

[/Let us begin with the tenth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 1 Kings chapter 15.](#)

/In 15:1-8, / Abijah becomes the king of Judah and commits evil. / He was the son of Rehoboam and ruled for three years. / He did evil just like his father Rehoboam.

/His actions were not worthy before the Lord. / His mother's name was Maacah, and she was the daughter of Abishalom. / According to 2 Chronicles 13:2,  
/Maacah was the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah and Tamar, the daughter of Absalom.

/Here in today's chapter, she is referred to as the daughter of Abishalom. / This means that she is a descendant of Abishalom. / The word "daughter" means "grandchild" in original Hebrew.

/Even though Abijah committed sins, God did not entirely destroy him. / This was only because David served God faithfully. / God promised David that he would not fail to have a man on the throne. / God always keeps his promises no matter what.

/In verse 5, it says that David never failed to keep any of God's commands all the days of his life, except for the incident with Uriah the Hittite. / There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam after Israel was divided into the north and south. / The war continued even in Abijah's time.

/There is a spiritual meaning here. / Northern Israel symbolizes the corrupted church. / Southern Judah symbolizes true church. / It means that there will always be war between the corrupted church and the true church.

/Southern Judah worshipped in Jerusalem just as God commanded them. / They appointed priests from the tribe of Levi and kept the festival in the seventh month of the year. / However, northern Israel altered God's word and made golden calves in Bethel and Dan.

/They appointed priests outside the tribe of Levi and kept the festival on the eighth month. / The war between the truth and lies will continue until the world comes to an end. / After Abijah's three years of reign, he died and his son Asa succeeded him as king.

/In verses 9-15, / King Asa ascends on the throne and rules righteously. / King Asa ruled for forty-one years in Judah. / His mother's name was Maacah, the daughter of Abishalom.

/However, in verse 2, it says that Maacah was the mother of Abijah. / Here, she is the mother of Asa. / She was not Asa's mother but his grandmother.

/Maacah is called Asa's mother because his mother died early. / She acted as the queen mother. / King Asa did right before God.

/He expelled the male shrine prostitutes and got rid of idols, and he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD in all his days. / He even deposed his mother from the position as queen mother because she worshipped the Asherah pole. / He did not act according to his emotions.

/Asa was a righteous king, who even coldly punished the queen mother, when things went against God's word. / We too must do what is right when it comes to building up God's word.

/At the wedding at Cana, Mary the mother of Jesus told him, "We are out of wine." / Then Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me?"

/Jesus was firm in fulfilling His salvation plan, even if it concerned his mother. / She was but a mere woman.

/In verses 16-22, / King Asa relies on the king of Aram in the war with Israel. / King Asa was a good king, but he made a mistake in his last years. / The king of Israel, Baasha, went to attack Judah.

/The king of Israel fortified Ramah to prevent anyone entering or leaving Judah. / In 2 Chronicles 14:9, / King Asa trusted God and defeated the king of Cush.

/If King Asa had gone to war against Baasha with the same faith, he would have won the war. / However, he lost the faith he had in the battle against the king of Cush. / He gathered all the silver and gold that were in the temple and the palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad, king of Aram, and asked for help.

/The king of Aram broke the treaty he had with King Baasha and attacked many towns in Israel. / Then King Baasha stopped building Ramah and withdrew to Tirzah.

/Then King Asa brought all the stones and timbers King Baasha used to build Ramah and used them to build up Geba and Mizpah. / In 2 Chronicles 16:7, 9, / Hanani the seer came up to King Asa and rebuked him.

/King Asa was a good king, but he was rebuked for relying on the king of Aram in his last years. / He should have repented when he heard the seer's rebuke, / but instead, he became enraged and put the seer in prison.

/King Asa left his faith and relied on the foreign country. He also oppressed the servant of God and he received God's wrath. / We must ask only of God and hold onto his word.

/God does not help us when we trust in the powers of foreign countries and their weaponry. / No matter how powerful our enemy is, God will make us strong and victorious when we trust God only and obey his word.

/Verses 23-24 / talk about the last years of King Asa. / His feet became diseased as

punishment from God. / However, he did not repent or seek God, but consulted with doctors.

/Psalm 71:9 says, / “Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.” / We must pray that we would not abandon or sin against God just as David prayed.

/It is easy for faith to get weak when we get old. / Whoever remains awake in faith in old age will grow stronger in faith. / King Asa was buried in the city of David with his ancestors, and his son Jehoshaphat succeeded him as king.

/Verses 25-27 / tell us about the rebellion of Baasha. / Jeroboam died in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and his son Nadab became king of Israel.

/In verses 28-34, / Baasha becomes king and kills all who belong to the house of Jeroboam. / Nadab committed many sins during the two years he was king. / The wrath of God was poured out upon him because he committed sins just as his father did.

/Baasha son of Ahijah from the tribe of Issachar plotted and killed Nadab, and he became king of Israel. / Baasha did not leave anyone alive who was from the house of Jeroboam, but destroyed them all.

/This happened just as God said it would. / There was continuous war between King Baasha of northern Israel and King Asa of southern Judah.

/Baasha destroyed the house of Jeroboam on the third year of Asa’s reign. He then ruled for twenty-four years. / King Baasha also did evil and sinned like the house of Jeroboam, and he was destroyed.

/In 16:1-7, / a prophet rebukes King Baasha. / Baasha was not the son of a king. / He became king after he rebelled against Jeroboam’s son Nadab and killed him.

/It says, “I lifted you up from the dust and made you leader of my people Israel,” which means that God lifted him, a commoner, to be king. / However, Baasha did not thank or obey God.

/Instead, he disobeyed God and followed the ways of Jeroboam. / He also made the people of Israel sin and provoked God to anger. / Baasha saw that the king was destroyed by God for his sins, but he still chose to follow the king’s ways and sin.

/God sent the prophet Jehu to rebuke the king. / He said that God would wipe out his house like he did with the house of Jeroboam. / The house of Baasha was going to be destroyed like the house of Jeroboam.

/Dogs would eat those belonging to Baasha who died in the city, and birds would feed

upon those who died in the field. / Baasha committed many sins during the twenty-four years he reigned as king and died.

/In verses 8-14, / Zimri becomes king and wipes out the family of Baasha. / Elah the son of Baasha became king and reigned for two years. / While Elah was eating and getting drunk, Zimri came and killed him.

/Then Zimri became king of Israel. / This was the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign in Judah. / Zimri became king, and the entire house of Baasha was wiped out. / Not a single relative or friend of his was left alive.

/This happened just as God rebuked King Baasha through the prophet Jehu. / Baasha was destroyed for sinning and failing to be upright before God. / The wages of sin is death.

/In verses 15-20, / Omri kills Zimri and becomes king. / Zimri killed Elah and became king. / Zimri reigned for seven days and died.

/When Zimri became king, the army was encamped near Gibbethon, a Philistine town. / When the Israelites heard that Zimri plotted against Elah and murdered him, they made Omri their king.

/Then Omri returned and took the city Zimri was in. / Seeing this, Zimri set the palace on fire and died in it. / Zimri followed the path of Jeroboam and worshipped idols. / Hence, God judged and destroyed him.

/In verses 21-28, / Omri builds a city called Samaria. / Even though Omri became the king of Israel, half the people wanted to serve Tibni son of Ginath as king, while the other half wanted to serve Omri as king. / Hence, there was war between Omri and Tibni.

/Omri won and killed Tibni. / Omri became king of Israel and he reigned for twelve years. / Omri reigned in Tirzah for six years. / Then he built a city on the hill and called it Samaria.

/Omri bought a hill that was owned by Shemer. / He built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria. / Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and he followed the footsteps of Jeroboam son of Nebat.

/All the kings of Israel who came after Jeroboam walked down the ways of Jeroboam. / They worshipped golden calves in Bethel and Dan. / This was a measure they took to prevent the people from going to Jerusalem. / They used the worshipping practices of the Israelites for their gain.

/In verses 29-33, / Ahab becomes king and does evil. / After the death of Omri, his son Ahab became king and reigned in Israel for twenty-two years. / Ahab also followed the ways of Jeroboam.

/He considered the ways of Jeroboam trivial and married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians. / He worshipped Baal and built Asherah poles when Jezebel asked him to. / He also killed many prophets of the LORD. / He provoked God to anger.

/In verse 34, / Hiel's two sons die as he rebuilds Jericho. / Hiel of Bethel ignored God's word. / His firstborn son died when he laid the foundation. / He then lost his youngest son when he set up its gates.

/This was the fulfillment of God's word. / This was the fulfillment of Joshua 6:26. / Hiel ignored God's word and lost two sons as he rebuilt Jericho

/Judgment falls upon those who disobey the Bible and build Jericho. / Anyone who disobeys God and works will receive judgment. / Anyone who disobeys God and works will receive punishment when he starts and when he ends.

/This incident was God's message to the house of Ahab. / Even in today's time, we must know that there will be judgment from God if we do any work that goes against the Bible.

/In 17:1, / Elijah prophesies the coming disaster upon Ahab. / Ahab was fooled by Jezebel and abandoned the LORD God. / He worshipped Baal and the Asherah poles and killed the prophets of the LORD.

/Then God decided to not send any rain on the land for three and a half years to make King Ahab and the Israelites repent. / God told the news to Ejliah, and Elijah told the news to King Ahab.

/Elijah received God's guidance. / He was a man of God who was filled with the Spirit and who knew the secret of God. / In Amos 3:7, it says that God reveals his plan to his servants the prophets in any generation.

/God was going reveal is secrets to Elijah and fulfill the salvation plan in that generation.

/In verses 2-7, / Elijah stays by the Kerith Ravine. / It had stopped raining just as God had commanded. / When the drought became severe, God told Elijah to go stay by the Kerith Ravine. / Elijah immediately obeyed God's command.

/Elijah went and hid in the Kerith Ravine to the east of the Jordan. / God then sent ravens to supply him with food. / The ravens brought bread and meat in the morning and in the evening.

/Elijah ate the bread and drank from the brook. / He was able to survive the drought by the brook. / In this way, God leads those who receive God's guidance and obey him to his refuge.

/God supplies food and water even by sending ravens to bring food to eat. / God personally protects those who receive his guidance and immediately obey his word.

/God also provides food to eat and water through others. / The drought became much more severe, and the brook dried up. / Elijah could no longer stay there.

/In verses 8-16, / a widow at Zarephath helps Elijah. / The word of the LORD came to Elijah again. / God told Elijah to go to Zarephath and stay there because there was a widow who would provide for him.

/Elijah obeyed God's command right away and went to Zarephath. / It was difficult to find the widow that God told him about. / This was the time when Ahab had issued a warrant for Elijah's arrest.

/Because Elijah was a hairy man, he was easily recognizable. / He would be immediately reported and arrested if he was seen by others. / Still, he trusted God and his word.

/He decided to go find the widow at Zarephath. / Elijah met a widow at the town gate. / Because there were clothes that only widows wore, anyone was able to tell that she was a widow.

/In order for Elijah to confirm that she was the widow God had told him about, he asked her to bring some water for him. / As she was about to get the water, he called and asked her to bring a piece of bread for him too.

/Then the widow replied that she had no bread. / She had only a handful of flour and a little olive oil. / She said that she was picking up a few branches to make something to eat for herself and her son, and they planned to die after.

/The drought was so severe that there was very little to eat, and they had no choice but to eat one more meal and then die after. / Then in order to know if this was the widow God had spoken of, Elijah said the following.

/He told her to first make a small cake of bread for him, and then after, make something for herself and for her son. / He added, "For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'"

/Elijah was trying to see the widow's faith to see if she was the widow the LORD had spoken about. / The widow at Zarephath believed God's word and obeyed Elijah.

/We can see here that the widow used her faith. / Seeing this, Elijah knew that she was the one God commanded. / What was the faith of the widow at Zarephath?

/First, she first served the servant of God for the salvation plan of God. / Second, she believed God's word that the flour in the jar and the olive oil in the jug would not be used up. / Third, she believed in the power of God.

/She believed God's word that was given to her through Elijah, to not worry about what to eat even in the time of severe drought and painful suffering. / She had true faith to give first for the salvation plan of God.

/She then worked for herself and her son. / Because she believed and obeyed God's word, / the jar never ran out of flour for three years and six months just as God said.

/The oil in the jug did not run dry. / God provides for those who believe and obey God's word and make sacrifices for the salvation plan of God, just as the widow did.

/In verses 17-24, / the widow's son dies and Elijah brings him back to life. / Some time after Elijah stayed in the widow's house, her son died. / Why did he die when a family that served God's servant should have been well?

/The widow risked her life and she served and provided for God's servant Elijah. / Why did her son have to die?

/It is most likely because the widows did not repent of her sins, even when she was reminded of it. / Elijah most likely taught her God's word while he stayed there.

/He taught her about the sins of Israel. / He taught her that worshipping Baal and the Asherah pole was a sin, even to Sidonians. / He taught her that Israel faced disaster because of that sin.

/Hearing these, the widow must have been reminded of her sins, but she did not repent. / Thus, God punished her only to make her repent. / What sin would she have been reminded of when her son died?

/She would have remembered that she worshiped idols. / She remembered her sin of loving her son more than God. / She remembered her sin of ignoring God's servant. / She first believed in God's word, and she respected and obeyed God's servant.

/As time passed, she must have seen human flaws in Elijah. / When she saw them, she did not respect Elijah as she did when she first met him, and she may have looked down on him in her heart.

/Fourth, she must have been reminded of the sin of not trying to fix her own flaws. / Elijah taught the widow about the commands and her sins, but she did not attempt to fix them.

/We can know this because the widow said, "Did you come to... kill my son?" / There are many times when troubles come all at the same time. / Elijah was also in the middle of unspeakable suffering.

/He was in a place where he had to flee and hide. / His life consisted of eating bread and hiding in a widow's upper room.

/Things became worse and the widow's son died, which caused her to complain against him, and Elijah could not do anything but pray. / God gives trials and tribulations to those he loves.

/God loved Elijah and he sent one disaster after another. / We cannot be trained without sufferings. / In Psalm 73:14 / it says that God brings punishments every morning to believers he loves.

/Elijah had the opportunity to get closer to God by crying out to him in the midst of trials. / Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD. / He loved the boy as he loved himself.

/He prayed as if he was the one who was dead. / Then the boy's life returned to him. / This shows us that the spiritually dead will return to life when we pray with sincere love.

/No matter how hopeless and diseased one's heart is, there is hope for life when we pray with sincere love. / Elijah took the revived son to his mother.

/Pleased read 17:24. / Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

/This shows that the widow accepted Elijah as a man of God and believed his words at first. / However, as time passed, she saw Elijah's flaws and looked down on him.

/Elijah's words reminded her of her sins, and her son's death brought her to senses. / She was spiritually awakened through this punishment. / She repented as a result of the punishment.

/Here, the authority of the servant of God increased. / The widow's son came to life. / After this, the widow believed that the word of God that Elijah delivered was the truth, and her faith came to life.

/Elijah's spirit also became weakened as he stayed in the widow's house for a long time. / This incident awakened his spirit as well.

/With this we will conclude the tenth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.