

## Daily 1st Kings - November, 2020

Take a look at the ELCIC website under the link of “Living Our Faith - Bible Book Club.” You will see a link to an introduction to this month’s book.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Reflection</u>
1	1:1-31	Is it hard for you to see God working through politicians or political processes? Why do you think this is?
2	1:32-53	Pray for leaders, those who want to be leaders, and those they lead.
3	2:1-12	What do you want your last words to be? Words of forgiveness and grace? Or words of revenge and retribution?
4	2:13-3:2	What can we learn from the power games being enacted here? How can we apply that to the power games we see around us?
5	3:3-28	For what have you prayed, that God has given you? For what do you <i>need</i> to pray?
6	4:1-28	When the story of your life is told, who will the supporting characters be? Who is making it possible for you to live the way you are living?
7	4:29-5:12	Where have you seen cooperation which was not forced or coerced? Give thanks to God for these times.
8	5:13-6:10	Why would the Biblical writers include details like building dimensions in this text? What purpose do these details serve?
9	6:11-36	Reflect on the reminder that God gives Solomon, in the middle of this construction project, that God’s emphasis is on the people and their lives, not the building.
10	6:37-7:12	Solomon’s house is larger and more grand than the Temple. Why are we so susceptible to thinking, “Bigger is always better”?
11	7:13-51	As a balance to yesterday’s question, where have you seen people using their gifts and giving their best for the reign of God?
12	8:1-21	What does it mean to you to dedicate something to the Lord? Does this make that thing more important or special?
13	8:22-53	Have you ever been a foreigner, or an outsider? What was it like when you were welcomed? How important is it that this part of Solomon’s prayer is recorded here?
14	8:54-66	Celebrations are important milestones for us. How can we mark such events in this time of Covid?
15	9:1-28	Solomon took advantage of King Hiram of Tyre, and enslaved the people who had lived in the Promised Land before Israel established a kingdom there. Given that, was failure of Solomon’s kingdom and Temple inevitable? How might we build a better foundation in our day and times?
16	10:1-13	Who has been a source of wisdom for you? To whom do you go when you have hard questions? Give thanks for this person or these people!
17	10:14-29	Vast wealth is coming into the kingdom, and much of it is being spent on security. How else might such wealth be used?
18	11:1-25	Success, when made at the expense of others, sows the seeds of conflict. Why, in our relationships, do we so easily accept that only one “side” can win?

- 19 11:26-43 Our failures do not just impact ourselves. How have you seen people's failures affect others? How can you bring healing to these situations?
- 20 12:1-33 Solomon's kingdom splits in two: Israel (in the north) and Judah (in the south). Why do we find it easier to follow bad advice (vs. 11)? What make it sound attractive?
- 21 13:1-34 How do you deal with people who are a mixture of faithfulness and unfaithfulness? How do you want people to deal with you?
- 22 14:1-31 God promises to raise up a king for the break-away kingdom (Israel). How do you see God taking care of people who openly dismiss God?
- 23 15:1-34 The king used gifts given to the Temple to pay for the defence of the nation. Would this be appropriate today? How is the church called to serve the nation in which we live?
- 24 16:1-34 God's promise is fulfilled by a greedy servant who then dies. Is claiming that God works through evil people a statement of faith? Or is it justifying the evil?
- 25 17:1-24 Why is it hard for us to understand that the poor (like the widow) have things to share with us? That they might have gifts that we need to receive?
- 26 18:1-46 Elijah was able to "prove" that his God was God. Can we prove God today? If not, why do you believe?
- 27 19:1-21 Reflect on a time when you were reassured of God's promise and presence in the face of difficulties or challenges.
- 28 20:1-43 Killing one's enemies is considered a valid political tool to this day. In your experience, does the church support or challenge this assumption? Should it support or challenge it?
- 29 21:1-29 Does God give forgiveness too easily? What purpose was served by allowing a bad king to stay on?
- 30 22:1-53 Why are we fascinated by the lives, successes and failures of so-called "important" people? Why is it so hard to see God moving behind or outside the headlines?
- 31 How did it feel to read through this book? What will you remember?