Joab and Shimei; show kindness to Barzillai's sons

II. David dies after 40 years — 1 Kings 2:10–12

III. Adonijah asks for Abishag and is executed — 1 Kings 2:13–25

IV. Abiathar removed from the priesthood — 1 Kings 2:26–27

A. Fulfilling the word against Eli's house (1 Samuel 2:31–35)

V. Joab slain at the altar — 1 Kings 2:28–34

VI. Benaiah and Zadok promoted — 1 Kings 2:35

VII. Shimei breaks his oath and dies — 1 Kings 2:36–46

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 2:31–35 2 Samuel 20:23

LESSONS

- Solomon pictures Christ, who will purge His kingdom of all that offends when He reigns.
- We know the peace of God as we put out of our lives whatever opposes Christ's reign within.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)
- *Dr. Ironside's Bible* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 2 →

3 · Solomon's Request for Wisdom

1 Kings 3

MacDonald covers Solomon's alliance with Egypt, his prayer at Gibeon for an understanding heart, and the

wise judgment between two mothers.

I. Marriage to Pharaoh's daughter — 1 Kings 3:1
  A. Politically expedient, spiritually disastrous

II. Worship at the high places; the great sacrifice at Gibeon — 1 Kings 3:2–4
  A. The tabernacle was at Gibeon (1 Chronicles 21:29)

III. "Ask what I shall give thee" — 1 Kings 3:5–9

IV. Wisdom granted, with riches and honor — 1 Kings 3:10–15

V. The two harlots and the child — 1 Kings 3:16–28

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 11:1–8 1 Chronicles 21:29 Colossians 2:3

LESSONS

- Today God offers the greatest gift of all, the Lord Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 3 →

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4 · Solomon's Officials and Greatness

1 Kings 4

MacDonald lists Solomon's cabinet and district officers and describes the extent, splendor and wisdom of his reign.

I. His chief officials — 1 Kings 4:1–6

II. Twelve district officers — 1 Kings 4:7–19

III. The extent of the kingdom — 1 Kings 4:20–24
  A. Not the complete fulfillment of — Genesis 15:18–21

IV. Abundance and its cost — 1 Kings 4:22–28
  A. Heavy taxation; horses multiplied against — Deuteronomy 17:16

V. Wisdom above all men; 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs — 1 Kings 4:29–34

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 15:18–21 Deuteronomy 17:16 Psalm 88 Psalm 89

LESSONS

- Outward magnificence can hide heavy burdens on God's people.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Dr. Ironside's Bible* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 4 →

5 · Preparations for the Temple

1 Kings 5

MacDonald describes Solomon's treaty with Hiram for timber and the forced labor raised to build the temple.

I. Hiram's friendship — 1 Kings 5:1–6

II. Cedar from Lebanon, food for Tyre — 1 Kings 5:7–12

III. The levy of 30,000 men — 1 Kings 5:13–14

IV. Burden-bearers and quarrymen — 1 Kings 5:15–18

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 2:17–18 1 Kings 12:4

LESSONS

- Divine wisdom is needed not to ride roughshod over the feelings and welfare of others.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Archaeology and the Bible* (Gordon Franz)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)
- *Things Seen and Heard in Bible Lands* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 5 →

6 · Building the Temple

1 Kings 6

MacDonald outlines the temple's dimensions, the silent building with stones prepared beforehand, and the gold-covered interior.

I. Begun in the 480th year after the exodus — 1 Kings 6:1

II. Dimensions and side chambers — 1 Kings 6:2–10

III. Stones prepared at the quarry; no sound of iron — 1 Kings 6:7

  A. The living temple is built silently today

IV. God's promise during the building — 1 Kings 6:11–13

V. Cedar overlaid with gold; no stone seen — 1 Kings 6:14–22

VI. The cherubim in the Most Holy Place — 1 Kings 6:23–28

VII. Doors, inner court, and seven years' work — 1 Kings 6:29–38

CROSS REFERENCES

Exodus 25:18 Exodus 37:9 2 Chronicles 3:14

LESSONS

- God would have everything done for Him done well; He delights in the hidden beauty of the living stones of His temple.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Psalms of the Sons of Korah* (Gordon Franz)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Articles by Jean Gibson* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 6 →

7 · Solomon's Palace and the Temple Furnishings

1 Kings 7

MacDonald describes Solomon's palace buildings and Hiram's bronze work for the temple: pillars, sea and lavers.

I. The palace complex, 13 years in building — 1 Kings 7:1–12
   A. Twice as long as the temple

II. Hiram the craftsman — 1 Kings 7:13–14

III. Jachin and Boaz — 1 Kings 7:15–22
   A. Pillars in God's temple today are men of holy character (Galatians 2:9; Revelation 3:12)

IV. The molten sea and the ten lavers — 1 Kings 7:23–39

V. Bronze and gold vessels — 1 Kings 7:40–50

VI. David's dedicated treasures brought in — 1 Kings 7:51

CROSS REFERENCES

Galatians 2:9 Revelation 3:12 2 Chronicles 4:8

LESSONS

- The overcomer will be a pillar in God's temple forever.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *What's the Answer? 362 Answers to Bible Questions* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Typical Foreshadowings in Genesis* (William Lincoln)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 7 →

8 · The Dedication of the Temple

1 Kings 8

MacDonald walks through the ark brought in, the glory filling the house, and Solomon's great prayer and blessing.

I. The ark brought into the Most Holy Place — 1 Kings 8:1–9
   A. Only the tables of stone in it

II. The glory cloud fills the house — 1 Kings 8:10–11

III. Solomon addresses the Lord and the people — 1 Kings 8:12–21

IV. The prayer of dedication — 1 Kings 8:22–53
   A. No house can contain God — 1 Kings 8:27
   B. Seven cases: oaths, defeat, drought, calamity, the stranger, battle, captivity — 1 Kings 8:31–53

V. Solomon blesses the people — 1 Kings 8:54–61
   A. "There hath not failed one word" — 1 Kings 8:56

VI. Sacrifices and the feast — 1 Kings 8:62–66

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 6 Hebrews 9:4 Hebrews 13:8 Joshua 1:5 Psalm 121:4

LESSONS

- God is utterly reliable; the past guarantees the future.
- God's care for His children is never for their selfish enjoyment but that others might know Him.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Book of Acts* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Articles by W. Ross Rainey* (W. Ross Rainey)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 8 →

9 · God's Answer and Solomon's Enterprises

1 Kings 9

MacDonald gives the Lord's conditional promise to Solomon and the king's dealings with Hiram, his forced labor and his fleet.

I. The Lord appears a second time — 1 Kings 9:1–9
   A. Obedience brings an enduring throne; idolatry brings ruin and a byword

II. Cities given to Hiram: Cabul — 1 Kings 9:10–14

III. Forced labor and fortified cities — 1 Kings 9:15–24
   A. Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer

IV. Sacrifices at the three feasts — 1 Kings 9:25

V. The fleet at Ezion-geber — 1 Kings 9:26–28

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 15:18–21 2 Chronicles 8:2 2 Chronicles 8:13

LESSONS

- God now dwells in the believer's body and in the church, and will yet dwell in a temple when Christ reigns.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Papers on the Pentateuch* (William Kelly)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 9 →

10 · The Queen of Sheba and Solomon's Glory

1 Kings 10

MacDonald describes the queen's visit and the staggering wealth of Solomon's kingdom, along with its hidden costs.

I. The queen's hard questions answered — 1 Kings 10:1–5

II. "The half was not told me" — 1 Kings 10:6–9

III. Gifts exchanged — 1 Kings 10:10–13

IV. Gold, ivory and the great throne — 1 Kings 10:14–22

V. Wisdom and fame worldwide — 1 Kings 10:23–25

VI. Horses and chariots — 1 Kings 10:26–29
   A. Multiplied against — Deuteronomy 17:16–17

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 17:16–17 1 Kings 3:11–13

LESSONS

- There was rottenness within all the splendor; heavy taxation would divide the kingdom.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Advanced Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 10 →

11 · Solomon's Apostasy and Death

1 Kings 11

MacDonald shows Solomon's foreign wives turning his heart to idols, the adversaries God raised up, and the prophecy to Jeroboam.

I. Many foreign wives — 1 Kings 11:1–3
   A. Forbidden in — Deuteronomy 17:17

II. His heart turned to their gods — 1 Kings 11:4–8

III. The kingdom to be torn away, but not in his day — 1 Kings 11:9–13

IV. Adversaries — 1 Kings 11:14–25
   A. Hadad the Edomite; Rezon of Damascus

V. Jeroboam and Ahijah's torn garment — 1 Kings 11:26–40
   A. Ten tribes, after Solomon's death, if he obeys

VI. Solomon dies after 40 years — 1 Kings 11:41–43

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 17:17 2 Samuel 8:5–6 Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

LESSONS

- A good start does not guarantee a good finish.
- It is folly to fight against the revealed word of God.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 11 →

12 · The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 12

MacDonald describes Rehoboam's harsh answer at Shechem, the revolt of the ten tribes, and Jeroboam's man-made religion.

I. The people's request at Shechem — 1 Kings 12:1–5

II. Old men's counsel rejected, young men's followed — 1 Kings 12:6–15
   A. "From the Lord, that he might perform his saying"

III. Israel revolts; Adoram stoned — 1 Kings 12:16–20

IV. War forbidden by God — 1 Kings 12:21–24

V. MacDonald's table of the kings of Israel and Judah

VI. The four phases of the divided kingdom

VII. Jeroboam's religion — 1 Kings 12:25–33

A. Golden calves at Dan and Bethel

B. New priests, a new feast, himself at the altar

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 11:30–39 Exodus 32 Numbers 16 2 Chronicles 11:14–16

LESSONS

- Innovations meant to secure a kingdom only ensure its downfall.
- Those with a heart for God left the conveniences and consequences of man-made religion.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Rehoboam
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jeroboam

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Psalms of the Sons of Korah* (Gordon Franz)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 12 →

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13 · The Man of God from Judah

1 Kings 13

MacDonald tells of the prophet who denounced the altar at Bethel and then died for disobeying God's word through an old prophet's lie.

I. The altar denounced; Josiah foretold — 1 Kings 13:1–3

A. Fulfilled over 300 years later (2 Kings 23:15–16)

II. Jeroboam's hand withered and restored — 1 Kings 13:4–6

III. No fellowship with Bethel — 1 Kings 13:7–10

IV. The old prophet's lie — 1 Kings 13:11–19

V. Judgment on disobedience: the lion — 1 Kings 13:20–25

VI. Buried by the old prophet — 1 Kings 13:26–32

VII. Jeroboam persists — 1 Kings 13:33–34

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Kings 23:15–16

LESSONS

- God deals more sternly with those He loves, with His spokesmen and with the greatly privileged.
- Jeroboam should have seen his own fate in the prophet's.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 13 →

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14 · Ahijah's Prophecy; Rehoboam's Reign

1 Kings 14

MacDonald covers the doom spoken to Jeroboam's disguised wife and the idolatry and loss of Rehoboam's

reign in Judah.

I. Jeroboam's wife in disguise — 1 Kings 14:1–6

II. The doom of Jeroboam's house — 1 Kings 14:7–16

III. The child dies — 1 Kings 14:17–18

IV. Jeroboam's death — 1 Kings 14:19–20

V. Rehoboam of Judah — 1 Kings 14:21–31

A. An Ammonite mother, idolatry and sodomites

B. Shishak plunders the temple; brass shields for gold

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 11 2 Chronicles 12

LESSONS

- Solomon sought safety in marrying Pharaoh's daughter, yet Egypt soon carried off his gold.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Rehoboam

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Bible* (James Gunn)
- *Coming World Crises* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 14 →

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15 · Abijam, Asa, Nadab and Baasha

1 Kings 15

MacDonald moves between the two kingdoms: Abijam's idolatry, Asa's reforms and his alliance with Syria, and the end of Jeroboam's line.

I. Abijam of Judah, three years — 1 Kings 15:1–8

A. Spared for David's sake

II. Asa of Judah, a good king — 1 Kings 15:9–15

A. Removed sodomites and idols, deposed his grandmother

III. Asa buys Syria's help against Baasha — 1 Kings 15:16–24

A. Took what he had given to the Lord and gave it to a heathen king

IV. Nadab of Israel, killed by Baasha — 1 Kings 15:25–31

V. Baasha begins Israel's second dynasty — 1 Kings 15:32–34

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 13 2 Chronicles 14:3–5 2 Chronicles 16

LESSONS

- Christians should not take what belongs to God, their time and wealth, and give it to another.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Asa
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Baasha

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Jeremiah and Lamentations* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 15 →

16 · Baasha to Ahab

1 Kings 16

MacDonald traces Israel's rapid succession of kings, Omri's founding of Samaria, and Ahab's marriage to Jezebel.

I. Jehu's prophecy against Baasha — 1 Kings 16:1–7

II. Elah, killed by Zimri — 1 Kings 16:8–14

III. Zimri's seven days — 1 Kings 16:15–20

IV. Tibni and Omri; Samaria built — 1 Kings 16:21–28

V. Ahab and Jezebel — 1 Kings 16:29–33

- A. Baal worship established in Israel

VI. Jericho rebuilt at the cost of Hiel's sons — 1 Kings 16:34

- A. See — Joshua 6:26

CROSS REFERENCES

Joshua 6:26

LESSONS

- The godlessness of the times shows in open defiance of God's word.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Omri
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Ahab

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 16 →

17 · Elijah and the Drought

1 Kings 17

MacDonald introduces Elijah, fed by ravens at Cherith and by a widow at Zarephath, and raising her son.

I. The prophets: God's mouthpieces in days of decline

II. Elijah announces the drought — 1 Kings 17:1

- A. A judgment against idolatry

III. Fed by ravens at the brook Cherith — 1 Kings 17:2–7

IV. The widow of Zarephath — 1 Kings 17:8–16

- A. God first: the meal and oil never failed
- B. Noted by the Lord Jesus (Luke 4:26)

V. The widow's son raised — 1 Kings 17:17–24

CROSS REFERENCES

Luke 1:17 Luke 4:25–26

LESSONS

- Those who put God first never lack the necessities of life.

- God's man obeying God's voice will always have his needs met.

RELATED READING

- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "Beside the Drying Brook"
- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "Ordered to Zarephath"
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 5* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "The Life and Times of Elijah"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 17 →

18 · Elijah on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18

MacDonald describes the contest with the prophets of Baal, the fire from heaven, and the rain that followed Elijah's prayer.

I. Obadiah meets Elijah — 1 Kings 18:1–16

II. "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" — 1 Kings 18:17–19

III. "How long halt ye between two opinions?" — 1 Kings 18:20–21

IV. The prophets of Baal cry in vain — 1 Kings 18:22–29

V. The altar of twelve stones drenched with water — 1 Kings 18:30–35

VI. Fire falls; "The Lord, he is the God" — 1 Kings 18:36–40

VII. Elijah prays and the rain comes — 1 Kings 18:41–46

CROSS REFERENCES

Luke 4:25

LESSONS

- Confession of sin and obedience to the Word of God are the steps to blessing.

RELATED READING

- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "The Conflict on the Heights of Carmel"
- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "Rain at Last!"
- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson) — Wilson, "Elijah and Mount Carmel"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 18 →

19 · Elijah at Horeb

1 Kings 19

MacDonald shows God's gentle care for a depressed prophet, the still small voice, and the call of Elisha.

I. Jezebel's threat; Elijah flees — 1 Kings 19:1–4

II. God's treatment: rest, food, rest, food — 1 Kings 19:5–8

III. At Horeb: "I only am left" — 1 Kings 19:9–10

IV. Wind, earthquake, fire, and a still small voice — 1 Kings 19:11–14

V. Three anointings commissioned; 7000 not bowed to Baal — 1 Kings 19:15–18

VI. Elisha called from the plow — 1 Kings 19:19–21

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Kings 8:7–15 2 Kings 9:1–10

LESSONS

- Tempests and fires cannot do what the gentle voice of love can.
- God teaches His servants that they are not indispensable.

RELATED READING

- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "The Still Small Voice"
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 5* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "The Life and Times of Elijah"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 19 →

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20 · Ahab's Wars with Syria

1 Kings 20

MacDonald describes two victories God gave Ahab over Ben-hadad and Ahab's folly in sparing the Syrian king.

I. Ben-hadad besieges Samaria — 1 Kings 20:1–12

II. Victory through 232 young men — 1 Kings 20:13–21

III. The Syrians' theory: gods of the hills — 1 Kings 20:22–25

IV. Victory at Aphek — 1 Kings 20:26–30

V. Ahab spares Ben-hadad: "He is my brother" — 1 Kings 20:31–34

VI. The prophet's acted parable — 1 Kings 20:35–43

A. "Busy here and there," the one thing neglected

CROSS REFERENCES

Galatians 6:7

LESSONS

- We are given some central task by God, and while we do a hundred other things we can neglect the one.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 20 →

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21 · Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21

MacDonald tells of Jezebel's murder of Naboth for his vineyard and the doom Elijah pronounced on Ahab's house.

I. Naboth refuses to sell his inheritance — 1 Kings 21:1–4

A. The law kept land in the family (Leviticus 25:23)

II. Jezebel's plot; Naboth stoned — 1 Kings 21:5–16

III. Elijah meets Ahab in the vineyard — 1 Kings 21:17–24

IV. Ahab's wickedness summed up — 1 Kings 21:25–26

V. Ahab humbles himself; judgment deferred — 1 Kings 21:27–29

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 25:23–28 Numbers 36:7 2 Kings 9:26 Ezekiel 33:11

LESSONS

- God is a God of grace: even Ahab's superficial repentance brought a respite.

RELATED READING

- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "Naboth's Vineyard"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Revelation: A Complete Commentary* (William R. Newell)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 21 →

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22 · Micaiah and the Death of Ahab

1 Kings 22

MacDonald describes Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab, Micaiah's fearless word, Ahab's death at Ramoth-gilead, and the reigns that followed.

I. Ahab and Jehoshaphat plan to take Ramoth-gilead — 1 Kings 22:1–4

II. Four hundred prophets say "Go up" — 1 Kings 22:5–12

III. Micaiah's vision of scattered sheep — 1 Kings 22:13–17

IV. The lying spirit — 1 Kings 22:18–23

A. God permits evil to achieve His ends

V. Micaiah struck and imprisoned — 1 Kings 22:24–28

VI. Ahab disguised, struck by a random arrow — 1 Kings 22:29–40

A. "God is not mocked" (Galatians 6:7)

VII. Jehoshaphat of Judah — 1 Kings 22:41–50

A. The wrecked ships of the unholy alliance

VIII. Ahaziah of Israel — 1 Kings 22:51–53

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 5:1 Galatians 6:7 2 Chronicles 18 2 Chronicles 20:35–37

LESSONS

- The man who tries to fool the Lord reaps what he sows.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoshaphat
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Ahab

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Revelation: A Complete Commentary* (William R. Newell)
- *Studies in 1 Corinthians* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 22 →

Further reading on 1 Kings

In the Faithful Men Library

- *Notes on 1 Kings* (William Kelly)
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer)
- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 5* (C. H. Mackintosh)
- *Articles by Leslie S. Rainey* (Leslie S. Rainey)

On plymouthbrethren.org

- "1 Kings" (William Kelly, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "1 Kings" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Life and Times of Elijah - A" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Life and Times of Elijah - B" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "A Few Words On Elijah" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Rehoboam" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Jeroboam" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Asa" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Jehoshaphat" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Ahab" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Chapter 32 Solomon's Pointers To Christ" (Daniel Smith, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Obadiah" (J. G. Bellett, plymouthbrethren.org)

Every library book that cites 1 Kings: Scripture index — 1 Kings

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