

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 1 Kings Chapters 14-16! 2/9-10/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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Review:

(1Ki 13:31, 33-34) So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. [33] After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. [34] And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.

OPENING PRAYER

1 KINGS – Chapter 14 – Judgment on the House of Jeroboam – (vs. 1-18); Death of Jeroboam – (vs. 19-20); Rehoboam Reigns in Judah – (vs. 21-31); Chapter 15 – Abijah Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-8); Asa Reigns in Judah – (vs. 9-24); Nadab Reigns in Israel – (vs. 25-32); Baasha Reigns In Israel – (vs. 33-34); Chapter 16 – Baasha Reigns In Israel – (vs. 1-7); Elah Reigns in Israel – (vs. 8-14); Zimri Reigns in Israel – (vs. 15-20); Omri Reigns in Israel – (vs. 21-28); Ahab Reigns in Israel – (vs. 29-34)!

Prophecy Against Jeroboam

1Ki 14:1-2 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. [2] And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people.

- God is speaking to Jeroboam again, in the illness of his son, who is the heir apparent to the throne and is deathly sick. Jeroboam is wanting to know what is going to happen to his son. He tells his wife, to disguise herself and go down to the city of Shiloh, where this prophet Ahijah was still living. Ahijah was an old man, now blind.

1Ki 14:3-6 Also take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child." [4] And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. [5] Now the LORD had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman." [6] And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news.

- *The LORD said unto Ahijah, Though he was blind, he was not deaf. He still could hear the voice of the LORD, and God still spoke to him.*
- *Had she only known the old man was blind. The disguise was sort of useless anyhow. He could not see the peasant gown that she had on, but indeed he did see far more than what most people could see. He could see the things of God.*
- ***The LORD said, Why do you pretend? Notice the utter futility in trying to pretend or fool our Lord in anything! Even in our confession of our sins, do I ever try to frame the confession of my sin in such a way of trying to make my sin look less terrible than it is? May I remember that my Lord knows every single thing that I do or have done, or even have thought about doing?***

1Ki 14:7-8 Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, [8] and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes;

- ***Note God's standard once again "As David (14:8;15:3,11), who kept My commandments; followed Me with all his heart; to do only what was right in My eyes!" How closely does my life reflect this standard?***

1Ki 14:9-11 but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back— [10] therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. [11] The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"

- Not only your son Abijah going to die, but your whole family line; the whole, all of your descendants are going to die; to be cut off! They are going to die fearful deaths. Those that die in the city, the dogs are going to eat their carcasses, those that die in the fields, the vultures will eat them. They will experience the shame of not being buried!

1Ki 14:12-13 Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. [13] And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave (be buried), because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

- He was the only one that was decent. So, the LORD will let him die, and be buried. The rest of them will be devoured by the dogs and the vultures.
- *(Isa 57:1) The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil.* If the LORD liked what he did and saw that there was something different in him, why would the LORD take him home through the sickness? Because He knew something far worse and far more violent was down the road, and so He got him out of this fallen world.

1Ki 14:14-15 "Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam; this is the day. What? Even now! [15] For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger.

- **So the prophecy of Ahijah goes on now, for the future** of the nation of Israel, which only went from bad to worse in turning against God. It is going to get worse, and worse, until God will finally take them away from this land, allowing them to go into captivity, and to be scattered. This was fulfilled in 722 BC, when the nation of Israel was invaded by the Assyrians, and the people were dispersed into the other lands of the world. It is remarkable how the blind prophet Ahijah sees all the way down through the ages.

1Ki 14:16-18 And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin." [17] Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed, and came to Tirzah. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. [18] And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through His servant Ahijah the prophet.

The Death of Jeroboam

1Ki 14:19-20 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. [20] The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.

- **For the next couple of chapters, we are going to be looking at the various kings** that are reigning over the ten northern tribes of Israel and the kings over Judah, relating back and forth to the periods of their reigns. Some of them are very short reigns. The account is going to be going back and forth.
- **Basically, the lesson that we are to learn, is how completely incapable man is of reigning over man.** There have been various forms of government that have been tried from the beginning of civilization. All of them have failed. With the nation of Israel, they had their judges, but it was a time of national apostasy and failure. Then God raised up kings, and David was a good king. David reigned, but yet he had problems. The history of the kings was a gradual deterioration, until it was just total corruption.
- **When our forefathers established our nation, they sought to have within the government, checks and balances.** It was ingenious, a whole constitution, and the whole system that was set up was really inspired, it would seem, of God. It was brilliant. But unfortunately, even this form of government has its weaknesses, as men have been able to discover, and exploit the weaknesses.
- **It is tragic that man is just incapable of reigning over fellow man,** without ultimately taking advantage of his position, becoming greedy, and thus corrupt, and more greedy, and more corrupt. That is what we are going to see. The patterns here, among the kings. We are going to see the total failure of this form of government, as corruption takes over, and man proves that he is incapable of ruling over his fellow man.
- **Really the only hope is for Jesus Christ to come, and establish God's kingdom, ruling and reigning in righteousness!** Then there will be a total fairness. Man will live in peace and share in the resources of the earth. But that is the only solution. Man cannot rule over himself without corruption. We need to be ruled by God, and Jesus is going to come, to establish God's rule over the earth. Then, and only then, will we see the purpose of God, and how God intended that man should live upon this earth, as we join together, and share in the glorious kingdom of righteousness and peace, and joy!

Rehoboam Reigns in Judah

1Ki 14:21-31 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. [22] Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. [23] For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images (such as Ashtoreths) on every high hill and under every green tree. [24] And there were also perverted persons (The homosexuals, or literally, male prostitutes.) in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. [25] It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. [26] And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields which Solomon had made. [27] Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in

their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house. [28] And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards carried them, then brought them back into the guardroom. [29] Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [30] And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. [31] So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

- **We have in this chapter, the division of the kingdom.** The first king of the divided kingdom of the north, Jeroboam. His failure, his death. Also the first king of the southern kingdom, Rehoboam. You have his failure, and his death.
- **Now in Karnak, Egypt, the archeologists have discovered a huge bas-relief,** that has the history from the Egyptian side of the invasion of Israel, by Shishak, and the taking of this vast treasure, and the cities that he conquered, in so doing. That is all there in Egypt, a matter of archeological finds and records, and we find that it corresponds with the story here.
- **When Jeroboam fled to Egypt, Shishak was the king.** The wealth and the glory of Solomon was known around the world. When Solomon died there was the weakening through the division of the northern and the southern kingdom, Shishak took advantage of the weakness of the split of the nation, came to Jerusalem and sacked the riches of Solomon.

Abijam Reigns in Judah

1Ki 15:1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah.

- **Back now to Jeroboam, in the eighteenth year** of his reign. Remember he reigned for twenty two years, so this is four years till the end of his reign. So Rehoboam died four years before Jeroboam.

1Ki 15:2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.

- **So that means that he died before Jeroboam.** Jeroboam still has one year to go. So he died before Jeroboam, having had a very short three-year reign.

1Ki 15:3-5 And he (Abijam) walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. [4] Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; [5] because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

- **Outside of that, David had a pretty excellent reign,** outside of the experience with Bathsheba. So, as the LORD looked at David, and looking back at David, He sees his reign as sort of an ideal reign, with the one exception. So for David's sake, God allowed the descendants to go on, though they were deteriorating.

1Ki 15:6-8 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. [7] Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. [8] So Abijam rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.

- **We will be studying the chronicles of the kings of Judah in I and II Chronicles.** So, we will be getting more on these kings. They are the chronicles of the kings of Judah. We do not have the books of the chronicles of the kings of Israel, however they are mentioned in a secondary way, through the chronicles of the kings of Judah, as there was still that relationship between the two kingdoms, though now divided.

Asa Reigns In Judah

1Ki 15:9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah.

- **Asa fortunately changed the pattern.** Where Abijam and Rehoboam were both bad kings. They established these false images, these places of worship of false gods, Asa was a good king!

1Ki 15:10 And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom (probably another name form of Absalom, David's son).

- **Maachah was still alive,** and the queen mother at the time

1Ki 15:11-14 Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David. [12] And he banished the perverted persons (male prostitutes, or the homosexuals) from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. [13] Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made

an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron. [14] But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

- **High places.** That is where they had worshiped on the high parts of the hills.

1Ki 15:15-17 He also brought into the house of the LORD the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils. [16] Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. [17] And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

- **Now civil war is coming, the north against the south.** Baasha is now the king. Jeroboam has died, We are going to have a little record here of one king in between, Nadab, who reigned for only two years. Baasha built this fortified city of Ramah, which is just north of Jerusalem. The purpose was to cut Jerusalem off from the supplies that generally came to it from the north. To sort of close off Jerusalem, and to control it with this fortified city.

1Ki 15:18-20 Then Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house (that which was not taken by Shishak, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, [19] "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a present of silver and gold. Come and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me." [20] So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth (Galilee), with all the land of Naphtali.

- **Naphtali is in the area of upper Galilee.** What has happened here is that Asa is having war with the king of Israel, Baasha who built this fortified city. So he sent money to the Syrian king, Ben-Hadad, that he might hire the mercenaries to attack Baasha's kingdom from the north. It had it is desired effect. When Baasha heard he was being attacked from the north, he withdrew the building of the city of Ramah, in order to defend his northern border against Ben-Hadad. It seems like it was a clever strategy that worked.
- **However in the Chronicles account, we find that King Asa is rebuked by Hanani,** the prophet of the LORD for this strategy. Though it worked, it showed a deterioration in Asa's trust in God. Remember he began his kingdom by cleaning things up, by a spiritual reformation.
- **In Chronicles we will read that shortly after he began to reign,** there came a huge army from Ethiopia, and he sought the Lord, and God delivered this huge army unto him. God helped him, and was with him in battle, and they were able to defeat the Ethiopians. He became powerful, he became strong, but in the latter portion of his kingdom, rather than trusting in the Lord again, and calling on the Lord for help, he reverted to human strategies. Not seeking the help or the guidance of the Lord, and for this he was rebuked by the Lord severely. Ultimately, he died as the result of not calling upon the Lord. We will get that when we get to II Chronicles sixteen.

1Ki 15:21-23 Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah. [22] Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah. [23] The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.

- **We are told in II Chronicles sixteen that he had this disease of the feet,** and then it said, "He sought the aid of physicians and did not seek the Lord, and he died." So, the implication in Chronicles, is that if he had sought the Lord, God could have healed him, and he could have had an extended reign. But, in seeking the help of man, and that became the pattern in the later years. They are fabulous lessons to learn from it, and we will learn them when we get to Chronicles. So remember this, just file it away. We are going to learn a lot from this guy

1Ki 15:24 So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

- **Jehoshaphat as we will find later, had a successful reign.**

Nadab Reigns in Israel

1Ki 15:25-29 Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. [26] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin. (He followed the pattern of his father,

Jeroboam.) [27] *Then Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And **Baasha killed him** at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. [28] Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. [29] And it was so, when he became king, that **he killed all the house of Jeroboam**. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,*

- Now, we have just studied that. When Jeroboam's wife came in the disguise, he said, "God is going to cut off all of the descendants of Jeroboam." This happened just five years after the prophecy. All of the descendants of Jeroboam were wiped out by this Baasha, who conspired against the son of Jeroboam, Nadab, and destroyed him, and then wiped out all the house.

*1Ki 15:30-32 because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sinned and **by which he had made Israel sin**, because of his provocation with which **he had provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger**. [31] Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [32] And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.*

- The northern and the southern kingdoms are fighting each other.

Baasha Reigns in Israel

*1Ki 15:33-34 In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and **reigned twenty-four years**. [34] **He did evil in the sight of the LORD**, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.*

- So Asa saw his death.

*1Ki 16:1 Then the word of the LORD came to **Jehu the son of Hanani**, against Baasha, saying:*

- This Jehu is a prophet, here prophesying against Baasha and (2Ch 19:2) *And **Jehu the son of Hanani the seer** went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.*
- This Jehu is the son of the prophet Hanani, who will prophesy to King Asa, (2Ch 16:7) *And at that time **Hanani the seer came** to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand.*
- This is not the Jehu, son of Nimshi, who was one of the wicked kings of Israel. (1Ki 19; 2Ki 9)

*1Ki 16:2-4 "Inasmuch as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, and **you have walked in the way of Jeroboam**, and **have made My people Israel sin**, to provoke Me to anger with their sins, [3] **surely I will take away the posterity of Baasha and the posterity of his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat**. [4] The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Baasha and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the fields."*

- It is not going to be a continuing dynasty! It will be wiped out, even as Jeroboam's was. The same prophecy, that was given to Jeroboam, is now given to Baasha.
- Notice the grace here, God is still speaking. Though there is the corruption, though there is the deterioration, God is still speaking. That shows really the patience the compassion, and the mercy of God! That even, as long as God is speaking, there is a chance to turn, there is a chance to change!
- ***I am amazed with the patience of God, continuing to speak to persons like Jeroboam and Baasha, long after they have gone downhill! God does not forsake them, He continues to speak. Thus, God is continuing to speak to this corrupted king. How thankful am I for God's grace?***

*1Ki 16:5-7 Now the rest of the acts of Baasha, what he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [6] So **Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah**. Then Elah his son reigned in his place. [7] And also the word of the LORD came by the prophet **Jehu the son of Hanani** against Baasha and his house, **because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD in provoking Him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and because he killed them**.*

- Now this prophet, Jehu, was the son of the prophet Hanani, who prophesied to Asa, in the southern kingdom. We will get that when we get to Chronicles.

Elah Reigns in Israel

1Ki 16:8-9 In the twenty-sixth year of Asa (a good king) king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel, and reigned two years in Tirzah. [9] Now his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him as he was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, steward of his house in Tirzah.

- To be over half the chariots, that was a position that you gave to your best people in battle. So, Zimri was a powerful man.
- You do not want leaders of a country, much less the highest leader, to spend their time getting drunk.

1Ki 16:10-14 And Zimri went in and struck him and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. (a military coup) [11] Then it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he was seated on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha (fulfilling prophecy); he did not leave him one male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends. [12] Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, [13] for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, by which they had sinned and by which they had made Israel sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols. [14] Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Zimri Reigns in Israel

1Ki 16:15 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri had reigned in Tirzah seven days. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

- Zimri did a lot of damage! He wiped out all of the household of Baasha, but he had a very short reign. It is interesting, this is probably a conspiracy, it was an ambition of his life, you know, “My if we can just take over the throne, what we’ll be able to do so many things!” But all he had was seven days of glory!

1Ki 16:16 Now the people who were encamped heard it said, “Zimri has conspired and also has killed the king.” So all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

- Here was the general, and the people said, “Hey, we want you to be the king.”

1Ki 16:17-20 Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon (the battle with the Philistines), and they besieged Tirzah. [18] And it happened, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire, and died, [19] because of the sins which he had committed in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin. [20] Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the treason he committed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Omri Reigns in Israel

1Ki 16:21 Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri.

- So now you have a real problem! You have two divisions in the northern kingdom. But do not worry, it does not last long.

1Ki 16:22-23 But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri reigned. [23] In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah.

- Omri bought the hill of Samaria and that became the capital of the northern kingdom after that.

1Ki 16:24-25 And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill. [25] Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.

- That is hard to believe! You know, they were bad, this guy’s worse! But the next guy, is even worse yet. So, things are going from bad to worse!

1Ki 16:26-28 For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols. [27] Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [28] So Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. Then Ahab his son reigned in his place.

Ahab Reigns in Israel

1Ki 16:29-30 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. [30] Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

- **Ahab was one of the most wicked of all the kings** in the northern kingdom. Omri was bad, but Ahab outdid the evil of his dad!

1Ki 16:31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

- **It was through Ahab that the worship of Baal was introduced** to the northern kingdom. And as if that was not bad enough, then he tops all that by marrying Jezebel. She is a greater influence, it seems than the king Ahab himself. A husband's wife is probably the greatest influence over her husband. It is so wonderful to have the Godly influence of a Godly wife. What Ahab needed more than anything was to marry a very godly woman and someone who would be a great influence for God in his life, but he does not do that!
- **The golden calves at Dan and Bethel were a perversion of the worship of Jehovah.** What changes at this point in time is that Ahab, marrying Jezebel, basically pushes aside even any misrepresentation of Jehovah. The worship of the land of Israel, the ten tribes in the north, became the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth. Israel now has become completely idolaters like the Canaanites and the tribes that worship their idols before Israel ever came in as God's chastening instrument to bring judgment.
- **We will find that Jezebel is hunting down the prophets of the LORD** and will kill anybody who will not bow the knee to Baal and to Ashtoreth. She is exterminating any remnant of the worship of Jehovah.
- **We are going to find out that Elijah, when he confronts the prophets of Baal** on Mount Carmel, he says, Send and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of the groves of the Asherah. She had eight hundred and fifty idolatrous prophets spread through the land of Israel that she fed and supported..

1Ki 16:32-33 Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

[33] And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him!

- **Ahab was an exceedingly evil king,** not only because he followed Jeroboam in idolatry, but also because he married Jezebel, a daughter of the king of the Sidonians. This villainous woman was a Baal-worshiper who succeeded in influencing Ahab to promote Baal-worship in Israel by building a temple, an altar, and a wooden image.

1Ki 16:34 In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

- **This is a fulfillment of the prophecy that was made some five hundred years earlier.** In Joshua, chapter six. When they took the city of Jericho, the walls of course were thrown down by the hand of the LORD. (*Jos 6:26*) Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates." So, just as was predicted by Joshua, some five hundred years earlier, the prophecy is now being fulfilled!
- **In this week's lesson we have had prophecies** from this old prophet Ahijah, against the house of Jeroboam. That was literally fulfilled. Then we had the prophecy of Jehu, against the house of Baasha. We saw it fulfilled. Now we have the prophecy of Joshua, five hundred years earlier, being fulfilled. In our last lesson, the prophet who prophesied against the altar, naming Josiah as the one who would destroy that altar, and desecrate it. It is to be fulfilled in another three hundred years. But how interesting is God's sure word of prophecy.
- **This is one of the strong apologetics for the scriptures.** One of the proofs that the bible is divinely inspired, and one of the proofs of the eternal character, and nature of God. God, being eternal, and God being omniscient, can speak of things before they ever take place, with tremendous accuracy! Here are all these prophecies, that were literally fulfilled. Almost one third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy (27-33%). Before telling of events, before they ever take place. We are bound to be amazed at the absolute accuracy of prophecy. Not once has there been one word of God that has failed! The prophecies up to this point, have all been fulfilled.

- **How aware am I of the sure word of Bible prophecy? (2Pe 1:19) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; Is it my practice to include this important fact in my witness?**
- **In the next chapter we are introduced to the man Elijah**, this tremendous prophet of God, and we begin to see how that God is going to begin to speak through His prophets. At this time of Israel's decline and failure, God will continue to speak to the people, raising up prophets to deal with the national issues. The first of them, and one of the most powerful of all of them, is this prophet Elijah.
- **Again, God's faithfulness in continuing to warn the people, though they were not faithful**, God remains faithful. That is always true. We may not be faithful to do all the things that we should do for the Lord. But thank God, He remains faithful! God will be faithful to keep His word, and His promises to us, as we trust in Him.

SUMMARY

- **The LORD said, Why do you pretend?** Notice the utter futility in trying to pretend or fool our Lord in anything! Even in our confession of our sins, do I ever try to frame the confession of my sin in such a way of trying to make my sin look less terrible than it is? May I remember that my Lord knows every single thing that I do or have done, or even have thought about doing?
- **Note God's standard once again "As David (14:8;15:3,11), who kept My commandments; followed Me with all his heart; to do only what was right in My eyes!"** How closely does my life reflect this standard?
- **I am amazed with the patience of God, continuing to speak to persons like Jeroboam and Baasha, long after they have gone downhill!** God does not forsake them, He continues to speak. Thus, God is continuing to speak to this corrupted king. How thankful am I for God's grace?
- **How aware am I of the sure word of Bible prophecy? (2Pe 1:19) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; Is it my practice to include this important fact in my witness?**

(1Ki 15:14b) Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

GIVE US CLEAN HANDS — Maranatha Singers (2:33/2:36)

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees Oh Spirit come make us humble

We turn our eyes from evil things Oh Lord we cast down our idols

So give us clean hands and give us pure Hearts Let us not lift our souls to another

Oh give us clean hands and give us pure Hearts Let us not lift our souls to another

Oh God let this be a generation that seeks Who seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob

Oh God let us be a generation that seeks Who seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob

CLOSING PRAYER

Oh may we learn the lessons of human failure, as we have seen today in Jeroboam, Rehoboam, Abijam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab, especially when man turns his back upon You. How we are just courting disaster for our life. Lord, we pray that we would not be guilty of forsaking Your ways, of serving any idols.

NEXT WEEK: Study I Kings, Chapters 17-18

Kings & Prophets Chronology

Divided kingdom: 931-587 BC

