

I Kings 16 – “Assorted Kings”

A Quick Review: This chapter deals with the kings of Israel, beginning with the end of the reign of Baasha. Remember that Asa was king over Judea for 41 years. His name appears in this text as a sort of timeline, comparing the reigns of several kings in Israel to Asa’s extended reign in Judea.

Part 1: Baasha

Read 1 Kings 15:25-30. (a review of last week) 908 BC

1. What was the family background of Baasha?
2. Baasha killed Nadab. Who was Nadab? Who else was killed? Why did this happen?

Read 1 Kings 15:33-34.

3. Although Baasha was not a literal son of Jeroboam, in what way could he be regarded as one of Jeroboam’s descendants? Compare these verses to those in the next reading.

Read Galatians 3:7-9. Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Read 1 Kings 16:1-7. Compare verse 4 with 1 Kings 14:11 and with the original curse in Deuteronomy.

Read 1 Kings 14:11. Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country.

Read Deuteronomy 28:15 & 26. However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you. ... Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.

4. Why do you suppose God held Baasha responsible for the death of Jeroboam and his family in the final words of 1 Kings 16:7?

Part 2: Elah

Read 1 Kings 16:8-10, 14. 886 BC

One note in the Concordia Self-Study Bible says that “The fact that Elah was carousing at Tirzah while the army was laying siege to Gibbethon indicates that he had little perceptions of his responsibilities as king.”

Part 3: Zimri

Read 1 Kings 16:11-13, 15-20. 885 BC

5. What do we know about Zimri’s background? How is this different from the background of the other kings of Israel and Judah?
6. What was Omri’s background? Why did he pose a threat to Zimri?
7. How long was Zimri’s reign as king?

Part 4: Omri (and Tibni)

Read 1 Kings 16:21-28. 880 BC

8. How did Omri finally become the king? What major contribution did he make for the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
9. What has been the main cause of the succession of kings in Israel since the days of Solomon?
10. Compare this with the succession of kings in Judah.
11. Verses 25 and 26 give a sort of description of the kings of Israel that describes their behavior. What is it?

Part 5: Ahab

Read 1 Kings 16:29-34. 874 BC

12. How is King Ahab unique among all previous kings of Israel?
13. How did God feel about Ahab? Why did God feel that way?

Read Joshua 6:26. 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 first-born son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."

Jericho itself was to be devoted to the Lord as a perpetual sign of God's judgement on the wicked Canaanites and as a firstfruits offering of the land. This was a way of signifying that the conquered belonged to the Lord. (Concordia Self Study Bible, p. 298.)

Recall = when we read about the homes of Solomon's wives, one area was Sidon and hinted at a famous resident. Who was that person?