

- Recap of last week: God is with Abijah and the Southern Kingdom of Judah against superior numbers in their fight against the North (2 Chronicles 13:13-19) but despite all this Abijah continues in idolatry. (1 Kings 15:1-7) Abijah dies and Asa takes his place. Asa is actually a good king who reverses the trend toward idolatry. (1 Kings 15:9-15) (2 Chronicles 14:1-7) Asa defeats the vastly superior Ethiopian army by calling on God (2 Chronicles 14:8-15) but he does not call on God and pays off the King of Syria to help him keep the north from building a border fortification. God is not happy with that. (2 Chronicles 14:8-15) That is the only mistake we read about Asa making. Asa dies. In the North, Jeroboam dies and is succeeded in fairly rapid succession by several kings. We don't read anything good about any of them. In fact, they seem to have gotten progressively worse.
- King Omri dies in the North and his son Ahab takes over for him. Ahab was worse than anyone before him. He marries the evil queen Jezebel, builds altars to the pagan god Baal, and rebuilds the city of Jericho. His oldest and his youngest son both die in the construction. (1 Kings 16:29-34)
- The prophet Elijah comes to Ahab and tells him there will be drought in the land for the next few years. God tells Elijah where to go to get water from a brook and also has ravens bring him food. (1 Kings 17:1-6)
- The brook dries up because of lack of rain so God send Elijah to a widow's house. He asks her for food and water and she tells him she is making one last meal and then she and her son will die. Elijah tells her to share with him because God has promised that her oil and flour would not run out as long as it wasn't raining. That is exactly what happened. (1 Kings 17:7-16)
- We can always trust God because his spirit is with us and He is sufficient (2 Corinthians 3:1-6)
- The widow's son dies and Elijah petitions God to bring Him back to life. (1 Kings 17:17-24)
- Today, we can ask God for anything and if we are asking with a pure heart aligned with Him, and we have faith, He will do it. (Mark 11:22-24) James uses the example of wisdom (James 1:5-7)
- In the third year of the drought, God promises Elijah that if he presents himself to Ahab the King, He will send rain again. (1 Kings 18:1-2)
- We find out this was actually a pretty risky undertaking since Jezebel (King Ahab's wife) had been killing prophets. A devout guy who was the palace administrator named Obadiah had been hiding 100 prophets away so that they would not be killed and was giving them food and water. (1 Kings 18:3-4)
- Ahab probably doesn't know Obadiah is doing this, so he asks Obadiah to help him look through the land for food and water to keep the animals alive to they don't have kill them. They divide the land in half and each agree to look through their half. (1 Kings 18:5-6)
- Obadiah comes across Elijah and recognizes him. Elijah tells him to let Ahab know he is on the way to see him. Obadiah tells Elijah is concerned even for himself and Elijah because Ahab has been looking for Elijah everywhere. Elijah tells Obadiah that he plans to visit Ahab anyway. (1 Kings 18:7-15)
- Elijah sees Ahab and tells him he proposes a showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Ahab agrees. All Israel turns out and Elijah explains the rules he is proposing. Baal's 450 prophets (that's how many there were there) will take a slaughtered bull and put it on their altar. Elijah (he is the only prophet of God there) will do the same. He proposes both parties call on their God to reign fire down and consume the alter and the one who does it will be God. The people all say "sounds good to us." (1 Kings 18:16-22)

- The prophets of Baal go first. They spend hours petitioning their God/s to light the altar on fire. Finally, Elijah starts taunting them to be even louder, saying their God might be deep in thought or busy or travelling or even asleep and need waking up. So they do and they even start cutting themselves. Nothing ever happens and they give up. (1 Kings 18:25-29)
- When it is Elijah's turn he built an altar out of 12 stones to represent the 12 tribes of Israel. He digs a trench around the altar. Then he has people pour water all over the altar and sacrifice, so much so that the runoff fills the trench with water. Elijah prays and immediately God sends fire down to not only consume the altar but all the water in the trench too. (1 Kings 18:30-38)
- The people know who is God then and follow Elijah's instruction to execute the prophets of Baal. (1 Kings 18:39-40)
- God sends rain. (1 Kings 18:43-45)
- When Jezebel finds out what happened she sends word to Elijah that she will have him killed too. He is afraid and flees. He actually asks God to end his life but instead God provides food for him and tells him to eat it because he will need strength for his journey. Elijah does eat and then flees 40 more days to Horeb (called the Mountain of God) and then he goes to sleep in a cave. (1 Kings 19:1-8)
- God has Elijah witness a great wind, a big earthquake, and a large fire, then he tells Elisha to go back from where he came and anoint three people: Hazael to be King of Aram, Jehu to be King over Israel, and Elisha to be the prophet after Elijah. He says there will be a bloodbath where Hazael will kill people and Jehu will kill most of those left, and then Elisha will kill most of those left by Jehu, but that God will save the 7,000 people who didn't worship Baal. (1 Kings 19:9-18)
- Elijah meets Elisha plowing the field and after Elisha says goodbye to his family, he goes with Elijah. (1 Kings 19:19-21)

### Questions

1. What is the correct spelling, Abijam or Abijah?
2. Who is Ahab?
3. Who does Ahab marry?
4. What city does Ahab rebuild?
5. What is the cost of Ahab's construction projects?
6. What does Elijah tell Ahab to expect?
7. Who does God have feed Elijah?
8. Where does Elijah go when the brook dries up?
9. How does the widow continue to feed Elijah and herself?
10. What happens to the widow's son?
11. Can we ask anything from God and expect to receive it?
12. How many years of drought are there?
13. What precondition does God put on ending the drought?
14. Why was it risky for Elijah to return to see Ahab?
15. What was Obadiah's reaction when Elijah tells him to let Ahab know he is coming to see him?
16. What contest does Elijah propose on Mount Carmel to determine who the real God is?
17. How does Elijah trash talk the prophets of Baal?

18. What does Elijah build the altar out of and why?
19. What does Elijah instruct to be poured onto the altar?
20. What does God do when Elijah petitions him?
21. What happens to the prophets of Baal?
22. What does God do after the showdown on Mount Carmel?
23. How many people does God have Elisha anoint?
24. What three events does God make Elisha witness?
25. What does God say will happen after Elisha anoints these people?
26. How many people did not worship Baal?
27. What is Elisha doing when Elijah comes to him?
28. What does Elisha do before going with Elijah?