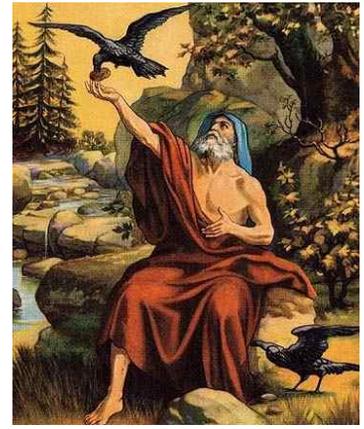


HEROES OF THE FAITH

ELIJAH: Crucible of Leadership {Part 1}



1 Kings 17:1-7

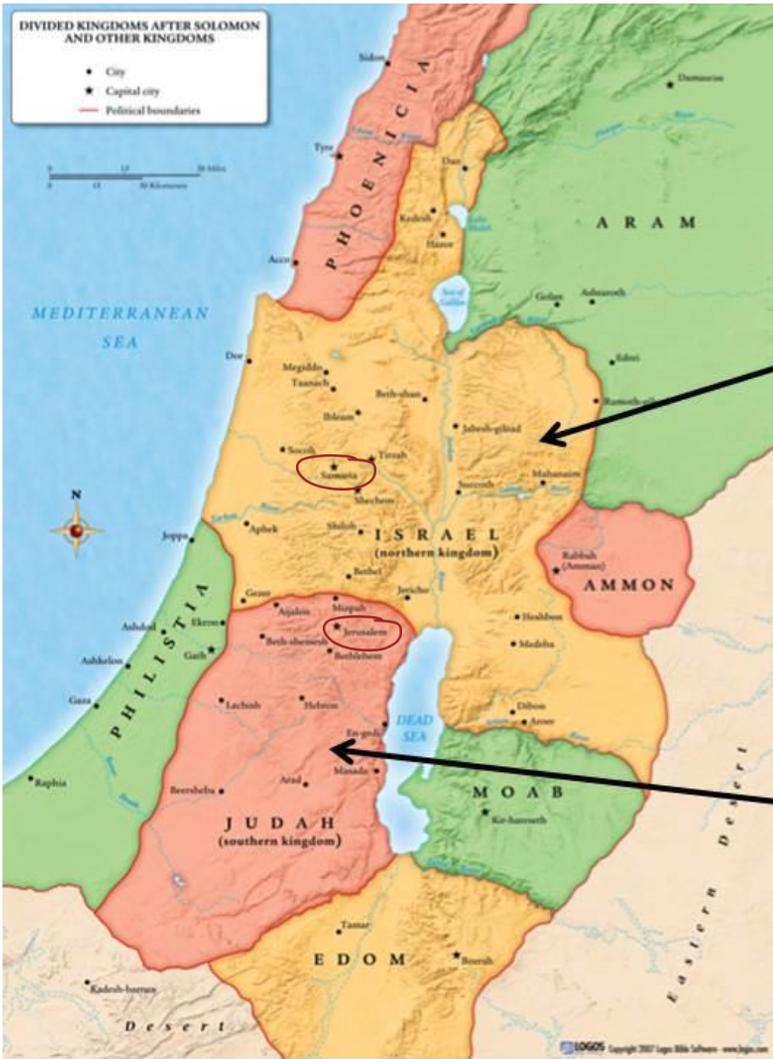
19 August 2020

➤ Overview: His Entrance Into Human History

❖ 1 Kings

- The end of King David's reign (chapter 1).
- David appoints Solomon, his son to be his successor (chapters 1 & 2).
- King Solomon walks with God (chapters 3-10).
- Solomon turns from God (chapter 11).
- Rehoboam, Solomon's son, succeeds him as king (chapter 12).
- The kingdom splits (chapter 12: map #1).
 - ✓ Northern Kingdom: { 209 years; 7 prophets }
 - Comprised of 10 tribes.
 - This kingdom is called Israel .
 - Its capital city is Samaria .
 - This kingdom had 19 kings.
 - Because of its wickedness, God judged. He sent the Assyrians to conquer them in 722 B.C. .
 - 18 kings were evil. 1 king was good & evil.
 - ✓ Southern Kingdom: { 345 years; 10 prophets }
 - Comprised of 2 tribes - Benjamin & Judah .
 - This kingdom is called Judah .
 - Its capital city is Jerusalem .
 - This kingdom had 20 kings.
 - Because of its wickedness, God judged. He sent the Babylonians to conquer them in 586 B.C. .
 - 12 kings were wicked; 4 were good & evil; 4 were good.
- (Chapters 12-16) Prior kings in both the northern & southern realms.
- Focus: Northern Kingdom
 - ✓ King Omri (16:21-27)
 - The sixth king.
 - He reigned for 12 years. (v. 22)





Jeroboam becomes king over ten tribes in the north and keeps the name Israel.

Rehoboam keeps two tribes in the south and renames the kingdom Judah.

➤ United Kingdom

- ❖ Saul: 1050 – 1010 B.C.
- ❖ David: 1010 – 970 B.C.
- ❖ Solomon: 970 – 930 B.C.



- To date, Omri was Israel's most wicked king (v. 25).
- He worshiped idols & provoked God to anger (v. 26).
- Ahab, Omri's son succeeded his father as king (16:29).
- Ahab reigned 22 years - Israel's most wicked king (v. 30).
 - He married Jezebel a Sidonian woman (map #2).
 - He worshiped his wife's god - Baal.
 - Baal - god of rain; one who made the land fertile.
 - Asherah - Fertility goddess; the mother of Baal
 - (1 Kings 18:19).
 - Deuteronomy 17:16-17, 18-19

➤ Elijah enters onto the biblical stage (vv. 1-7)

❖ The prophecy (v. 1).

☐ A divinely ordained drought.

- ✓ A battle between truth (God) and lies (gods – Baal & Asherah).
- ✓ God controls the rain...not Baal.
- ✓ There is only one true God...not many gods.
- ✓ God is the only one who controls “fertility” and “infertility.”

❖ God speaks (vv. 3-4).

✓ Go. Leave. Follow. Hide. (vv. 3-4)

- A tough, rugged, man of the desert, who counseled kings.
- Elijah arrived in Samaria. He spoke to Ahab.
- Elijah is ready to do battle with Ahab; but, God said, “Go.” (v.3)
- Instead of fighting, God sent Elijah into hiding. (v. 3)
- Isaiah 55:8-9 (*)

✓ Issue: Self-Reliance vs. Dependence. (vv. 3-7)

- Elijah - The crucible of character at the Cherith brook. (map #2)
- Independence from God vs. dependence upon God. (vv. 4-6)



God's plan. (vv. 3-6)

- Often God's wisdom is hard to see, & understand. (v. 3)
- God places Elijah into the *Crucible of Leadership, & Character*.
- Dependence vs. Independence. (v. 4)
- Obedience vs. Disobedience. (v. 5)
- God's choices are sometimes unfathomable (Lev. 11:13-15; v. 6).
- God's timing is perfect. (v. 7)





Map #2

