

Insights From 1 Kings

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Insights From 1 Kings

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

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1 Kings

- When David was old, he had a medical problem that prevented him from getting warm (1 Kings 1:1).
- Two of David's children launched a rebellion and declared themselves to be king (Absalom and Adonijah) (1 Kings 1:5). They both ultimately died because of it.
- All of David's sons (except for Solomon) supported Adonjah's attempt to be king (1 Kings 1:9).
- David had promised Bathsheba that Solomon would reign after him and sit on his throne (1 Kings 1:13).
- Benaiah wanted God to bless Solomon even more than He had blessed David (1 Kings 1:37). In many ways this prayer was granted.
- When Solomon was brought to Gihon to be anointed king, David didn't join them (1 Kings 1:38). David may have been too old to make the journey.
- When Solomon was anointed king, the people rejoiced so greatly that the earth rent with the sound of them (1 Kings 1:40).
- Solomon began reigning over Israel while David was still alive (1 Kings 1:46).
- David rejoiced that he lived long enough to see Solomon become king (1 Kings 1:48).
- David gave God the glory for putting one of his children on the throne of Israel after him (1 Kings 1:48).
- Adonijah was told that his life would be spared as long as he didn't do anything wicked (1 Kings 1:52). He failed that test.

- When David was about to die, he told Solomon to walk in God's ways (1 Kings 2:3). Sadly, Solomon failed to do this. David remained faithful until death, but Solomon didn't.
- The promise that one of David's descendants would always sit on the throne of Israel had a requirement: his children had to walk before God in truth with all their heart and soul (1 Kings 2:4). They didn't do that.
- God wants us to take heed to our way so that we do what's right in His sight (1 Kings 2:4).
- God requires rulers to walk before Him in truth, with all of their heart and all of their soul (1 Kings 2:4).
- When David was dying, he was still angry with Joab for killing Amasa many years earlier. David wanted Joab to be executed for it, but he was unwilling to do it himself. He therefore told Solomon to do it for him after he died (1 Kings 2:5-6). David had a lifelong habit of wanting other people to take care of his problems, and being unwilling to deal with them himself.
- Even though David wanted Joab to be executed for killing Abner and Amasa, he wanted Solomon to find an excuse to execute him (instead of just being honest and putting him to death for the murders he committed) (1 Kings 2:6). It seems David wanted Solomon to hide the real reason why Joab was being put to death (which was foolish).
- When David was dying, he was still angry with Shimei for cursing him. Even though Shimei asked David to forgive him (2 Samuel 19:18-20), David never did (1 Kings 2:8). David bore a grudge against Shimei for the rest of his life.
- Even though David swore an oath that he wouldn't kill Shimei (2 Samuel 19:23), he commanded Solomon to put

him to death (1 Kings 2:9). This broke his promise. If you command someone else to kill your enemy, you're still the one putting them to death. (God held David responsible for Uriah's death even though David didn't personally kill him.)

- David told Solomon to find some excuse to kill Shimei (1 Kings 2:9). It seems David wanted Solomon to hide the real reason why Shimei was being executed.
- When David was dying, his final thoughts were about getting vengeance against his enemies (1 Kings 2:5-10). David could have taken action against Joab and Shimei at any time, but instead he decided to have his son do it for him.
- David reigned over Israel for 40 years (1 Kings 2:11). He was 70 years old when he died.
- Even though Solomon told Adonijah that he would be killed if wickedness was found in him, Adonijah still plotted against Solomon anyway (1 Kings 2:13). This got him killed.
- When Adonijah went to see Bathsheba, he told her that the kingdom of Israel belonged to him (which was a lie) (1 Kings 2:15). Although Adonijah was bitter about not becoming king, he never had a right to the kingdom.
- When Adonijah went to see Bathsheba, he tricked her by asking her to go to Solomon and request that Abishag be given to him as his wife (1 Kings 2:17). Since Abishag had been David's wife, this was an attempt to steal the throne. That means tried to use Bathsheba to overthrow Solomon (who was her own son).
- Solomon treated his mother with great respect (1 Kings

2:19).

- In ancient Israel, one of the ways people affirmed a promise was by asking God to curse them if they didn't carry out their promise (1 Kings 2:23).
- Adonijah was put to death for trying to overthrow Solomon and take the throne from him (1 Kings 2:25).
- The reason Solomon didn't put Abiathar to death (even though he helped Adonijah try to overthrow Solomon) was because Abiathar bore the Ark of the Covenant before David (1 Kings 2:26).
- When Solomon removed Abiathar from being a priest, he was fulfilling the word that God had spoken concerning the house of Eli (1 Kings 2:27).
- There are times when a person's sins have consequences for their descendants (1 Kings 2:27).
- Joab told Benaiah that he would die in the tabernacle at the altar (1 Kings 2:30). This was a terrible thing to do, because his death would pollute the tabernacle and the altar. Joab was forcing Solomon to kill him in a way that would pollute the holy place where God was worshiped, which was wicked.
- The reason Solomon commanded Benaiah to kill Joab was to atone for the innocent blood that Joab had shed (1 Kings 2:31). Under the Mosaic Law, the only way to make atonement for innocent was to put the person who shed it to death (Numbers 35:33).
- At Solomon's command, Benaiah went into the tabernacle and slew Joab (1 Kings 2:34).
- Solomon told Shimei that if he left Jerusalem and passed

over the brook Kidron, he would certainly die (1 Kings 2:37). That was the same brook David crossed over when he fled from Absalom (2 Samuel 15:23), after which Shimei cursed him (2 Samuel 16:5).

- When Shimei heard that two of his servants had fled to Gath, he arose to go get them (1 Kings 2:40). However, under the Mosaic Law, if a servant fled then his master wasn't allowed to go get him. Servants were allowed to leave if they chose (Deuteronomy 23:15-16). This means Shimei had no right to chase them.
- Even though Solomon told Shimei that if he left Jerusalem he would be put to death, Shimei still left Jerusalem anyway (1 Kings 2:41-43). After he did that Solomon told him that he hadn't kept the oath of the Lord, since Shimei had sworn that if he left Jerusalem he would be put to death.
- At Solomon's command, Benaiah killed Shimei (1 Kings 2:46). David told Solomon to have Joab and Shimei killed, and Solomon used Benaiah to put both of them to death.
- Solomon took Pharaoh's daughter as his wife (1 Kings 3:1). This proved to be a terrible decision. She was a pagan and played a role in turning his heart away from God.
- At the beginning of Solomon's reign, he loved God and walked according to His law (1 Kings 3:3). Solomon started well but ended poorly.
- When Solomon went to Gibeon at the beginning of his reign, he offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar that was there (1 Kings 3:4). That very night God appeared to Solomon and asked him to choose what he wanted.

- There are times when God blesses children because of the uprightness of their parents (1 Kings 3:6).
- The reason Solomon asked God for wisdom was so he could be a good king over the Israelites, and could discern between good and evil (1 Kings 3:9).
- It pleases God when we seek wisdom (1 Kings 3:10).
- It pleases God when we seek discernment (1 Kings 3:10).
- It's better to seek wisdom and discernment than to seek riches or a long life (1 Kings 3:11).
- God is able to give people a wise and understanding heart (1 Kings 3:12). If we want to have that kind of heart then we should ask for it.
- God is able to give people great riches (1 Kings 3:13).
- God is able to give people great honor (1 Kings 3:13).
- God is able to extend a person's life (1 Kings 3:14).
- God considered David to be His faithful servant (1 Kings 3:14). Even though David sinned, God still considered him to be faithful. Unlike Solomon, David never worshiped idols, and David repented when God rebuked him.
- Prostitution was openly practiced during the reign of Solomon (1 Kings 3:16). This is in spite of the fact that it was forbidden under the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 19:29).
- Solomon had twelve officers that provided food for him and his household (1 Kings 4:7). Each officer was responsible for supplying food one month of the year. The twelve officers covered all twelve months.
- The population of Israel and Judah during the reign of Solomon was compared to the sand by the sea in

multitude (1 Kings 4:20).

- In the days of Solomon, the people in Israel and Judah ate and drank and were merry (1 Kings 4:20). However, by the end of his reign they were miserable and begged Rehoboam to lighten their load.
- The territory of Solomon reached from the Euphrates river to the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt (1 Kings 4:21). This is *much* larger than modern Israel.
- The daily provisions for Solomon's household included 30 measures of fine flour, 60 measures of meal, 10 fat oxen, 20 oxen out of the pastures, 100 sheep, harts, roebucks, fallow deer, and fatted fowl (1 Kings 4:23). All of that was needed to supply his household for *one day*. (In other words, having 700 wives and 300 concubines is extremely expensive.)
- Solomon had peace on all sides of his kingdom around him (1 Kings 4:24-25). During his reign, Israel and Judah dwelt safely.
- Solomon multiplied horses and chariots for himself (1 Kings 4:26). This was in spite of the fact that the Mosaic Law forbade this (Deuteronomy 17:16).
- Solomon and his household lacked nothing (1 Kings 4:27). This is amazing, given the enormous size of his household.
- God gave Solomon a tremendous amount of wisdom and understanding, just as He promised (1 Kings 4:29).
- God gave Solomon a large heart (1 Kings 4:29).
- Solomon was wiser than all of the men of his era (1 Kings

4:31).

- Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:32). Only a small part of that can be found in the Bible.
- The wisdom and understanding of Solomon included trees, animals, birds, insects, and fish (1 Kings 4:33). This means it included a deep understanding of the natural world.
- The kings of the earth came to hear Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 4:34).
- Hiram was the king of Tyre (1 Kings 5:1). He was also a highly talented metalworker.
- Hiram loved David (1 Kings 5:1).
- The reason David wasn't allowed to build the temple was because of the many wars that he fought (1 Kings 5:3). The temple had to be built during a time of peace.
- God was the one who defeated David's enemies (1 Kings 5:3).
- When Hiram heard that Solomon wanted to build the temple, he rejoiced greatly and blessed God (1 Kings 5:7). It seems that Hiram worshiped the God of Israel.
- Hiram blessed God for giving David a wise son to rule over Israel (1 Kings 5:7).
- Hiram believed the Israelites were a great people (1 Kings 5:7).
- Hiram told Solomon that in return for the timber that Solomon needed to build the temple, what Hiram desired was food for his household (1 Kings 5:9-11). Solomon therefore gave Hiram 20,000 measures of wheat and 20

measures of pure oil each year.

- When Solomon built the temple, he raised a levy of 30,000 people (1 Kings 5:13-14). Each month one third of these people worked, while the other two thirds took care of their personal business at home.
- When Solomon built the temple, he had 70,000 people who carried burdens and 80,000 hewers who worked in the mountains (1 Kings 5:15-16). He also had 3,300 officers who managed those workers.
- Solomon began to build the temple 480 years after the Israelites left Egypt (1 Kings 6:1). The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness, the reign of Saul was 40 years, and the reign of David was 40 years. This means the era of the judges lasted roughly 360 years. (The book of Judges isn't in chronological order. The first half of the book took place at the same time as the second half of the book.)
- The fourth year of Solomon's reign took place 480 years after the Israelites left Egypt (1 Kings 6:1).
- The temple was 60 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high (1 Kings 6:2). This is roughly 90 feet by 30 feet by 45 feet. More than 100,000 people worked on its construction.
- All throughout this book, the temple is called the house of the Lord (1 Kings 6:3). It's repeatedly referred to as a *house*.
- The temple had narrow windows (1 Kings 6:4).
- No noise of a hammer, axe, or iron tool was heard at the temple's construction site. The stones were prepared before they were brought to the site (1 Kings 6:7).

- Even though the temple was built by more than 100,000 Israelites, Solomon was still given the credit for building it (1 Kings 6:9). He's the one who commanded the work to be done and who paid for it.
- God spoke to Solomon about the temple while he was still building it. He told Solomon that if he kept all of His commandments then He would dwell among the Israelites, and wouldn't forsake them (1 Kings 6:11-13). Sadly, Solomon didn't do that.
- The Holy of Holies was 20 cubits in length, width, and high (1 Kings 6:20). This was approximately 30 feet by 30 feet by 30 feet.
- The altar in the temple was overlaid with pure gold (1 Kings 6:20).
- The inside of the temple was overlaid with pure gold (1 Kings 6:21).
- The Holy of Holies was overlaid with pure gold (1 Kings 6:21).
- The altar that was by the Holy of Holies was overlaid with gold (1 Kings 6:22).
- Inside the Holy of Holies were two giant statues of cherubim (1 Kings 6:23-28). They were covered in gold and were 10 cubits high (which was approximately 15 feet). Each statue had two wings, which reached from one wall to the next.
- The inside walls of the temple had carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers (1 Kings 6:29).
- The inside and outside floor of the temple was overlaid with gold (1 Kings 6:30).

- The doors that served as the entrance to the Holy of Holies were made of olive wood (1 Kings 6:31-32). They had carvings of cherubims, palm trees, and open flowers, and were overlaid with gold.
- The two doors of the temple were made of fir wood (1 Kings 6:34-35). Each door of the temple had two leaves, which could be folded. Each door had cherubims, palm trees, and open flowers carved upon them. The carvings were covered with gold.
- The foundation of the temple was laid in the 4th year of Solomon's reign, and the temple was completed in the 11th year of his reign (1 Kings 6:38). It took Solomon 7 years to build the temple.
- It took Solomon 13 years to finish the house that he built for himself (1 Kings 7:1). This means Solomon spent more time building his house than he did building the temple.
- Solomon's house was 100 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high (1 Kings 7:2). This would have been around 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.
- The porch in Solomon's house, where his throne was located, was called the porch of judgment (1 Kings 7:7).
- Solomon made a house for the daughter of Pharaoh (who was his wife) (1 Kings 7:8). Apparently she had her own house and didn't live with Solomon. (Solomon's house was large, but not large enough to house 700 wives and 300 concubines.)
- Hiram's mother was from the tribe of Naphtali. His father was from Tyre (1 Kings 7:14).
- Hiram was filled with wisdom and understanding when it came to working with brass (1 Kings 7:14).

- The reason Solomon sent for Hiram was so Hiram could make brass items for him (1 Kings 7:14). Hiram made all the brass items of the temple.
- Hiram cast two pillars of brass for the temple (1 Kings 7:15). Each pillar that he cast measured 18 cubits high (which was 27 feet), and had a circumference of 12 cubits (which was 18 feet). These were *enormous* pillars, especially for the ancient world. They lasted for hundreds of years, until the temple was destroyed.
- Hiram named the right pillar of the temple "Jachin" (which seems to mean "He shall establish") (1 Kings 7:21). He named the left one "Boaz" (which seems to mean "In Him is strength").
- Hiram made a molten sea of brass for the temple (1 Kings 7:23). It was 10 cubits from one brim to the other (which was around 15 feet). It had a height of 5 cubits (7.5 feet) and a circumference of 30 cubits (45 feet).
- The molten sea stood upon 12 oxen (1 Kings 7:25). Three faced north, three faced south, three faced east, and three faced west. All of the oxen faced outward.
- The molten sea contained 2,000 baths (1 Kings 7:26). A bath was about six gallons, so this would have been around 12,000 gallons.
- All the vessels that Hiram crafted for the temple were made of bright brass (1 Kings 7:45).
- Hiram cast the brass items that he made for the temple in the plain of Jordan, in the clay ground that was between Succoth and Zarthan (1 Kings 7:46).
- The reason Solomon didn't weigh the vessels that were made for the temple is because there were a great many

of them (1 Kings 7:47). Solomon didn't even measure the weight of the brass that Hiram used. It was just too much.

- Solomon made an altar of gold for the temple (1 Kings 7:48).
- Solomon made ten gold candlesticks for the temple (1 Kings 7:49).
- Solomon made gold tongs for the temple (1 Kings 7:49).
- Solomon made gold bowls for the temple (1 Kings 7:50).
- Solomon made gold basins for the temple (1 Kings 7:50).
- Solomon made gold spoons for the temple (1 Kings 7:50).
- Solomon made gold censers for the temple (1 Kings 7:50).
- Solomon made hinges of gold for the doors of the temple (1 Kings 7:50).
- When the temple was finished, Solomon brought into it all the things that David had dedicated to the temple before he died (1 Kings 7:51).
- When the temple was dedicated, the priests and the Levites brought the Ark of the Covenant to the temple (1 Kings 8:4). They also brought the tabernacle, along with all of its holy vessels.
- The number of sheep and oxen that were sacrificed when the temple was dedicated was so large that it couldn't be numbered (1 Kings 8:5).
- When the temple was dedicated, the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies (1 Kings 8:6). It was placed under the wings of the cherubims.
- When this book was written, the Ark of the Covenant was

still in the Holy of Holies (1 Kings 8:8). It seems this book was written before the temple was destroyed.

- When the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the temple, there was nothing inside it except for the two tables of stone that had the Ten Commandments written upon them (1 Kings 8:9). Apparently Aaron's rod and the golden jar of manna had been lost by that point (Hebrews 9:4).
- When the temple was dedicated and the priests left the holy place of the temple, a cloud filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10). This was a cloud of the glory of God.
- God said that He would dwell in thick darkness (1 Kings 8:12).
- When the temple was dedicated, Solomon said that he had built God a house to dwell in (1 Kings 8:13). This is why the temple was repeatedly called a house throughout this book.
- When the temple was dedicated, Solomon said that he had built God a settled place to abide in forever (1 Kings 8:13). It seems Solomon thought the temple would stand forever. He was wrong.
- Solomon gave God the credit for building the temple (1 Kings 8:15).
- There's no one else like God (1 Kings 8:23).
- God keeps the covenants that He makes (1 Kings 8:23).
- God is merciful to those who walk before Him with all of their heart (1 Kings 8:23).
- The construction and completion of the temple fulfilled the promise that God made, that David's son would build

the temple (1 Kings 8:24).

- This universe is far too small to contain God (1 Kings 8:27).
- Solomon expected people to pray while facing toward the temple (1 Kings 8:30). Since that's where God put His presence, that meant people would be praying while facing God.
- Heaven is the place where God dwells (1 Kings 8:30).
- It's not wrong to pray that God would condemn the wicked and justify the righteous (1 Kings 8:32).
- It's not wrong to pray that God would repay the wicked for the evil they've done (1 Kings 8:32).
- It's not wrong to pray that God would reward the righteous for the good they've done (1 Kings 8:32).
- Repentance includes turning to God, confessing His name, praying, and making supplication to Him (1 Kings 8:33).
- Solomon knew that if the Israelites sinned, God would remove them from the promised land (1 Kings 8:34). God told this to the Israelites during the days of Moses (Deuteronomy 4:25-26).
- It seems Solomon expected the temple to remain standing even if God removed the Israelites from the promised land (1 Kings 8:34). Solomon was wrong.
- There are times when God punishes nations for their sin by withholding rain (1 Kings 8:35).
- There are times when God punishes nations for their sin by afflicting them (1 Kings 8:35).

- Repentance includes turning away from sin (1 Kings 8:35). Those who repent *must* turn away from their sin! (There's no such thing as a true repentance that prays "God, please forgive me for murdering all those people. However, I'm going to keep murdering people forever because I enjoy it." That's not repentance! All throughout the Bible we're told that repentance involves turning away from sin.)
- God's ways are good (1 Kings 8:36).
- We must walk in God's ways (1 Kings 8:36).
- God can teach us His ways (1 Kings 8:36).
- We should pray that God would teach us His ways (1 Kings 8:36).
- God is able to send rain (1 Kings 8:36).
- There are times when God punishes nations for their sins by sending famine upon them (1 Kings 8:37).
- There are times when God punishes nations for their sins by sending disease upon them (1 Kings 8:37).
- There are times when God punishes nations for their sins by sending insects to devour their crops (1 Kings 8:37).
- There are times when God punishes nations for their sins by sending their enemies upon them (1 Kings 8:37).
- God knows our hearts (1 Kings 8:39).
- Solomon wanted God to grant the prayers of foreigners so that all the people of the earth would know His name and would fear Him (1 Kings 8:43).
- There's no one who doesn't sin (1 Kings 8:46).

- Repentance includes confessing your sin to God (1 Kings 8:47).
- Repentance includes confessing that sin is wicked (1 Kings 8:47).
- God chose the city of Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:48). He chose that city as the place where He put His name.
- God can cause one group of people to have compassion on another group of people (1 Kings 8:50). The Lord is sovereign over people's hearts.
- The Israelites are God's inheritance (1 Kings 8:51).
- When the temple was dedicated, Solomon said that God had kept all of the good promises that He made by the hand of Moses (1 Kings 8:56).
- None of the words of God fail. All of them come to pass (1 Kings 8:56).
- God is able to incline people's hearts toward Him (1 Kings 8:58). We should pray for this.
- God is able to change people's hearts so that they walk in all of His ways (1 Kings 8:58). The way to overcome sin is by praying that God would change our heart so that we walk in all of His ways.
- It's good to pray that God would always be with us (1 Kings 8:59).
- It's good to pray that God would always meet our needs (1 Kings 8:59).
- God is the only God. There is no one else (1 Kings 8:60).
- All of the people of the world need to know that the Lord is God (1 Kings 8:60).

- The fact that God is with Israel is a testimony to the world that the Lord is the true God, and there are no other gods (1 Kings 8:60).
- When Solomon held a feast on the day that temple was dedicated, the Israelites celebrated from Hamath to the river of Egypt (1 Kings 8:65). This seems to mean from one end of Israel to the other.
- The feast that Solomon held when the temple was dedicated lasted for 14 days (1 Kings 8:65).
- Solomon finished everything that he wanted to do (1 Kings 9:1). That's when God appeared to him a second time.
- We must walk before God with integrity of heart (1 Kings 9:4).
- We must do everything God has commanded us to do (1 Kings 9:4).
- God considered David to be upright (1 Kings 9:4). Although David sinned, he repented when God rebuked him (which Solomon failed to do).
- When God appeared to Solomon the second time, He promised Solomon that if he kept all of His commandments then He would establish the throne of his kingdom upon Israel forever (1 Kings 9:5). However, Solomon didn't do that.
- When God appeared to Solomon the second time, He told Solomon that there would be consequences if he or his children turned away from following Him and served other gods (1 Kings 9:6). Those consequences came to pass. Israel was divided into two kingdoms, and the people were ultimately exiled from the land.

- We must not serve other gods (1 Kings 9:6).
- God warned Solomon in advance that if he or his descendants turned away from Him and served other gods then He would cut Israel out of the promised land (1 Kings 9:7). That's exactly what happened.
- God warned Solomon in advance that if he or his descendants turned away from Him and served other gods then He would cast the temple out of His sight (1 Kings 9:7). That also came to pass. God does exactly what He says He will do.
- When Hiram saw the 20 cities that Solomon gave him, he wasn't pleased with them (1 Kings 9:12). It seems these cities were near Hiram's territory, but they were in a rocky and mountainous area. What Hiram wanted was food for his household, and food couldn't grow in that region. This means the cities were useless to him.
- After Hiram gave Solomon everything he desired, Solomon gave him a worthless gift in return that didn't meet his needs (1 Kings 9:12). There are times when wealthy people give worthless gifts to those who've helped them.
- Hiram called land that Solomon gave to him the land of "Cabul" (1 Kings 9:13). It seems this means "displeasing".
- Hiram sent 120 talents of gold to Solomon (1 Kings 9:14). If each talent weighed 75 pounds then this would have been 9,000 pounds of gold, which would be worth around \$750 million.
- Solomon built the temple (1 Kings 9:15).
- Solomon built a house for himself (1 Kings 9:15).

- Solomon built Millo (1 Kings 9:15).
- Solomon built the wall around Jerusalem (1 Kings 9:15).
- Solomon built Hazor (1 Kings 9:15).
- Solomon built Megiddo (1 Kings 9:15).
- Solomon built Gezer (1 Kings 9:15).
- During Solomon's reign, Pharaoh conquered Gezer and gave the city to his daughter (who was Solomon's wife) as a gift (1 Kings 9:16). Solomon then rebuilt that city.
- Solomon built Bethhoron the nether (1 Kings 9:17). It seems there were two towns with this name, and Solomon built the lower one.
- Solomon built Baalath (1 Kings 9:18).
- Solomon built Tadmor (1 Kings 9:18).
- Solomon built store cities (1 Kings 9:19).
- Solomon built cities for his chariots and horsemen (1 Kings 9:19). Under the Mosaic law, kings were forbidden from amassing horses (Deuteronomy 17:16), but Solomon did it anyway.
- Solomon built everything that he desired in Jerusalem and Lebanon (1 Kings 9:19).
- During the reign of Solomon there were still Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites in the promised land (1 Kings 9:20-21). Although God commanded Israel to destroy those wicked nations (Deuteronomy 20:17), they never did. Instead Solomon turned them into slaves.
- Solomon didn't turn any of the Israelites into slaves (1 Kings 9:22).

- There were 550 chief officers over Solomon's construction projects (1 Kings 9:23).
- The house that Solomon built for Pharaoh's daughter (who was his wife) wasn't located in Jerusalem (1 Kings 9:24). After her house was built, she left Jerusalem and moved into it.
- Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to God three times a year (1 Kings 9:25). It seems these were the three yearly festivals that were in the Mosaic Law (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles).
- Solomon's ships brought him 420 talents of gold from Ophir (1 Kings 9:28). If each talent weighed 75 pounds then this would have been 31,500 pounds of gold, which would be worth around \$2.5 billion.
- The reason the queen of Sheba made a trip to see Solomon was so she could test him by asking him hard questions (1 Kings 10:1).
- When the queen of Sheba went to Jerusalem to see Solomon, she came with a large quantity of gold, spices, and precious stones (1 Kings 10:2).
- Solomon was able to answer all of the hard questions the queen of Sheba asked (1 Kings 10:3).
- When the queen of Sheba saw Solomon, and his wisdom and wealth, there was no spirit left in her (1 Kings 10:5-7). She told Solomon that he was even greater than she had heard.
- It's a blessing to stand before a wise king and hear his wisdom (1 Kings 10:8).
- The queen of Sheba told Solomon that the reason God

set him on the throne of Israel was because He loved Israel forever (1 Kings 10:9). The queen recognized that God would always love Israel.

- The queen of Sheba said that since God loved Israel, He set a wise king on the throne to carry out judgment and justice (1 Kings 10:9). It's a blessing when the ruler of a nation is wise, and carries out righteous judgment.
- The queen of Sheba gave Solomon 120 talents of gold (1 Kings 10:10). If each talent weighed 75 pounds then this would have been 9,000 pounds of gold, which would be worth around \$750 million.
- The quantity of spices the queen of Sheba gave to Solomon was most spices he ever received (1 Kings 10:10).
- Solomon used almug trees from Ophir to make harps (1 Kings 10:12).
- There was a single year in which Solomon received 666 talents of gold (1 Kings 10:14). If each talent weighed 75 pounds then this would have been about 50,000 pounds, which would be worth \$4 billion. (Incidentally, this seems to be the only verse in the Old Testament that refers to 666 – the mark of the beast.)
- Solomon obtained income from merchants, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country (1 Kings 10:15).
- Solomon made 200 targets (small shields) of beaten gold (1 Kings 10:16). Each one contained 600 shekels of gold, which means they weighed around 19 pounds. Each shield would have been worth around \$1.5 million.
- Solomon made 300 shields out of beaten gold (1 Kings

10:17). Each one weighed around 100 shekels, which was around 3 pounds. Each one would have been worth \$250,000.

- Solomon's throne was made out of ivory and overlaid with the best gold (1 Kings 10:18-20). It had six steps and twelve lions (two on each step). There was nothing like it in any other kingdom.
- All of Solomon's drinking vessels were made out of gold (1 Kings 10:21). None of them were made out of silver.
- In the days of Solomon, silver wasn't considered to be precious (1 Kings 10:21).
- Every three years a fleet of ships brought Solomon gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks (1 Kings 10:22).
- Solomon's wealth and wisdom was greater than all the other kings who reigned during his lifetime (1 Kings 10:23).
- People from all over the earth sought to hear Solomon's wisdom, which God put into his heart (1 Kings 10:24).
- Those who visited Solomon brought him vessels of silver and gold, as well as garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules (1 Kings 10:25).
- Solomon accumulated 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, even though the Mosaic Law forbade it (1 Kings 10:26). He put his chariots in his chariot cities but kept some with him in Jerusalem.
- Solomon made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones (1 Kings 10:27). That may be why it had no value during his reign.
- Solomon made cedar trees as common in Jerusalem as

sycamore trees (1 Kings 10:27).

- Solomon purchased chariots and horses from Egypt and then sold them to other nations (1 Kings 10:29). This may have been a major source of income for him. However, the Mosaic Law explicitly forbade going to Egypt to buy horses (Deuteronomy 17:16).
- Solomon loved many pagan women (1 Kings 11:1-2). He married Moabite women, Ammonite women, Edomite women, Zidonian women, and Hittite women. Even though God forbade the Israelites from taking women from those pagan nations as their wives, Solomon did it anyway.
- God told the Israelites that if they took women from pagan nations to be their wives, then those women would turn their heart to worship the gods of those nations (1 Kings 10:2). That's exactly what happened to Solomon.
- God doesn't want His people to marry women who will turn their heart away from Him (1 Kings 10:2).
- Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 10:3). This was in spite of the fact the Mosaic Law forbade kings from marrying a large number of wives *specifically so those wives wouldn't turn the king's heart away from God* (Deuteronomy 17:17). God warned Solomon in His law, but Solomon ignored it.
- The reason Solomon turned away from God, in spite of his great wisdom, was because of his wives. He married many pagan women (in violation of the Mosaic Law), and they corrupted him (1 Kings 10:3).
- When Solomon was old, he worshiped the same false

gods that his wives worshiped (1 Kings 10:5-8). He even built high places for them.

- Even though God appeared to Solomon twice, Solomon still turned away from Him (1 Kings 10:9).
- God told Solomon that since he hadn't kept His covenant, God would take the kingdom away from him and give it to Solomon's servant (1 Kings 10:11). That's why God gave 10 of the tribes of Israel to Jeroboam, and left Solomon's son Rehoboam with just two (Judah and Benjamin).
- God holds rulers accountable for their actions (1 Kings 10:11).
- Sin can have consequences that lasts for generations and goes far beyond the person who sinned (1 Kings 10:11).
- The reason God wasn't going to take the kingdom away from Solomon during his lifetime was for the sake of David (1 Kings 10:12).
- There are times when God blesses someone because of the righteousness of their ancestor (1 Kings 10:12).
- After Solomon worshiped false gods, God stirred up adversaries against him (1 Kings 10:14, 23). God is able to raise up adversaries against people.
- During the reign of David, Joab killed all the males in Edom (1 Kings 10:15).
- God is the one who took 10 of the tribes of Israel and gave them to Jeroboam (1 Kings 10:31).
- The city of Jerusalem is repeatedly described as the city where God chose to put His name (1 Kings 10:36).
- God told Jeroboam that if he listened to everything God

commanded him then He would be with him and would build him a sure house (1 Kings 10:38). Sadly, Jeroboam didn't do that.

- God said that although He was giving 10 tribes of Israel to Jeroboam, one day He would stop afflicting the house of David and it would once again reign over all of Israel (1 Kings 10:39). This may be referring to the millennium.
- When God said that He was going to give Jeroboam 10 of the tribes of Israel, Solomon didn't repent. Instead he tried to kill Jeroboam (1 Kings 10:40). Although David repented when God confronted him with his sin, Solomon didn't.
- Solomon reigned over Israel for 40 years (1 Kings 10:42). Saul, David, and Solomon all reigned for the same length of time.
- The Israelites suffered under Solomon's reign (1 Kings 12:4). Although there was a period when they were filled with joy, things got worse the longer he reigned. The Israelites told Rehoboam that Solomon forced them to do grievous service and put a heavy yoke upon them.
- When the Israelites told Rehoboam that they would serve him if he lightened their oppression, he didn't immediately say yes. Instead he said he needed three days to think about it (1 Kings 12:5). This shouldn't have been a difficult decision that required days of careful pondering.
- The old men who served Solomon told Rehoboam that if he chose to help the Israelites then they would be his servants forever (1 Kings 12:7). That was great advice. It's not clear if any king of Israel or Judah ever followed it.

- The young men who grew up with Rehoboam knew that the Israelites were suffering. However, they wanted to make them suffer even more (1 Kings 12:11). That's what Israel's leadership was like in those days.
- Rehoboam didn't care that the Israelites were suffering. He wanted to make their lives even worse, and he told them that (1 Kings 12:14). This went poorly for him.
- The reason Rehoboam didn't listen to the Israelites was because of God (1 Kings 12:15). The Lord made sure that he didn't listen so He could take 10 tribes away from him and give them to Jeroboam. God is sovereign over the decisions that rulers make.
- When the Israelites saw that Rehoboam wasn't going to make their lives easier, they rebelled against him (1 Kings 12:16-17). Rehoboam only reigned over Judah and Benjamin. He didn't reign over the other 10 tribes, which is exactly what God promised to Jeroboam.
- When Rehoboam sent Adoram (who was over the tribute) to the Israelites, they stoned him with stones (1 Kings 12:18). Rehoboam then made haste to flee to Jerusalem.
- Rehoboam was willing to go to war to force the Israelites to serve him (1 Kings 12:21).
- When God told Rehoboam to not wage war against Israel, he listened and stopped the war (1 Kings 12:24). However, that peace didn't last long.
- Even though God promised to make a sure house for Jeroboam if he was faithful to walk in all of His ways, Jeroboam didn't believe it (1 Kings 12:26). He lacked faith. In spite of God's promise, he believed that if the Israelites

sacrificed to God in Jerusalem then their heart would turn back to Rehoboam.

- Jeroboam considered the worship of God to be a threat to his reign (1 Kings 12:27-28). That's why he made the two golden calves and told the Israelites to worship them.
- Jeroboam put one of the golden calves in Bethel and the other in Dan (1 Kings 12:29).
- When Jeroboam led Israel into sin by making the golden calves, God sent someone out of Judah to rebuke him (1 Kings 13:1). David repented when God rebuked him, but Jeroboam didn't.
- God called Josiah by name hundreds of years before he was born (1 Kings 13:2).
- The man of God who came out of Judah told Jeroboam that one day Josiah would take the bones of his pagan high priests and burn them on the altar at Bethel (1 Kings 13:2). That's exactly what happened (2 Kings 23:16).
- When Jeroboam stretched out his hand against the man of God to have him arrested, Jeroboam's hand dried up so that he couldn't pull it in again to him (1 Kings 13:4). It's never a good idea to persecute God's prophets. Judgment may not always happen instantly, but it will surely come to those who don't repent.
- Although Jeroboam knew he had been given a message from God, and that God had great power, he didn't repent (1 Kings 13:6). Instead he wanted God to heal his hand – and then he went right back to his idolatry. Jeroboam personally experienced God's judgment and mercy and yet he didn't repent.
- It seems the reason the old prophet at Bethel was able to

catch up to the man of God was because the man of God took the time to stop under an oak (1 Kings 13:14). That decision led directly to his death.

- The old prophet at Bethel deliberately tempted the man of God to sin, by inviting him to do something the prophet knew God had forbidden him from doing (1 Kings 13:15). The old prophet was a wicked and vile man.
- The old prophet at Bethel lied to the man of God, and told him that an angel had spoken to him. He said the angel told him that God had changed his mind, and the man of God was allowed to go home with him and eat and drink (1 Kings 13:18). That was a deliberate lie.
- There are times when people lie and claim that they were visited by angels, when no such thing happened (1 Kings 13:18). There are also times when people claim that God spoke to them when He didn't.
- The old prophet at Bethel used the name of God to tell a lie (1 Kings 13:18). As a direct result of that lie, a person who was sincerely trying to do the right thing was killed.
- The reason the man of God ate bread and drank water in the prophet's house, even though God had forbidden it, was because he decided to listen to the word of the old prophet at Bethel instead of listening to what God Himself had told him (1 Kings 13:19). That was a terrible decision.
- When the man of God did what He commanded him not to do, God used the person who tempted him to sin to condemn him (1 Kings 13:20). The man of God should have done what God told him, and not believed the words of someone else who claimed that God gave him a different message.

- If someone claims to have a message from God that's different from what we know God has said, we shouldn't believe them (1 Kings 13:21). Any message that claims to be from God or an angel, but which violates what He's commanded us to do, isn't from God.
- God held the man of God accountable for disobeying Him, even though he was deceived by a lie and didn't intend to disobey Him (1 Kings 13:21). The Lord holds us accountable for our sins, even if the reason we sinned was because we were deceived, and even if we didn't intend to do something evil. God doesn't ignore people's sin on the grounds that they were deceived or had good intentions.
- There are times when God uses wicked people to condemn those who sin (1 Kings 13:21).
- There are times when God speaks through wicked people (1 Kings 13:21).
- There are times when God speaks through liars (1 Kings 13:21).
- In ancient Israel it was a curse to not be buried in the sepulcher of your fathers (1 Kings 13:22).
- God sent a message to Jeroboam by the man of God, which said that He was going to judge Jeroboam because he disobeyed Him. When that very same man of God also disobeyed Him, the Lord judged him as well (1 Kings 13:22).
- When the man of God left the house of the old prophet at Bethel, a lion killed him (1 Kings 13:24). The wages of sin is death.
- The old prophet at Bethel took no responsibility for the

fact that he was the one who tempted the man of God to sin (1 Kings 13:26). There's no evidence that he showed any remorse for what he did.

- The old prophet at Bethel mentioned the disobedience of the man of God. However, he had nothing to say about his own wickedness (1 Kings 13:26). He was quick to point out the sins of others, but he was unwilling to see his own sin.
- The carcass of the man of God wasn't buried in the sepulcher of his fathers. Instead it was buried at Bethel (1 Kings 13:30). This was exactly what God said would happen.
- It seems the old prophet at Bethel may have deliberately gotten the man of God killed so that he could be buried beside him, in order to keep his bones from being burned on the altar by Josiah (1 Kings 13:31, 2 Kings 23:18). It's very wicked to kill a man of God just so no one will disturb your bones hundreds of years later.
- Even though God rebuked Jeroboam for his sin and provided a sign to prove that His word would surely come to pass, Jeroboam didn't repent (1 Kings 13:33).
- When Jeroboam's son Abijah fell sick, Jeroboam sent his wife to Ahijah (the prophet who told him that he would be king) (1 Kings 14:2).
- Jeroboam had his wife disguise herself so she wouldn't be identified, and yet he was sending her to someone who was blind (1 Kings 14:4).
- Jeroboam believed his wife's disguise would fool a prophet of God (1 Kings 14:4-5). He was wrong. God told Ahijah why the wife of Jeroboam was coming, and what

she was going to do, before she even arrived.

- Jeroboam did more evil than all those who came before him (1 Kings 14:9). This means he was even worse than Saul. Although Saul was very wicked, he never made an idol and then commanded the entire nation to worship it. Saul was guilty of genocide, but he wasn't guilty of leading millions of people away from God and into idolatry.
- Making idols provokes God to anger (1 Kings 14:9).
- Those who make idols are casting God behind their back (1 Kings 14:9).
- God was going to punish the sin of Jeroboam by utterly destroying his entire house, until all of his descendants were dead and there were none left (1 Kings 14:10). That's how angry He was at Jeroboam's sin (which led *millions* of people away from Him).
- God said that the descendants of Jeroboam who died in the city would be eaten by dogs, and those who died in the field would be eaten by birds (1 Kings 14:11). This is the first time in this book that God said He was going to utterly annihilate an entire family line and feed their corpses to animals, but it's not the last. Two other families in this book were going to get that same punishment (Baasha and Ahab), and for the same reason (idolatry). God *really* hates idolatry, and He especially hates those who turn entire nations away from Him and teach them to worship idols.
- Jeroboam's son Abijah was the only descendant who would be buried (1 Kings 14:13). This is because there was something good in him toward God. It seems Abijah was the only good person in the house of Jeroboam.

- During the reign of Jeroboam (who was the very *first* king of the 10 tribes of Israel), God said that He was going to remove the Israelites from the promised land and scatter them among the nations (1 Kings 14:15). The Lord warned Israel hundreds of years before it happened, and yet they didn't repent.
- When Abijah died he was buried, just as God said (1 Kings 14:18).
- Rehoboam began reigning when he was 41 years old (1 Kings 14:21). This means he was one year old when Solomon became king. He was an eyewitness to Solomon's entire reign.
- Sin can provoke God to jealousy (1 Kings 14:22). This is especially true of idolatry.
- In the 5th year of the reign of Rehoboam, Shishak (the king of Egypt) took away the treasures of the temple, and the treasures of the king's house (1 Kings 14:26). Only 5 years passed between Solomon's death and the looting of the temple. This means the temple remained in its original condition for only 41 years.
- When Shishak took away the shields of gold that Solomon had made, Rehoboam replaced them with bronze shields (1 Kings 14:27). Rehoboam did his best to keep up appearances and make himself look good, when he should have been repenting and seeking God.
- Even though God said that Israel and Judah weren't to fight one another, they didn't obey. Rehoboam and Jeroboam waged war against one another for their entire lives (1 Kings 14:30).
- The fact that Rehoboam's mother was an Ammonite is

mentioned twice in this chapter (1 Kings 14:31). It may be that she was the one who influenced Rehoboam to rebel against God and worship idols.

- Because David did that which was right in the eyes of God, He showed mercy to his descendants (1 Kings 15:5).
- The text says that David didn't turn aside from anything God commanded him all the days of his life, with the exception of committing adultery with Bathsheba and murdering Uriah (1 Kings 15:5). Since his sin of taking the census isn't included (2 Samuel 24:10), this may be referring to instances where David intentionally and deliberately sinned.
- Asa removed the idols that his forefathers had made (Abijam, Rehoboam, and Solomon) (1 Kings 15:12).
- Asa removed his grandmother Maachah from being queen because she made an idol in a grove (1 Kings 15:13). He was very serious about not tolerating idolatry.
- Asa didn't remove the high places (1 Kings 15:14). Under the Mosaic Law the Israelites were commanded to go to the temple to offer sacrifices (Leviticus 17:8-9). However, they disobeyed this and offered sacrifices in high places instead. Even the righteous kings were unwilling to obey God in this area.
- When Baasha besieged Asa, Asa didn't inquire of the Lord. He didn't cry out to God and ask Him to save them, and he didn't rely on God for victory. Instead he looted the temple and used the funds to pay another nation to help him (1 Kings 15:18-21). Asa could have honored God by looking to Him for help, but he chose to rob God instead.

- When Asa was old, he was diseased in his feet (1 Kings 15:23). Sadly, even then he refused to inquire of God (2 Chronicles 16:12). He's another king who started out well and ended badly.
- When Baasha killed the entire house of Jeroboam, he didn't leave any survivors (1 Kings 15:29). This fulfilled the word of God, which said that the entire house of Jeroboam would be killed.
- Even when the Israelites were being idolatrous and wicked, God still said that they were His people (1 Kings 16:2).
- God said that because of Baasha's sins, He was going to make the house of Baasha like the house of Jeroboam (1 Kings 16:3-4). The Lord was going to kill his entire house until there were no survivors. He said that the descendants of Baasha who died in the city would be eaten by dogs, and the descendants who died in the fields would be eaten by the birds of the air. This is the second family in this book that God cursed in this manner (and it's not the last). All three families were cursed this way for the same reason (idolatry).
- Although Baasha killed the house of Jeroboam, he was no different from them. (1 Kings 16:7) He committed the same sins (the idolatry of the golden calves) and got the same curse.
- It angers God when those who carry out justice against the wicked then commit the very same sins as the people they just judged (1 Kings 16:7).
- As soon as Zimri sat on his throne, he killed the entire house of Baasha (1 Kings 16:11). This fulfilled God's curse against that family.

- Zimri reigned over Israel for 7 days (1 Kings 16:15). This is because when Zimri saw that Omri and the Israelites had taken the city of Tirzah, he set the king's house on fire while he was inside it (1 Kings 16:18). In other words, he committed suicide.
- Omri did worse evil than all the kings of Israel who came before him (1 Kings 16:25). It seems he was even worse than Jeroboam.
- Ahab (son of Omri) did more evil than all those who came before him (1 Kings 16:30). The kings of Israel just kept getting worse.
- Ahab worshiped Baal (1 Kings 16:31). It seems his father Omri did as well (Micah 6:16), but Ahab took it to a new level. Ahab built a temple of Baal in Samaria (1 Kings 16:32). He did more to provoke to anger God than all the kings of Israel that came before him (1 Kings 16:33).
- When Hiel rebuilt Jericho and laid its foundation he sacrificed Abiram, his oldest son. When he set up the city gates he sacrificed Segub, his youngest son (1 Kings 16:34). This fulfilled the curse that God, through Joshua, placed upon the man who rebuilt Jericho more than 400 years earlier. The word of God always comes to pass. (All Hiel had to do to avoid that curse was *not rebuild Jericho*, like everyone else had done for four centuries.)
- Elijah told Ahab that there wouldn't even be any dew except by Elijah's word (1 Kings 17:1).
- God told Elijah that He had commanded the ravens to feed him by the brook Cherith (1 Kings 17:4). That's exactly what happened. They brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening (1 Kings 17:6).

- It seems that God didn't tell Elijah what to do next until the brook Cherith dried up (1 Kings 17:8).
- When there was a long drought in Israel, God supplied Elijah's needs (1 Kings 17:9).
- When Elijah told the widow at Zarephath that God said her supplies wouldn't run out until He sent rain, she believed him (1 Kings 17:15). God kept His word, and her supplies didn't run out (1 Kings 17:16).
- When someone dies, their soul leaves their body (1 Kings 17:21).
- When Elijah prayed that the soul of the widow's son would come back into his body, God heard his voice and the child revived (1 Kings 17:22). Elijah is one of the only people in the Old Testament who God used to raise the dead. (The other was Elisha, Elijah's successor, who asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.)
- The miracle that convinced the widow at Zarephath that Elijah was a man of God, and that Elijah spoke the words of God, wasn't the miracle of the food. It was raising her son from the dead (1 Kings 17:24).
- The drought that took place in Israel during the days of Elijah lasted for three years (1 Kings 18:1). It's not clear how long Elijah was at the brook before it dried up and God sent him to the widow at Zarephath, but he may have spent a year or two living with her. (Keep in mind that both Elijah and the widow were unmarried, and yet lived in the same house together with her young son.)
- God was the one who decided how long the drought upon Israel would last (1 Kings 18:1).
- Even though the Israelites hadn't repented, God still

decided to end the drought that He sent upon Israel (1 Kings 18:1).

- God is in control of the rain (1 Kings 18:1).
- Jezebel killed God's prophets (1 Kings 18:4).
- When Jezebel killed God's prophets, Obadiah took 100 prophets and hid them in two caves, and supplied them with bread and water (1 Kings 18:4). It's not wrong for God's followers to hide during times of persecution.
- Elijah didn't go to Ahab. Instead Elijah told Obadiah to tell Ahab to come to him (1 Kings 18:8).
- When Elijah told Obadiah to tell Ahab where he was, Obadiah got upset (1 Kings 18:9). He thought Elijah was trying to kill him, because he believed there was no way God would ever allow Ahab to find Elijah. (He was wrong.)
- Obadiah told Elijah there was no nation where Ahab hadn't searched for him (1 Kings 18:10). Ahab even made nations swear that Elijah wasn't living in their midst.
- The prophets of Baal ate at Jezebel's table (1 Kings 18:19).
- When Elijah met Ahab after three years of drought, Ahab didn't arrest him or kill him (1 Kings 18:20). Instead Ahab did everything Elijah told him to do (which is a miracle in and of itself). When Elijah told Ahab to gather all of Israel to mount Carmel, along with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves, Ahab obeyed.
- When Elijah told Israel that if the Lord was God then they should follow Him, but if Baal was God then follow him, they didn't say anything (1 Kings 18:21). The Israelites were unwilling to say that the Lord was God. They didn't

believe it, in spite of all that God had done for them throughout history. Not a single person spoke up.

- At mount Carmel, Elijah told the Israelites that he was the only prophet of God left (1 Kings 18:22). Although Elijah apparently believed this, it seems this wasn't actually true.
- At mount Carmel, when Elijah said that whichever deity answered their prayers by sending fire to consume their sacrifices was the true God, all the people said that he had spoken well (1 Kings 18:24). It's amazing that instead of arresting Elijah, everyone agreed to put the deities that they worshiped to the test.
- At mount Carmel, when the prophets of Baal cried out from morning until noon but got no answer, Elijah mocked them (1 Kings 18:27). It's not a sin to mock idolatry. It really is foolish – and God points that out throughout His word (Isaiah 44:15-19).
- At mount Carmel, the prophets of Baal cut themselves until blood gushed out of them (1 Kings 18:28). Nothing they did made any difference. They cried out but got no answer (because their god didn't exist).
- At mount Carmel, Elijah prepared his offering at the time of the evening sacrifice (1 Kings 18:30).
- At mount Carmel there was already an altar to the Lord. However, it had become broken down (just like Israel's relationship with God) (1 Kings 18:30).
- In the middle of the story of Elijah at mount Carmel, the text takes the time to remind people that God changed Jacob's name to Israel (1 Kings 18:31).
- At mount Carmel, Elijah used 12 stones to build an altar in

the name of the Lord (1 Kings 18:32). Each stone symbolized one of the tribes of Israel.

- At mount Carmel, before Elijah called upon the Lord, he saturated the sacrifice, the wood, and the altar with a large amount of water (1 Kings 18:34). He did this while the nation was in a drought that had lasted for three years.
- At mount Carmel, Elijah prayed that Israel would know on that day that the Lord was God in Israel (1 Kings 18:36-37). Elijah wanted God to reveal Himself so that everyone knew He was the Lord.
- Elijah wanted God to turn the hearts of the Israelites away from idols and back to Him (1 Kings 18:37). That prayer wasn't granted. Israel never repented, and remained idolatrous until the time of the exile.
- At mount Carmel, when the fire of the Lord fell, it consumed the burnt sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and the water that was in the trench (1 Kings 18:38). Even though Israel witnessed this astonishing miracle, the nation never turned from its idolatry.
- At mount Carmel, when the fire of the Lord fell, the Israelites fell on their faces and said that the Lord was God (1 Kings 18:39). Yet they never destroyed the golden calves or turned from their idolatry.
- At mount Carmel, Elijah brought the prophets of Baal to the brook Kidron and killed them (1 Kings 18:40). However, Elijah didn't kill Ahab (1 Kings 18:41).
- When the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, he ran so fast that he beat Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel (even though Ahab was riding in a chariot) (1 Kings 18:46).

- When the rain came after three years of drought, Elijah went to Jezreel (1 Kings 18:46). If the reason he ran to Jezreel was because he was hoping the miracle on mount Carmel would change Israel, he was disappointed.
- It seems Ahab was an eyewitness to the things Elijah did on mount Carmel (1 Kings 19:1). This means Ahab saw the prophets of Baal receive no answer, and also saw the Lord God of Israel consumed Elijah's sacrifice with fire. Yet Ahab didn't repent. Ahab was given clear and convincing proof that Baal was a false god and the God of Israel was the true God, but he didn't turn from his idolatry.
- Ahab told Jezebel that no one answered the prophets of Baal, but the Lord God of Israel consumed Elijah's sacrifice with fire (1 Kings 19:1). Yet Jezebel didn't repent either.
- When Elijah learned that Jezebel was going to kill him, he arose and fled for his life (1 Kings 19:3). It's not a sin to flee from persecution.
- After Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal on mount Carmel, nothing changed. Israel didn't leave its idolatry, Ahab remained in power, Jezebel tried to kill him, and Elijah had to flee into the wilderness. Elijah was so upset that he asked God to kill him (1 Kings 19:4).
- There was a time when Elijah gave up (1 Kings 19:4). In that dark hour God showed mercy to him and helped him.
- Although there are several people in the Bible who prayed that God would kill them (such as Moses and Elijah), God didn't kill any of them (1 Kings 19:4).

- There was a time when God sent an angel to feed Elijah (1 Kings 19:5). Apparently some angels know how to cook.
- God took care of Elijah when he was in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:5).
- When Elijah was in the wilderness, the angel of the Lord told him that he needed to eat because the journey was too great for him (1 Kings 19:7).
- When Elijah ate the two meals that the angel of the Lord provided to him, those meals gave him enough strength to travel all the way to mount Horeb without eating anything else (1 Kings 19:8).
- Just like Moses, Elijah went for 40 days without eating anything (1 Kings 19:8).
- Just like Moses, Elijah went to mount Horeb. It took him 40 days to get there (1 Kings 19:8).
- Horeb was called the mount of God (1 Kings 19:8)
- Elijah knew where mount Horeb was located (1 Kings 19:8). Today no one knows where it is.
- Just like Moses, God spoke to Elijah at mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:9).
- When Elijah was in a cave at mount Horeb, God asked him what he was doing there (1 Kings 19:9). It seems God wasn't the one who told Elijah to go to mount Horeb.
- When Elijah was in a cave at mount Horeb, first there was a strong wind, then an earthquake, and then a fire. However, God didn't speak to Elijah through any of them (1 Kings 19:12).
- When Elijah was at mount Horeb, God spoke to him in a

still small voice (1 Kings 19:12). It should be noted that this happened *exactly one time*. It wasn't a frequent occurrence and it wasn't how God usually spoke to people. However, it was how God spoke to Elijah when he was so upset he wanted to die.

- While Elijah was at mount Horeb, God asked him twice what he was doing there (1 Kings 19:13). Elijah gave the same answer twice.
- When Elijah was at mount Horeb, God told him to anoint Hazael as king over Syria (1 Kings 19:15). God then used Hazael to begin Israel's destruction (2 Kings 10:32), just as He said He would do. However, it seems that Elisha is the one who actually told Hazael that he would be king (2 Kings 8:13). Since Elisha was Elijah's successor, perhaps Elijah anointed him through Elisha.
- When Elijah was at mount Horeb, God told him to anoint Jehu as king over Israel (1 Kings 19:16). God then used Jehu to wipe out Ahab's entire family.
- When Elijah was at mount Horeb, God told him to anoint Elisha as a prophet, to serve as Elijah's successor (1 Kings 19:16).
- When Elijah was at mount Horeb, God told him that those who escaped the sword of Jehu would be killed by Elisha (1 Kings 19:17). However, it seems that no one escaped the sword of Jehu.
- When Elijah claimed that he was the only one left who served God, the Lord told him that there were 7,000 in Israel who hadn't bowed down to Baal (1 Kings 19:18). Since Israel seems to have had a population of millions of people at that time, this was a very small number. (That being said, it does mean Elijah's estimate was off by three

orders of magnitude.)

- When God told Elijah that there were still people in Israel who hadn't worshiped Baal, God said that He had left those people for Him (1 Kings 19:18). In other words, He had chosen them. The reason they hadn't worshiped Baal was because it was His sovereign decision to reserve those people for Him.
- God is able to prevent people from worshiping idols and cause them to worship Him (1 Kings 19:18).
- When Elijah found Elisha, it seems Elijah didn't say anything to him. Instead Elijah cast his mantle upon Elisha as Elijah passed by (1 Kings 19:19).
- After Elijah cast his mantle on Elisha, Elisha cooked his twelve oxen and gave their meat to the people (1 Kings 19:21). He then arose and went after Elijah, and ministered to him.
- When Ahab agreed to give Benhadad everything he owned, and Benhadad sent Ahab messengers saying his servants would arrive the following day to take whatever they wanted, Ahab got upset (1 Kings 20:7). It seems Ahab didn't actually want to give Benhadad anything, in spite of what he said.
- When Ahab refused to let Benhadad's servants come and take whatever they wanted, and Benhadad said his army was larger than Ahab's army, Ahab told him not to boast as if he had already won the battle (1 Kings 20:11).
- When Benhadad came against Ahab, a prophet told Ahab that God was going to deliver that great multitude into Ahab's hand (1 Kings 20:13). The reason He was going to do this was so Ahab would know that God was the Lord.

(Keep in mind that God had already revealed Himself to Ahab at mount Carmel, by sending fire down to consume Elijah's sacrifice. God showed great mercy to Ahab and yet he never repented.)

- Even though Ahab didn't ask God to save him, God still told Ahab that He was going to save him (1 Kings 20:13). There are times when God saves the lives of people who don't believe in Him and didn't ask Him to rescue them.
- The reason God was going to give Ahab the victory over Benhadad was to bring glory to Himself (1 Kings 20:13).
- When God used a prophet to tell Ahab that He was going to defeat Behnadad's enormous army using the 232 young men of the princes of the provinces, Ahab believed Him (1 Kings 20:16).
- When Ahab went out to fight against the Syrians, Benhadad and the 32 kings who were with him were drinking themselves drunk in the pavilion (1 Kings 20:16). This was in spite of the fact it was only the middle of the day.
- When Ahab defeated Benhadad, the servants of Benhadad told him the reason they lost was because the "gods" of Israel were the gods of the hills, and the battle was fought in the hills. The thought if they fought against Israel on the plain then they would surely be stronger (1 Kings 20:23). They were wrong.
- Even though Ahab defeated Benhadad, the Syrians were still able to assemble a new army that was the same size as the previous one (1 Kings 20:25).
- The reason God delivered the Syrian army into the hand of Ahab for a second time was to glorify Himself, by

proving that He was both the God of the hills and the God of the valleys (1 Kings 20:28).

- When the Israelites went to war against Benhadad for the second time, a man of God told Ahab that when God delivered the Syrians into his hand, he would know that God was the Lord (1 Kings 20:28). This was the *third* miraculous sign that God gave Ahab, the most wicked king of Israel up to that point. God proved that He was the Lord, and yet Ahab still didn't repent.
- When the Israelites fought the Syrians (who vastly outnumbered them), the Israelites slew 100,000 footmen in a single day (1 Kings 20:29). When some of the surviving Syrians fled from Israel and escaped into Aphek, a wall fell upon them and killed 27,000 of them (1 Kings 20:30).
- In the days of Ahab, the kings of Israel had a reputation for being merciful (1 Kings 20:31). Given how wicked they had been for generations, this is surprising.
- A neighbor refused to obey God and wouldn't smite the prophet as God had commanded. As punishment, the prophet said that since he disobeyed God's voice a lion would kill him (1 Kings 20:36). That's exactly what happened. The wages of sin is death.
- There are times when God's judgment comes upon people very rapidly, without delay (1 Kings 20:36).
- It's a terrible thing to disobey God (1 Kings 20:36).
- A prophet told Ahab that because he let someone go that God had appointed to utter destruction (Benhadad), Ahab's life would go for his life and Ahab's people would go for his people (1 Kings 20:42). This means God would

kill Ahab and destroy Israel. Both of those things came to pass. Ahab was killed in battle a few years later, and after his death Hazael began the destruction of Israel.

- There are times when God punishes people for sparing the wicked (1 Kings 20:42).
- God warned Ahab that He was going to kill him several years before he actually died (1 Kings 20:42). This gave Ahab time to repent, but he never did.
- There are times when God warns people and nations about His judgment before He sends it (1 Kings 20:42).
- The reason Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard was because it was near his house (1 Kings 21:2).
- When Ahab tried to buy Naboth's vineyard, Naboth said that God had forbidden him from giving the inheritance of his fathers to him (1 Kings 21:3).
- When Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab, the king pouted like a spoiled child (1 Kings 21:4).
- The letters Jezebel wrote to have Naboth killed were written in Ahab's name and sealed with Ahab's seal (1 Kings 21:8).
- Jezebel expected the elders and nobles of the city where Naboth lived to frame an innocent man and then murder him (1 Kings 21:10). She thought they would carry out the brutal slaughter of an innocent and upright man, and she wasn't wrong.
- Being innocent didn't save Naboth (1 Kings 21:13). He was stoned to death.
- God saw that Ahab had taken possession of Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:18). The Lord knew what had been

done to Naboth.

- God held Ahab responsible for Naboth's death (1 Kings 21:19).
- God wanted Ahab to be told that in the place where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, they would lick his blood (1 Kings 21:19). That's exactly what happened.
- God holds rulers accountable for their actions (1 Kings 21:19).
- There are times when God punishes rulers for their wickedness (1 Kings 21:19).
- God sees the wicked things that people do (1 Kings 21:19).
- It's not wrong to tell rulers that the things they've done are evil in God's sight (1 Kings 21:20).
- Elijah told Ahab that God was going to kill all of Ahab's descendants and there wouldn't be any left (1 Kings 21:21). The descendants of Ahab who died in the city would be eaten by dogs, and the ones who died in the field would be eaten by the birds of the air (1 Kings 21:24). Jeroboam, Baasha, and Ahab were all cursed by God in this manner.
- There was no one like Ahab (in terms of wickedness) (1 Kings 21:25). It seems that Ahab was the most wicked king Israel ever had. Yet God revealed Himself to Ahab in amazing ways *three times*. God showed Ahab great mercy, but he never repented of his idolatry.
- One of the reasons Ahab was such a wicked king was because his wife Jezebel stirred him up to do evil (1 Kings 21:25).

- Idolatry is an abomination in the sight of God (1 Kings 21:26).
- Ahab committed the same sins as the Amorites (1 Kings 21:26).
- Unlike many kings who ignored the words of the prophets, when Ahab heard the words of Elijah he actually got upset and wept (1 Kings 21:27). Ahab tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, fasted, and wept. As a result, God told Elijah that since Ahab had humbled himself before Him, He would wait until after he was dead to destroy his house (1 Kings 21:29).
- There are times when people can delay God's judgment by humbling themselves before Him (1 Kings 21:29).
- Jehoshaphat agreed to go to war with Ahab *before* inquiring of God (1 Kings 22:4-5). He only asked about determining God's will after saying he would go.
- When Jehoshaphat wanted to inquire of God, he didn't try to use the Urim and Thummim. Instead he sought a prophet of God who he could talk to (1 Kings 22:7).
- Although Ahab hated the prophet Micaiah, he hadn't killed him (1 Kings 22:8).
- In ancient times, kings sat at the gate of the city (1 Kings 22:10).
- When Ahab called 400 false prophets, Zedekiah (son of Chenaanah) told Ahab and Jehoshaphat that God said their armies were going to use horns of iron to push the Syrians until they consumed them (1 Kings 22:11). This was a lie.
- Zedekiah (son of Chenaanah) was a false prophet who

told lies in the name of God (1 Kings 22:11). Under the Mosaic Law, being a false prophet was punishable by death (Deuteronomy 18:20).

- The messenger Ahab sent to fetch Micaiah tried to influence what the prophet told Ahab (1 Kings 22:13-14). It didn't work. Micaiah was determined to say whatever God gave him to say, even if his audience didn't want to hear it.
- Micaiah told Ahab that if he went to battle against the Syrians, Israel would lose and he would be killed (1 Kings 22:17). Ahab was warned, but he didn't listen.
- The story Micaiah told about God sending a lying spirit to deceive Ahab into going to battle was the word of the Lord. It was something that actually happened (1 Kings 22:19).
- There are times when it's God's will for His angels to accomplish something, and He asks His angels how they're going to carry out His will (1 Kings 22:20).
- There are times when it's God's will for His angels to accomplish something, and then sends the angel who has a plan that will accomplish His objective (1 Kings 22:22).
- The reason 400 false prophets lied to Ahab was because they were influenced to do so by a lying spirit (1 Kings 22:22). There is such a thing as a lying spirit, and it really can cause people to lie.
- A single lying spirit can influence hundreds of people (1 Kings 22:22).
- There are times when God deceives people with lies in order to kill them (1 Kings 22:22).

- There are times when God uses false prophets to deceive people so that they'll be destroyed (1 Kings 22:22).
- When Micaiah told Ahab that he was going to die in battle against the Syrians, Ahab didn't repent or change his plan. Instead he imprisoned Micaiah and had him tortured (1 Kings 22:27). That decision got Ahab killed.
- When Ahab arrested Micaiah and ordered that he be imprisoned and tortured, Jehoshaphat (who was present at the time) did nothing to intervene or save Micaiah. Instead he sat there and allowed it to happen (1 Kings 22:27).
- Even though Jehoshaphat was the one who asked for Micaiah to be brought to speak to them, Jehoshaphat did nothing to save Micaiah when Ahab commanded that he be imprisoned and tortured (1 Kings 22:27). Keep in mind that if Jehoshaphat hadn't been there, Micaiah wouldn't have been called (because Ahab hated him). Micaiah only ended up in prison because of Jehoshaphat.
- When Ahab arrested Micaiah, the prophet asked everyone who was present to listen to him (1 Kings 22:28). However, no one did – not even Jehoshaphat. Although Jehoshaphat inquired of the Lord (through Micaiah), he refused to listen to what God had to say (1 Kings 22:29).
- Ahab wanted to disguise himself in battle so the Syrian army would target Jehoshaphat instead of him (1 Kings 22:30). Jehoshaphat actually agreed to this terrible and foolish plan.
- Ahab took the words of Micaiah seriously enough to be worried about the battle, and to disguise himself in hopes that he wouldn't be killed (1 Kings 22:30). It didn't help.

- The king of Syria specifically wanted to target and kill the king of Israel. He had no interest in anyone else in Israel's army (1 Kings 22:31).
- During the battle at Ramothgilead, a certain man drew a bow at a venture and smote Ahab (1 Kings 22:34). Ahab was hit by a random arrow.
- The arrow that hit Ahab didn't kill him instantly (1 Kings 22:34-35). He didn't die until the evening, which meant he died a slow death.
- After Ahab died, someone washed his chariot in the pool of Samaria (because his blood ran into it after Ahab was shot with an arrow) (1 Kings 22:38). The dogs then licked up his blood, just as God said would happen.
- Ahab made an ivory house (1 Kings 22:39).
- Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel (Ahab) (1 Kings 22:44). It seems that before this, the kings of Israel and Judah were constantly at war with one another.