



**1 KINGS 15:9-15 & 16:29-33**

**19**

**JULY  
2020**

## LIVE YOUR LIFE WISELY

Because of Rehoboam's unwise decision, some Israelites left him and chose their own king named Jeroboam. This caused Israel to be divided into 2 kingdoms. Rehoboam became the king of Judah, while Jeroboam became the king of Israel.

Many years later, Asa became the king of Judah (1 Kings 15:9) while Ahab became the king of Israel (1 Kings 16:29). It is interesting to see how they lived their lives and ruled the kingdom differently.

King Asa was faithful to the Lord all his life. He began his reign by removing and burning down all the false gods. He did what was right in God's eyes. There was victory and peace in Judah when he reigned as the king because of his righteousness.

On the contrary, King Ahab did more evil than any of the kings before him. He worshipped false gods including Baal and Asherah. He even got rid of God's priests and people. He made many men of God suffer.

Let's live a life like King Asa whose heart was full of love to God and to others. Do not be like King Ahab who was unwise with his own life and hurting others.

### **Key verse:**

*Ephesians 5:17  
Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, I want to live my life according to Your command and to love others like You have loved me. I live to shine Your name. Amen.*





**1 KINGS 18:22-45**

## GOD'S AUTHORITY OVER NATURE

When Ahab reigned as the king of Israel, he worshipped a false god named Baal. It had been three years without rain in Israel. As per God's command, a man of God named Elijah challenged 450 Baal priests to see who the true GOD was, the Lord or Baal. They would each offer a sacrifice, and the God who would answer by fire would be proved to be the true God.

The Baal priests offered their sacrifice and they even hurt themselves so that their god would answer them, but there was no fire nor any answer. Elijah was alone. He built an altar with 12 stones, put some wood on it then laid some meat on the wood. He poured some water onto the wood three times. Theoretically, we cannot make fire out of something wet. However, Elijah prayed to God and God sent fire! The fire did not only burn the meat, but also the wood, stones and water! Not too long after that, rain poured down!

The true God has the highest authority in heaven and on earth. God created all of things in heaven and earth and He governs all of the things and nature. The fire, wind and rain obey God because they are all under God's authority.

Aren't you blessed knowing that Someone who has the highest authority over nature loves you so much? Let's praise Him!

### Key verse:

*Psalm 135:6*

*The Lord does what He wants, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and the deep oceans.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, You are all-powerful of all the things in heaven and on earth! We praise Your holy name! Amen.*





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## 1 KINGS 21:1-6

# DON'T BE GREEDY!

There was a man named Naboth who had a vineyard next to the palace of King Ahab. King Ahab wanted the vineyard and asked Naboth to give it to him in exchange for another vineyard better than his. But Naboth didn't want to give his vineyard away because it was an inheritance of his fathers. It was his treasure.

The Bible says Ahab was upset and sulky, and refused to eat. He was a king yet behaving so childish like a spoilt little kid! He was a king and must have had many yards in his palace yet he was not satisfied and still wanted someone else's vineyard. He was a greedy king.

Have you ever been like King Ahab before? You already had plenty of toys and one day you asked for a new toy from your parents. They did not buy it for you and you were sulky the whole day? This is called being greedy!

Greed is a very strong desire to get something. The more you entertain your greed, the less content you feel with what you already have.

Get rid of the greed in your heart by being grateful for God's blessings in your life.

### Key verse:

*Proverb 1:19  
Greed takes away the life of the greedy person.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, may my heart be filled with gratitude and my mouth be filled with praises for all the blessings I have been receiving from You. Amen.*





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**1 KINGS 22:1-35**

## INTEGRITY

King Jehoshaphat and King Ahab decided to fight the king of Aram. Before going to the battle, they asked for advice from Ahab's 400 prophets in the palace. These prophets said the kings would have victory over the king of Aram, but king Jehoshaphat was not convinced. He still asked for a prophet of God. Reluctantly, king Ahab called for a prophet of God, named Micaiah.

Micaiah always told the truth from God even though he knew it would irritate king Ahab. Because of his integrity, Micaiah was not liked by Ahab. He truthfully warned Ahab that he would lose the battle and he bravely revealed that the 400 prophets had not told the truth.

Integrity is a strong sense of honesty. Micaiah's courage and integrity make a good role model for you and me. He did not follow the crowd nor seek favour from people. Instead, he sought the true God and only did and said what pleased God.

People will not always like it when you tell the truth, especially if you say things they don't want to hear. But it is important to speak the truth. We live to please God not to please people.

### Key verse:

*Proverbs 10:9a  
Whoever walks  
in integrity  
walks securely.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, I want  
to be someone  
with integrity.  
Give me the  
courage and  
strength to live  
a life that is  
pleasing to You.  
Amen.*





**2 KINGS 2:22-25**

**23**

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## SPEAK WISELY

After Elijah was lifted up to heaven, Elisha became his successor. He did many miracles and shared the word of God. When Elisha went to Bethel, he met some youths. They made fun of his appearance. They mocked him "baldhead". It was such a horrible word to say. They were making fun of a man of God.

Are you aware that making fun of people means making fun of God? Because God is their creator. Being made fun of feels so hurtful. It leaves unpleasant feelings and the scar of being humiliated can haunt the person for a very long time.

Your tongue might be small but the words that come out from the tongue are powerful. It can be encouraging or it can also destroy others. You can't control other people's tongues but you can control yours. Be careful with what you say.

If someone has ever made fun of you, find God to embrace and heal you. If you have ever made fun of others, ask for forgiveness from God and the one you have hurt.

### **Key verse:**

*Proverbs 13:3  
Whoever is  
careful about  
what he says  
protects his life.  
But anyone who  
speaks without  
thinking will be  
ruined.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God,  
make me be  
thoughtful so  
that I can control  
my tongue to  
only speak  
encouraging  
words to others.  
Amen.*





**2 KINGS 5:1-15**

**24**

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## HUMILITY

A wealthy army commander of Aram named Naaman had leprosy. His Israelite servant told Naaman's wife about Elisha who could heal Naaman. His wife told him about it and Naaman went to Israel to find Elisha.

When Naaman waited outside of Elisha's house, Elisha's servant came and told him to wash seven times in the Jordan River to be cured. Naaman was so used to being respected and served that he got offended by the way Elisha treated him. He was expecting Elisha, not Elisha's servant, to come and meet him personally. But due to his desperation to get healed, he put aside his pride. He dipped himself in the Jordan River seven times and was fully healed!

Because of Naaman's humility, he was healed. Humility is the willingness to not see yourself above anything or anyone. Naaman's humility to accept advice from a servant, to accept the way Elisha treated him and to dip his body into the muddy river was his way into healing! Had he refused to do all those, he would have missed the chance of being healed.

Sometimes you need a little bit of humility to experience God's blessing that He had in store for you.

### **Key verse:**

*Proverbs 15:33b  
... and humility  
comes before  
honor.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, I pray  
for a spirit of  
humility. Let me  
always remember  
that You are  
the reason and  
source of my  
blessings and  
happiness. Amen.*





**2 KINGS 6:8-23**

## DON'T REPAY EVIL FOR EVIL

The king of Aram was enraged with Elisha so he sent his soldiers to capture him. When the Aramean army surrounded the city where Elisha was living, God sent horses and chariots of fire to protect Elisha and the people of Israel. God struck the Arameans with blindness and Elisha tricked them into following him to the city of Samaria, which was the Israel's territory.

When God opened their eyes again, the Arameans found themselves inside Samaria, captured by the King of Israel. Instead of killing the soldiers, Elisha told the king of Israel to prepare a great feast for them. When they had finished eating and drinking, Elisha let them go back to their master.

Elisha was teaching the people to not always repay evil with evil. The purpose was to show the Arameans about God's mercy. By doing this, Elisha brought peace to both Israel and Aram.

This isn't an easy thing to do, especially when you have the opportunity to take revenge. But let the love of God do His way in your heart. God protects you from the enemy and He will give you power to show kindness to the enemy as well.

### Key verse:

*1 Peter 3:9a*

*Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, draw me close to You so that I always have the grace in my heart to never repay evil with evil but turn from evil to do good. Amen.*

