

7 – TWO KINGDOMS

(1 KINGS 15:1-16:28; 2 CHRONICLES 13:1-16:14)

I. The Kings of Judah (1 Kings 15:1-24; 2 Chronicles 13:1-16:14)

A. Abijah (1 Kings 15:1-8; 2 Chronicles 13:1-22)

1. Abijah Becomes King (1 Kings 15:1-5; 2 Chronicles 13:1-3)

- Abijah became king of Judah during the eighteenth year of Jeroboam.
- He reigned three years in Jerusalem and Maachah, a daughter of Absalom, was his mother.
- Abijah walks in the evil ways of his father and did not walk in the ways of David.
- The Lord had promised David that he would have a son on the throne after him.

2. Abijah Battles Jeroboam (1 Kings 15:6; 2 Chronicles 13:4-20)

- Abijah met Jeroboam in battle with 400,000 men against 800,000 men from Israel.
- Abijah called out and rebuked the northern kingdom for its sins.
- Jeroboam surprised Judah in battle and they cried out to the Lord for deliverance.
- The Lord struck the army of Jeroboam and they fled before the men of Judah.
- The men of Judah killed 500,000 men from the army of Jeroboam.
- Abijah captured cities in Ephraim and Jeroboam did not recover strength in arms again.
- The Lord struck Jeroboam and he died.

3. Abijah's Family (2 Chronicles 13:21)

- Abijah married 14 wives and fathered 22 sons and 16 daughters.

4. The Record of Abijah (1 Kings 15:7-8; 2 Chronicles 13:22)

- The Chronicler and the writer tell the reader where the acts of Abijah are recorded.
- Abijah died and was buried with his fathers in the City of David.

B. Asa (1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14)

1. Asa Becomes King (1 Kings 15:9-10; 2 Chronicles 14:1)

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- Asa became king when his father Abijah died and the land was quiet for 10 years.
 - Asa reigned for 41 years in Jerusalem and his grandmother was Maachah.
2. Asa's Reforms (1 Kings 15:11; 2 Chronicles 14:2-5)
- Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord just as David had done.
 - Asa cleansed the altars of foreign gods, high places and sacred pillars.
 - He commanded Judah to seek the Lord and observe the law and commandments.
 - He removed the high places and incense altars from all of the cities of Judah.
 - The results of the Asa's reforms are that the land was quiet during his reign.
3. Asa's Fortifications (2 Chronicles 14:6-8)
- While the land rested, he fortified the cities of Judah.
 - Asa had an army 300,000 from Judah and 280,000 men from Benjamin.
4. The Ethiopians Attack (2 Chronicles 14:9-15)
- Zerah the Ethiopian came against Judah with an army of 1 million and 300 chariots.
 - Asa went against him with his army and cried out to the Lord for deliverance.
 - The Lord struck the Ethiopians and they fled before Asa and his army.
 - Asa and his army plundered their enemy of much spoil and livestock.
5. The Cleansing of Judah (1 Kings 15:12-15; 2 Chronicles 15:1-19)
- a. The Words of Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1-7)
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Azariah and he spoke to Asa.
 - He said the that Lord was with them and will be found by him if they seek him.
 - But if they forsake the Lord, the Lord will forsake them.
 - He reminded Asa what it was like when lawlessness existed in the nation.
 - Asa was to continue in his work and be strong in his efforts.
- b. The Sacred Assembly (2 Chronicles 15:8-15)

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- Asa took courage from the words and removed the idols from the kingdom.
- Asa also restored the bronze altar at the Temple.
- Asa called an assembly and they came from all over Judah and Israel to him.
- They sacrificed numerous animals and made a covenant with the Lord.

c. The Cleansing (1 Kings 15:12-15; 2 Chronicles 15:16-19)

- Asa removed the idols and sexual deviant persons from the land.
- Asa removed his grandmother Maachah as queen mother because she made an idol.
- The high places were not removed from Israel.
- Asa brought the dedicated items of silver and gold into the treasury of the Lord.

6. The War with Baasha (1 Kings 15:16-22; 2 Chronicles 16:1-6)

- The writer records that there was war between Baasha and Asa during their reigns.
- Baasha rebuilt Ramah to stop people from going to Asa in Judah.
- Asa took all that was in the treasuries of the Temple and kingdom and sent them to Syria.
- He did this to form an alliance against Baasha, who then stopped rebuilding Ramah.

7. The Prophet Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:7-10)

- The prophet Hanani came to Asa and rebuke him for relying on Syria against Baasha.
- He stated that the Lord was searching for those whose hearts are loyal to him.
- He stated that Asa had acted foolishly and now there would be wars against Judah.
- Becoming upset with the prophet, Asa had him imprisoned and oppressed others as well.

8. The Death of Asa (1 Kings 15:23-24; 2 Chronicles 16:11-14)

- In the 39th year of his rule, Asa became diseased in his feet and he did not seek the Lord.
- Asa died in the 41st year of his rule and was buried in his own tomb that he had built.

II. The Kings of Israel (1 Kings 15:25-16:28)

A. The House of Jeroboam (1 Kings 15:25-32)

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- Nadab became king over Israel after the death of his father Jeroboam and he reigned 2 years.
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord and followed in the ways of his father.
- Baasha killed Nadab as they lay siege against the Philistines.
- Baasha then destroyed all in the house of Jeroboam and left none alive.
- This fulfilled the prophecy of Abijah against the household of Jeroboam.
- The writer tells the reader where the record of Nadab's rule was written.

B. Baasha (1 Kings 15:33-16:7)

1. Baasha becomes King (1 Kings 15:33-34)

- Baasha became king over Israel and reigned over Israel 24 years.
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord and followed in the ways of Jeroboam.

2. The Prophecy Against Baasha (1 Kings 16:1-7)

- Jehu the prophet proclaimed judgment against Baasha and his household.
- The Lord stated that he raised Baasha from the dust and made him king.
- The Lord will make the house of Baasha like the house of Jeroboam.
- The writer tells the reader where the record of Baasha's rule was written.

C. Elah (1 Kings 16:8-14)

- Elah became king over Israel when his father Baasha died and he ruled 2 years.
- His servant Zimri killed him and his entire household.
- The writer tells the reader where the record of Elah's rule was written.

D. Zimri (1 Kings 16:15-20)

- Zimri only ruled over Israel for seven days.
- Israel made Omri king because Zimri conspired against Elah.
- They surrounded Zimri in the citadel of the king's house and he burned it down around him.
- The writer tells the reader where the record of Zimri's treason was written.

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E. Omri (1 Kings 16:21-28)

- The people of Israel were divided into two groups following Omri or Tibni.
- The people of Omri prevailed over the group supporting Tibni.
- Tibni died and Omri ruled as king for 12 years.
- He purchased the hill of Samaria for two talents of silver and built the city Samaria.
- Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord and was worse than the kings before him.
- His sin caused Israel to sin which provoked the Lord to anger.
- The writer tells the reader where the record of Omri's rule was written.
- When Omri died, he was buried in Samaria and his son Ahab became king.