



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
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## 1 KINGS 15:25-33 & 16

*Related Topics: Divided Kingdom; Jeroboam; Rehoboam; Abijah; Asa; Idolatry; homosexual prostitutes; Asherah; Baasha; Buying Security with things consecrated to God; God's loving Correction; Blowing off God's Message; Blasting God's Messenger; Finishing Well; Fresh Faith; Nadab; Elah; Zimri; Suicide; Omri; Ahab; Jezebel*

### Chapter 15

**The chapter begins in the Southern kingdom JUDAH.**

We pick up from last week in Chapter 25. In this verse, we move to the northern kingdom, Israel.

We actually **backtrack** to the king that preceded Baasha. We begin a **fast track** downhill from Nadab to Ahab

**<sup>25</sup>Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. <sup>26</sup>He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin. <sup>27</sup>Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. <sup>28</sup>So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place. <sup>29</sup>And as soon as he was king, he killed all the**

**house of Jeroboam. He left to the house of Jeroboam not one that breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. (1 Kings 14:7-16) <sup>30</sup>It was for the sins of Jeroboam that he sinned and that he made Israel to sin, and because of the anger to which he provoked the Lord, the God of Israel.**

Nadab was king little more than one year, but since it covered parts of two calendar years, Hebrew time measurement reckons his reign as two years.

Had Jeroboam remained obedient to the LORD, God promised him a lasting dynasty like the house of David (1 Kings 11:38). Because of his sin, the house of Jeroboam is wiped out by murder and assassination!

**QUOTE: ADAM CLARKE**

*"Thus God made use of one wicked man to destroy another."*

**<sup>31</sup>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? <sup>32</sup>And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. <sup>33</sup>In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah began to reign over all Israel at Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four years.**

What follows is exactly what we would expect from a man who comes to power by way of assassination. He ushered in a dark period for the Northern kingdom, both spiritually and politically.

**<sup>34</sup>He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.**

Baasha was not a biological descendant of Jeroboam, but he was a spiritual descendent of this great idolater of the northern kingdom. Because he walked in the way of Jeroboam the house of Baasha would face the same judgment as the house of Jeroboam.

**CHAPTER 16**

## Still in the Northern kingdom

<sup>1</sup>And the word of the Lord came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Since I exalted you out of the dust and made you leader over my people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have made my people Israel to sin, provoking me to anger with their sins, <sup>3</sup>behold, I will utterly sweep away Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat. <sup>4</sup>Anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the field the birds of the heavens shall eat.” <sup>5</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Baasha and what he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? <sup>6</sup>And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried at Tirzah, and Elah his son reigned in his place. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, both because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and also because he destroyed it. <sup>8</sup>In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha began to reign over Israel in Tirzah, and he reigned two years. <sup>9</sup>But his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. When he was at Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who was over the household in Tirzah, <sup>10</sup>Zimri came in and struck him down and killed him, in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

When was Elah killed? When he had become drunk. Because he was drinking, his defenses were down. Alcohol is not a stimulant. It is a depressant, meaning that it depresses (dulls and diminishes) the higher functions of the brain.

**QUOTE: General Pershing**

*Drunkenness has killed more men than all of the wars in human history*

**KEY EXAMPLE:** Alexander the Great was one of the most prolific leaders in history. At the age of 16 he was ruler over Macedonia. By the time he was 20 he was king of the Greek Empire. By the time he was 30 he had conquered the then known world. He wept bitterly when there were no more worlds to conquer. Just before his death he threw a party and invited all 20 of his leaders to this party and drank to the health of each of these 20 leaders. After he had done that he called for the cup of Hercules, a huge cup. He filled it with wine and drank it all and fell over in a comma. He was carried out back to his tent. It was rainy outside and he got sick and within three days he had died. Alcohol conquered the man that had conquered the world.

Drunkenness is still taking lives.

By the way, there are things other than alcohol that diminish our reasoning, cause us to lower our guard, our defenses — relationships, success, disappointments.

**<sup>11</sup>When he began to reign, as soon as he had seated himself on his throne, he struck down all the house of Baasha. He did not leave him a single male of his relatives or his friends.**

**<sup>12</sup>Thus Zimri destroyed all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, <sup>13</sup>for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, which they sinned and which they made Israel to sin, provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols.**

**<sup>14</sup>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?**

**<sup>15</sup>In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days in Tirzah. Now the troops were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, <sup>16</sup>and the troops who were encamped heard it said, “Zimri has conspired, and he has killed the king.” Therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp. <sup>17</sup>So Omri went up from Gibbethon, and**

all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah. <sup>18</sup>And when Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house over him with fire and died, <sup>19</sup>because of his sins that he committed, doing evil in the sight of the Lord, walking in the way of Jeroboam, and for his sin which he committed, making Israel to sin. <sup>20</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the conspiracy that he made, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

Wow, the guy is king for 7 days and wanted to die. Was his path to the throne worth it? He killed and murdered and conspired and found that he couldn't live with everything he had to do to have the throne.

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>But the people who followed Omri overcame the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died, and Omri became king. <sup>23</sup>In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah. <sup>24</sup>He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and he fortified the hill and called the name of the city that he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill. <sup>25</sup>Omri did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did more evil than all who were before him. <sup>26</sup>For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins that he made Israel to sin, provoking the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols. <sup>27</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Omri that he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

Omri is followed by the most wicked and infamous of all the kings of the Northern kingdom

**<sup>29</sup>In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. <sup>30</sup>And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. <sup>31</sup>And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him.**

The most wicked king in Israel took to himself a wife whose name is synonymous with wickedness. She introduced BA-AL worship to the region

Ba-al was the god of the rain. Ba-al worship was not simple. It was intellectually complex and thus played upon the pride of man. And it appealed to sensual desires.

**<sup>32</sup>He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. <sup>33</sup>And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. <sup>34</sup>In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.**

*Joshua 6:26 26 At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."*

We will close here.

Next week, we are going to take a close look at the spiritual backdrop of the days of Ahab and Jezebel. We will see the relationship between that place and time and the days in which we live.

Not to leave us in the dark here, in our next study we are introduced to one

of the most amazing and powerful individuals in the entire Bible. While the darkness is brooding over the Northern kingdom God has been preparing a man who will come out of nowhere as a bright light — ELIJAH the prophet.

**QUOTE: John Ross Macduff**

*The Prophet of Fire: Or the Life and Times of Elijah, With Their Lessons* **page 21**