

God or Tyrants: A Study of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 12: Summary and Conclusion

Settling In

Write down at least ONE thing you learned from this Bible Class that you didn't know before.

Be ready to share your ONE thing with the group!

Introduction

Now that we've finished our walk through the 1 & 2 Kings, we are ready to rock "Bible Trivia"! ...

- We know that Solomon's throne had animal guardians
- We know Elisha once asked for a harp/musician to assist in his prophesying
- We know Jehu was a crazy driver
- We know Athalia was the only queen among the rulers of Judah

But if all we intended on gaining was more head knowledge, we've missed the point. The following reflections are intended to be broad based questions leading us to deeper contemplations about what God is teaching us in these 2 intriguing books and how their message ought to impact our life and faith.

Reflections

1. What are some of the Key Themes that run through the books of 1 & 2 Kings? See if you can come up with at least THREE to FIVE Key Themes:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____

2. From your reading of 1 & 2 Kings, which do you prefer and why: GoT... God or Tyrants?

3. Looking at the kings we studied, whose leadership style resonated with you most (positively or negatively)? What specific qualities stand out? How might you apply or avoid these qualities in your own sphere of influence (family, work, community)?

4. The temptations of idolatry took many forms in ancient Israel. What “idols” are prevalent in our culture today? How might these subtly creep into your life?

5. The books highlight the importance of repentance and turning back to God. What areas in your life might require repentance and a renewed commitment to following God’s Word?

6. The exile (of both Israel and Judah) was a consequence of systemic disobedience. What are some systemic issues in our world today that might have long-term negative consequences?

7. Can you recall any instances in 1 & 2 Kings where unnamed individuals played a significant role? What did they do? What lessons can we take from so many of the heroes in 1 & 2 Kings whose *names* are never mentioned?

8. The contrast between God’s faithfulness and Israel/Judah’s unfaithfulness could hardly be starker than in the narratives of 1 & 2 Kings. How does the covenant faithfulness of God in these books inform your understanding of God’s relationship with you today? How does it challenge you in your own faithfulness?

9. Whenever you read the Old Testament, look for “Christ windows” through which to view God’s grace. Where do you find such windows in the books of 1 & 2 Kings?

10. Two phrases that mark the books of 1 & 2 Kings are, “the sin of Jeroboam” and “for the sake of David”. How do these two themes crystallize the message of these books? What personal application does the message of 1 & 2 Kings preach to you?
