

Bibles???

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 16

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

And we currently find ourselves in the portion of 1 Kings where we have a historical account of the reign of the kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the kings of the Southern Kingdom (Judah)

And as I mentioned before – there were no good kings reigned in the Northern Kingdom – and so – our text this evening deals with four wicked kings

But we also get a glimpse of hope because we see how God still works in the midst of darkness and chaos.

**Let's pray...**

So – for the first king we are going to look at tonight – we are going to look at Baasha – (Baysha)

And in chapter 15 – we learned that Baasha became king when he killed Jeroboam's son, Nadab.

You might remember that the Lord had pronounced judgment against the house of Jeroboam for his wicked ways – and part of the judgment was that there wasn’t going to be any remnant left from Jeroboam’s family.

And so God used Baasha to bring judgment upon Jeroboam’s house.

Let’s start by looking at the last two verses of chapter 15

**[1Ki 15:33-34 NKJV] 33 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.**

Now, after seeing how God had used him to pronounce judgment against Jeroboam’s house and fully knowing why judgment came upon them – we would think that Baasha would walk righteously in the sight of the Lord – we would think he would have learned his lesson.

Right?

**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.**

Baasha did the same sins as his predecessors.

He didn’t learn from their mistakes.

He could have been used so powerfully by the Lord to set up a completely different kingdom. To do right things – but instead, he follows in the footsteps of these other guys.

Now, one of the things for us to consider is that as believers – we have an advantage over these kings because we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us who strengthens us and empowers us so that we don't have to live in bondage to sin.

These guys who don't have the Holy Spirit living inside of them – they can't break it, they can't be free.

But we can be free because Jesus Christ can give us the strength to be free of those perpetual sins.

**[1Ki 16:1-34 NKJV] 1 Then the word of the LORD came to **Jehu** the son of Hanani, against Baasha, saying:**

There are two notable Jehu's in the scripture – we have a Jehu who will become king of Israel (2 Kings)

And then we have this Jehu – a prophet that uses to bring a word of God to not only Israel but also to Judah

**2 "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,**

Write this verse down -

**[Psa 103:8 NKJV] 8 The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**

That is the God that we serve.

He is merciful

He is gracious.

He is slow to anger.

We don't serve a God who is quick to judgment.

We don't serve a God who is constantly looking to see if we mess up or not.

So when we come across a passage like this where it says that the people provoked Him to anger – it tells us that when God gets angry like this, it has taken a lot to get Him to this point.

Not only the people of Israel but Baasha too

And part of it – just like with Solomon is because of the great things that God has given him – he has betrayed that.

**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." 5 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. 8 In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel, [and reigned] two years in Tirzah.

Here is truth – when we are not faithful to the things that God has given to us – and the things that He has bestowed upon us and the privileges that He has given us – eventually, He will remove them.

He will take them away.

[Mat 13:12 NKJV] 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

In other words – if we don't use the little bit that God has given to us, we are not getting more.

And eventually He will remove it – because when we are not faithful in those things – why should He allow us to possess it.

He will give it to someone else who will.

And that is what the Lord did with Baasha.

The reign now goes to his son - Elah

**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. 10 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. 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; 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.**

So – Elah reigns for two years – he follows in the footsteps of his father.

And in the same way that the Lord uses Baasha to fulfill His prophetic word against Jeroboam

God uses Zimri to bring judgment against the house of Baasha –

And as Elah was getting drunk – Zimri takes matters into his own hands and he becomes king.

**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? 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's reign – a week.

**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.**

So the people of Israel reject Zimri as their king –

They appoint Omri to rule over them.

Remember back in verse 9 I had you make a note that Zimri was the commander of half the king's chariots – now we know who commanded the other half – Omri.

**17 Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon, 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,**

So Zimri sees that all is lost –

He realizes that things are not going to work out for him.

And he decides to commit suicide.

**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?**

So -even though Zimri only reigned 7 days -

His reign is summarized by walking in complete disobedience to the Lord – in following the footsteps of those that came before him.

**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. 22 But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri reigned.**

Think about what has happened since Solomon's reign.

We see a divided kingdom – with the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom

And now we see division among the Northern Kingdom.

There is a lot of chaos going on and a lot of stuff taking place

But here is what we must understand.

Where sin is present, division and chaos are always going to exist.

Again, where sin is present, division and chaos are always going to exist.

We look at our country today –

Split.

One side blames the other side and vise versa.

The real problem is sin.

The same can be said for our own households.

What is causing the chaos and division? sin

**[1Co 3:3 NKJV] 3 for you are still carnal. For where [there are] envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like [mere] men?**

Carnality yields envy

Carnality yields strife

Carnality yields division

It yields it in the body of Christ

And so Paul says – you are Christians but you are really acting just like the rest of the world.

**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. 24 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.**

Now this is pretty significant here because Omri builds the city of Samaria

And Samaria becomes the place where all the kings of the Northern Kingdom will rule from this day forward.

And over the next few weeks, we are going to see some very prominent evil kings that rule from here.

Not only was Samaria a strategic location when it came to business and trade that went from Israel to Judah and back

It was also tactically defensible – meaning that it was well situated for defense.

So Omri was a really smart guy

He did many practical things

However, he failed in the things that really mattered.

**25 Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who [were] before him. 26 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.**

Omri's legacy was that he did worse than all the kings that came before him.

**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 becomes Omri's legacy

**29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah,**

Let's pause right here -

Because in this entire chapter we have been talking about the kings of the north.

And we see Asa's name keep popping up.

In chapter 15 – we learned that Asa resigned Judah for 41 years

During Asa's reign in Judah – Israel had seven different kings.

You think that reflects a problem in the north?

Judah had their own problems in the south – but at least they had a few good kings among the bunch

But in the Northern Kingdom – it is not so much about the turnover but the turmoil that each king brought forth as they rebelled against God and that led to the nation rebelling against God.

No stability in the North

They have given themselves over to idols and now their nation is in chaos and turmoil.

And these kings are getting worse and worse and leading to more confusion.

**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.**

Now, remember, earlier it said that daddy, Omri was worse than everyone else –

This guy is worse.

We get a sense of darkness begetting darkness here.

When you think that things can't get any worse for Israel – enter Ahab.

But this is what happens – evil leads to more evil leads to more evil.

You see it in Genesis from the fall of man – from the time Adam and Eve get kicked out of the Garden of Eden –

By the time we get to Genesis 6

**[Gen 6:5 NKJV] 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every intent of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually.**

The Lord saw that all their thoughts were consumed by evil.

But you know what an eye opener to that is –

What does Jesus say that the last days will be like?

So as the days of Noah were.

**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.**

I had you make a note of the phrase trivial thing –

Because not only did Ahab follow in the footsteps of Jeroboam

Where it says that it was a trivial thing for him – it means that he could care less that he was walking in complete rebellion to God.

There are people that engage in sin – they know it is wrong – but they still do it.

And then there are people who engage in sin and it is all a big joke to them.

Not only does Ahab do evil in the sight of the Lord, he enters into this unequally yoked relationship with Jezebel –

And because of that relationship – they start to worship Baal.

Remember, when Jeroboam started – his alternative form of worship

The high places that he set up, the calf that he set up – they thought they were still worshipping Yahweh.

Now, they are worshipping pagan gods.

**32 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.**

Instead of honoring God as God

Ahab is honoring Baal

**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.**

Turn to Joshua 6

We all know the story of how the walls of Jericho came crashing down –

**[Jos 6:24-27 NKJV] 24 But they burned the city and all that [was] in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. 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." 27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.**

In verse 26 –

Joshua gives a prophetic word

Not only to not build the city again

But a warning to anyone who rebuilds it

It was going to cost them two sons.

Now, the question everyone has is to why is it here –

Some say that Ahab ordered Hiel to rebuild Jericho

Others say that it is here to provide us with an insight of the rebellion that was taking part in the nation against God – there was no longer the fear of God during Ahab's reign.

Perhaps they thought the word of the Lord was irrelevant. Perhaps they thought that the word of the Lord was hundreds of years old and nothing would happen. Perhaps they just did not care. Whatever the case, the price was paid for not listening to the voice of the Lord.

The good news in all of this –

That this period of darkness – God uses it to send his prophet Elijah

So even in darkness – we see God reaching out for His people to turn back.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

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May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'