

## **Bible-Reading Coach Podcast Transcript**

### **Week 17: 1 Kings 19-22 & 2 Kings 1-17 *Elisha to the Last King of Israel***

Welcome to Week 17 of the Bible reading coach podcast. My name is Karl Vaters. And I'm here to help you read through the entire Bible in 52 weeks.

This week, we're going to be finishing up the story of Elijah. And then we're going to pass it on to someone with a very similar name, Elisha. And yes, those names do get confusing at times, we'll be in Second Kings will be the first Kings and going into Second Kings this week. And we're also going to meet two nefarious characters named Ahab and Jezebel two of the most evil names in the entire Bible. In fact, the woman Jezebel, her name has become synonymous with idol worship and demonic influence. Even today, it's used as a term of derision upon people, it comes up at the very end of the book of Revelation, or last week together, we will see Jezebel his name come up again, and it's always in a negative context.

So let's take a look at what happens here and reading this week in First Kings 19 all the way through to Second Kings chapter 17. Yeah, no First Kings 19 to Second, Kings 17 is what we'll be looking at today. So let's begin. First Kings 19 starts with Elijah, taking Elisha, as a student. And yes, those names will continue to confuse you even today, if you were to name you know, five events out of their lives and had me pick which one did which I'd probably get as many wrong as as right. It's, it's a challenge. But that so we've got Elijah and Elisha. In chapter 20, then the first Kings, we have the attack on Sumeria. So let me re explain what we talked about last week, because it is a challenge for any Bible reader. And if you've been reading up until now, it can be a real challenge. Here's what's happened up until last week, when you heard the name Israel, it meant the entire nation of all 12 tribes. Last week, at the end of it of our reading, we saw Solomon die, and then a dispute over who should rule the kingdom. And loyalties got divided. And so now we have two nations. So from this point on, whenever we hear the name, Israel, it means the 10 the the nation of 10 tribes to the north, and whenever we hear the name, Judah, it means the nation of two tribes to the south.

So we now have two different nations. Jerusalem is the capital of Judah, the two tribes of the South Samaria becomes the capital of Israel, the 10 tribes to the north. And if that's not confusing enough, Samaria not only can refer to this city, that is the capital of Israel. It also describes the region around the city, kind of like New York City in New York State, right? So you've got Samaria, the city, you got Samaria, the region and that region called Samaria is in both the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. Confused? Yeah, that's, yeah, that just gives you an idea of what's going on. Okay. So Samaria becomes the capital of the North Jerusalem as the capital in the South, in Samaria, both the city and the region, and all of the 10 northern tribes called Israel that are ruled from Samaria. In that area, they had blended pagan worship and Jewish worship for many generations.

And so now that kind of becomes the de facto religion of Israel to the north. This is biblically, the worst kind of sin. Even in Revelation again, when we get to it in the last week of

this entire series, God will say, you know, I wish you were hot or cold, because you're lukewarm, I'm gonna spit you out of my mouth. God basically says, Pick one side or the other. Don't try to blend the two. But what Samaria has done is they blend the two they try to blend pagan worship with Jewish worship. And its God's simply will not accept that it's so bad, that even the name Samaria has a stain on it over 600 years later, when Jesus shows up, right? We know this, because in several stories in the life of Jesus, which we'll get to, you know, a couple months from now, the disciples are shocked.

First of all, when Jesus even decided to walk through Samaria, they were shocked. By the time of Jesus Samaria was considered so vile to the Jewish people, they would go out of their way to walk around it even if walking through it was easier, but Jesus went through Samaria. Secondly, they were shocked when Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman at the well in John chapter four. First of all, talking to a woman Secondly, talking to a Samaritan, they were stunned by that. And then in Luke 10, they get, they're shocked when Jesus made up a story in which he could have made anybody the hero any intentionally made a Samaritan, the hero of the story, right? We all know the phrase Good Samaritan. And we don't know what it's connected to. First of all, it's connected to the story that Jesus told. And by picking a Samaritan as the hero, he's picking as a hero, a person from the group that they most despised. And as we're going to see this week, we understand why they're despised, they did very, very evil things. So all of that story will begin in our passage this week. So look for that as you go through it.

So some of the evil that happens from Samaria and in the Northern Kingdom, we then see in First Kings chapters 21, and 22, which is where the book of First Kings ends up, you got the king and queen in the northern kingdom named Ahab and Jezebel, and we're gonna see how they battle against the nation of Aram. Aram is modern day Syria to the north, west, north and west of the nation of Israel, Syria. Aram is still a thorn in Israel side today, and a thorn is putting it mildly. We then will jump over to the book of Second Kings. And in chapter one, we'll see the death of Ahasia who was one of the kings in Israel who rules out of Samaria.

And then in Second Kings, chapter 2, we're going to see this amazing story of Elijah being taken up into heaven. Remember this story about Elijah, you read it this week, remember it for later, because this is the last of three, and a call the non deaths in the Old Testament, Enoch was the first who walked with God and then was not because God took him as the Gold King James says in Genesis 5:24, Moses in Deuteronomy 34, goes up to the mountain, he dies. And it says that the angels take care of his body. So you've got these three people with these interesting non deaths or supernatural deaths that are going on. And it's important because much later on when we get to the Gospels, in the New Testament, at the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus will have most will have Moses and Elijah appear with him. And it happens to be two of the three people who had deaths in which the body either didn't die or was taken care of by angels in a supernatural way. So Elijah goes up in this chariot of fire, Moses, Bodhi is taken care of by angels, and later on, both of them appear with Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration. It can't be a coincidence, that's a coincidence that their bodies at the time of their departure from this earth retreated in such a special way.

So that happens in Second Kings 2. We'll see that this week. Then we go to Second Kings 3, where Moab will revolt. This is, uh, modern day Jordan, just across the Dead Sea from southern Israel. This always happens when we're divided. And when we're weak, that's when the enemy attacks. And we'll see that in chapter 3 of Second Kings. And then in Second Kings, chapters 4 through 11. We'll see that entire passage this week, you're going to see the core of this week's reading. And it's a set of amazing stories about Elijah and his miracles. And I'm not going to go through it in detail, because I don't want to ruin these amazing stories for you. But here's what we're going to be looking at it we're going to see miracles involving oil, the raising of a dead son, the feeding of starving people, the healing of leprosy, the floating of an axe head, one of the weirdest stories in the Bible, the blinding of an entire army and the rescue from a siege. It's amazing stuff you're going to read this week. And this is all happening, while the nation's are turning away from God. So it's a very, very strange spot.

And then this whole segment will end with the death of Jezebel and her Prophet, her family and the prophets of Baal will then have a glimmer of hope in chapter 12 of Second Kings, where Joash comes along, and he's a good king, but it doesn't last long.

And then this week's reading will conclude in chapter 15, through 17, of Second Kings with the fall of some area, this takes several years. Each kingdom, you're going to see North and South kingdoms go through a series of king after king after king as they continue just to descend into further disobedience against God, we will end up at the last king of Israel, a king named Hoshea in chapter 17. And they'll be conquered by Assyria.

So this is when we will then get to when we get to the prophets. Eventually, we're going to see this whole time that we're reading this week, prophesied and Hosea. Remember how I told you before, the Bible is generally chronological, but there are sections that step outside the chronology. And Hosea is one of the prophets who actually prophesize during the time we'll be reading about this week, even though we won't read Jose as prophecy until many months from now. Okay, so that just gives you a tag for later.

Okay, so how do we conclude this week's video? As we look ahead to the reading this week, this is one of those weeks with stories that even if you're not a Bible reader, you may have some vague recollection over the language anyway, right? Chariots of Fire, right? There was a big movie about that. It's just a thing that we know about. Jezebel may be a term you've heard that it's been used negatively. And you wonder why the oil that just lasts forever. These are stories that are fairly universal, and that you may have heard, at least the terms used outside of the Bible this week. You'll see them in context, so pay attention to that this week. One of the things I do note about the reading this week is this. This week's reading will feel very similar to the readings out of the book of Judges, but it's actually on the opposite side. I have the book of Judges judges was the time of darkness and uncertainty before the height of the kingdoms of Saul and David and Solomon. This is a time of darkness and uncertainty after the height of the kingdoms of Saul and David and Solomon. So you kind of see this, this bell curve that happens during this at the beginning, you got the time of judges, you got the rise that that

peaks with Saul, David and Solomon. And then you've got this, this fall. And it happens over a long, long, long period of time.

As you go through it, you're going to see this king, this king came and then left and it feels boring. Look at the numbers and see how long these things took to take place, which also shows you how long they had to have an opportunity to turn this around. God was so patient with them for such a long period of time. And he sent them so many warnings and so many prophets and they didn't pay attention. May we learn from their bad example this week, to do better in our own lives to turn away from our sin when God continues to put warning within our path. Alright, that's this week. We'll see you next week.

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