

If the LORD be God

How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions?



A Nations increasing distance from the LORD

- Instability with multiple short-reigning kings during Asa's long rule in Judah (1 Kings 15-16).
- Progression of evil from Jeroboam's golden calves to Ahab.
- 1 Kings 12:27-30



Northern Kings in Asa's reign 1 Kings 14-16

King	Duration		Notes
Jeroboam I	22 years		Ended in Asa's 2nd year; set up golden calves.
Nadab	2 years	1 Kings 15:26	Jeroboam's son; killed by Baasha.
Baasha	24 years	1 Kings 15:34	Killed Nadab; warred with Asa; did evil.
Elah	2 years	1 Kings 16:13	Baasha's son; killed by Zimri.
Zimri	7 days	1 Kings 16:19	Usurper; burned palace, died.
Tibni/Omri	(4-5 years) Disputed		Civil war; Tibni died, Omri prevailed.
Omri	12 years (6 in Tirzah)	1 Kings 16:25	Sole reign from 31st year; built Samaria; did evil.
Ahab	22 years (total)		Omri's son; married Jezebel; Baal worship; Elijah's time.

Threshold of Wickedness

- Ahab reigns (Asa's 38th year):
- Marries Jezebel, openly worships Baal.
- Government endorses false gods—provokes God more than any before (1 Kings 16:30-34).
- Stability achieved, but in evil: Far from God, resigned to idolatry.

God's Judgment Begins

- 1 Kings 17:1
- Elijah the Tishbite: "No dew or rain these years except at my word."
- Cuts off blessings as judgment on idolatry.
- Ahab rages; God protects Elijah and prepares him through dependence.



Threshold of Wickedness

- 1 Kings 16:8-16
- Widow ready to die: Only one meal left.
- Elijah: "Make me a cake first"—God provides unending meal/oil during famine.
- 1 Kings 16:17-24 Son dies; Elijah prays—God raises him.
- Her faith sparked; testimony spreads.



Threshold of Wickedness

- 1 Kings 16:8-16
- Widow ready to die: Only one meal left.
- Elijah: "Make me a cake first"—God provides unending meal/oil during famine.
- 1 Kings 16:17-24 Son dies; Elijah prays—God raises him.
- Her faith sparked; testimony spreads.



Dependence Builds Faith and Blesses Others



- After 3 years: Elijah confronts Ahab amid desperation (searching for grass/water).
- Elijah's reliance encourages widow and Obadiah (protects prophets, faith strengthened).
- 1 Kings 18:1-5, 10-16
- When nowhere else to turn, God works in us and through us.
- Builds our faith AND impacts others' lives.

Key Question at Mt. Carmel

- Ahab's ignorance
 - 1 Kings 18:17-18
 - 1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
- Today's Christians
 - Proverbs 24:30-34
- How long will we coast? Wake up and choose
 - Joshua 24:15
- Calling for truth
 - 1 Kings 18:22-25



Empty promises of the world's gods

- 1 Kings 18:26-29
- emptiness of the world's promises to us for success, satisfaction, happiness, contentment
- lack of substance and utter inability to provide any spiritual spark
- worthlessness of energy, sweat, cleverness, showmanship, motivational speeches, described experiences, scientific explanations, political correctness, nationalistic fervor



Victory



- 1 Kings 18:30-39
- Repairs broken altar; prays simply: "Let it be known thou art God."
- Fire falls: Consumes everything, even water.
- People repent: "The LORD, he is the God!"—rare internal turning in Israel.
- Faith: Elijah knows Baal is false, trusts God fully.

Power of Fervent Prayer

- James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
- Elijah's heart right—God turns hearts back (1 Kings 18:37).
- Unlike world's empty cries, real effects through dependence.
- Confess, pray, be healed.

Conclusion

- Shown by the Lord: June 23, 2025, Lordsburg, NM.
- How long will you halt between two opinions?
- Choose this day whom you will serve.
- Let God light your fire through faith and prayer.