

Loyalty Versus Disloyalty

First Kings 15–16

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • November 16, In the year of our Lord, 2016

I. First Kings 15.1–8 | **Abijam in Judah**

1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. **2** He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. **3** And he 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. **6** 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.

A. How sad that this man,

1. along with many others,
2. does have his name in the Bible, but
 - a) not in a good way.
 - b) The Bible merely shows
 - (1) That Abijam continued the reign of David,
 - (2) That Abijam's reign was brief,
 - (3) That Abijam sinned.

B. Imagine having your name recorded in the Bible, but

1. the only things the Holy Spirit had to say about you
2. were that you continued the evil ways of your father, and
3. that you had failed to live up to David's standard.

C. Since Rehoboam and Abijam lived sinful lives,

1. why did the Lord allow the to reign?
2. They reigned for the sake of the Lord's promise to David.

D. What was the big deal about David?

1. The main part of the Scheme of Redemption started with the Lord's promise to Abraham, but
2. as time went on the Lord kept revealing more things about the promise.
 - a) That included revealing that the fulfillment of the promise would be a king.
 - b) So that begins with David.
 - (1) To keep the promise alive,
 - (2) the Lord kept the sons of David on the throne.

II. First Kings 15.9–24 | Asa in Judah

9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah. **10** And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. **11** Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David. **12** And he banished the perverted persons 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. **15** 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. **18** 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, 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, with all the land of Naphtali. 21 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. 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.

- A. Here is a king who reigned longer than Saul, David, and Solomon.
1. How long did Asa reign?
 2. 41 years
- B. How does this portion of Scripture summarize the reign of Asa?
1. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
 2. He lived as did David.
- C. What signs does the writer give for saying Asa did what was right?
1. He banished the perverted persons from the land.
 2. He removed all the idols that his fathers had made.
 3. He removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother.
 4. He cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.
 5. His heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.
 6. He brought into the house of the LORD what he and his father dedicated.
- D. What existed between Asa and the king of Israel?
1. War.
 2. How did Asa stop it?
 - a) By having the king of Syria break his treaty with Baasha.
 - b) And by establishing a treaty between himself and the Syrian king.

E. What did Asa do with Baasha's building projects?

III. First Kings 15.25–32 | Nadab in Israel

25 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. 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, 30 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.

- A. Nadab did not learn either about the right and wrong way to go in life.
- B. How did the Lord fulfill his word about destroying the house of Jeroboam?
1. Baasha killed Jeroboam's son who had become king.
 2. Nadab only reigned two years.
 - a) It just does not pay to continue in sin, nor
 - b) does it pay to lead others into sin.

IV. First Kings 15.33–16.7 | Baasha in Israel

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

A. Baasha did not learn from his destruction of the household of Jeroboam.

B. Who did the Lord send to Baasha with a message?

1. Jehu went to Baasha to deliver a message of doom.
2. What was the message?
 - a) He did not learn from the mistake of Jeroboam,
 - b) so Baasha’s end would match that of Jeroboam.

V. First Kings 16.8–14 | Elah in Israel

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. 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. 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?

A. The kings of Israel paid for their sin.

B. The pace picks up as the Lord shows us keeping his word.

1. He kept His word about destroying households in rebellion, and
2. showing that nothing could keep Him from keeping His promises.

VI. First Kings 16.15–20 | Zimri in 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. 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. 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, 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?

- A. You talk about a short reign!
- B. Zimri’s reign ended quickly and he died in shame.

VII. First Kings 16.21–28 | Omri in Israel

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. 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. 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. 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.

- A. Omri is the one who gave Israel its capital of Samaria.

B. It seems that often a new king became worse than those before him.

VIII. First Kings 16.29–33 | Ahab in Israel

29 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. 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. 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.

A. What action does the writer point out as making Ahab’s sins worse?

1. He married Jezebel.
2. Where was she from?

B. As the Bible shows, Jezebel encouraged Ahab to sin,

1. so that again he sinned more than the kings before him.
2. Why, in your opinion, did each generation get worse?

IX. First Kings 16.34 | The Lord Keeps His Promises

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.

A. As you read the Bible, you may forget details such as this one.

B. However, the Lord does not forget.

1. Remember Joshua 6.26,

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” (Jos 6.26).

2. How many years passed between the curse and its fulfillment?
 - a) Joshua took over leading Israel when Moses died in 1405 BC.
 - b) Ahab reigned from 874–853 BC.
 - (1) From 1405 to 874 is 531 years.
 - (2) Hiel may not have built Jericho as soon as Ahab began to reign.