

I Kings 15-The Reigns of Abijam, Asa, Nadab, and Baasha

Southern Kingdom of Judah			Dates Centuries BC	Northern Kingdom of Israel		
Prophets of Judah	Kings of Judah	Years of Reign		Years of Reign	Kings of Israel	Prophets of Israel
Shemaiah	Rehoboam	17 years	10 th Century	22 years	Jeroboam	Ahijah
Azariah & Hanani	Abijam	3 years		2 years	Nadab	Jehu
	Asa	41 years		24 years	Baasha	

I. The Two kings of Judah

A. Reign of King Abijam/Abijah

1. Who was King Abijam/Abijah?

1a) READ 1Kings 15:1-8

1b) READ 2 Chronicles 13:1-2, 21

In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah began to reign over Judah. ² He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Micaiah (Maacah, Maachah) the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. ²¹ But Abijah grew mighty. And he took fourteen wives and had twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

2. How did the Lord show his faithfulness to King Abijam/Abijah?

2a) READ 2Chronicles 13:15-18

Now there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam... ¹⁵ Then the men of Judah raised the battle shout. And when the men of Judah shouted, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. ¹⁶ The men of Israel fled before Judah, and God gave them into their hand. ¹⁷ Abijah and his people struck them with great force, so there fell slain of Israel 500,000 chosen men. ¹⁸ Thus the men of Israel were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.

3. Why did God not bless the reign of Abijam/Abijah? (1 Kings 15:3)

B. The Reign of King Asa

4. Who was King Asa?

4. READ 1Kings 15:9-11

5. What reforms did Asa do during his reign?

5a) READ 1 Kings 15:12-15

6. In what ways did King Asa help Judah?

6a) READ 2 Chronicles 14:4-6

⁴ and commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment. ⁵ He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him. ⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace

6b) READ 2 Chronicles 14:9-12

⁹ Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. ¹⁰ And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. ¹¹ And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you." ¹² So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

6c) READ 2 Chronicles 15:1-2, 8 *The Spirit of God came^[a] upon Azariah the son of Oded, ² and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.*

⁸ As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD.^[b]

6d) READ 2 Chronicles 15:10-12

¹⁰ They were gathered at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. ¹¹ They sacrificed to the LORD on that day from the spoil that they had brought 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep. ¹² And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul,

7. How did King Baasha of Israel threaten King Asa of Judah?

7. READ 1 Kings 15:16-17

8. What strategy did King Asa use to combat the threat of Israel?

8a) READ 2 Chronicles 16:7-10

⁷ At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. ⁸ Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand. ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless^[d] toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." ¹⁰ Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

8b) READ 1 Kings 15:18-24

9. How did King Asa die?

King Asa's Strengths	King Asa's Weaknesses	Lessons Learned

II. Two Kings of Israel

A. The Reign of King Nadab

10. Who was King Nadab?
 10a) READ 1 Kings 15:25-32

11. What did Nadab and his sons do to the priests?
 11a) READ 2 Chronicles 11:14

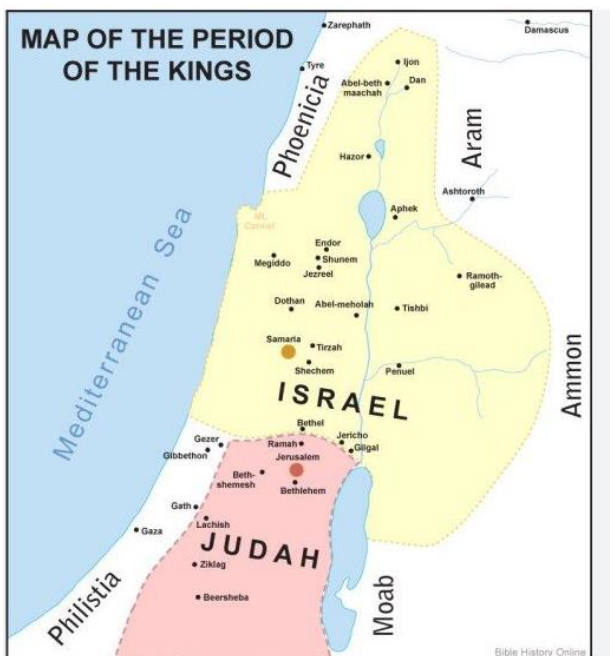
¹⁴ *For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the LORD,*

12. What happened to the dynasty of Jeroboam?
 12. READ 1 Kings 14:9-12 (Remember)

B. The Reign of King Baasha

13. Who was King Baasha? What was his reign like?
 13 READ 1 Kings 15:33-34

14. What was the author's intent for recording the history during this time period?



Resources:
 Enduring Word Commentary
 People's Bible Commentary-Kings by Amo J. Wolfgramm
 Life Application Study Bible
 The New Oxford Annotated Bible