

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**REIGNS OF MORE EVILDOERS**  
**NADAB, BAAHSA, ELAH AND ZIMRI**  
**1 KINGS 15:25-16:22**

**Introduction**

We flip back tonight to look at what was going on in the northern kingdom of Israel. We will see how Solomon's idolatry and disobedience against God that brought the division in the kingdom of Israel in the first place, continues to affect the land of Israel.

While we saw the southern kingdom of Judah enjoy revival under Asa's leadership, we do not see the same thing nor even a remotely similar thing for the northern kingdom of Israel.

**Trouble continued to plague the northern ten tribes because they would not get right with God.** They turned their backs on God for some golden calf idols and so the blessings of the LORD God were not with them!

In fact, the result was instability, destruction, heartache, agony, and death. When folks turn their back on the Lord, it does not go well with them!

*1 Kings 15:25—And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years.*

**Nadab, Jeroboam's son, ruled after him, but not for long. He reigned only two years.**

*1 Kings 15:26—And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.*

**So we see that he did evil in the sight of the Lord by following his father's sinful lifestyle. And we see he had a sinful influence upon the nation of Israel!** Again, we are reminded of the influence that parents have upon their children and their grandchildren.

Let me call to your remembrance what we saw *1 Kings 14:10-14*. **Because of Jeroboam's sin God promised judgment upon Jeroboam's household.**

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Ahijah the prophet told Jeroboam what God was going to do to Jeroboam and to his family. Can you imagine the effect this had upon Jeroboam when this message was delivered.

He was notified that his kingdom would be overthrown. He came face to face with the realization that he was the author of his own ruin. His family would be disgracefully erased out of existence, swept away like dung, and devoured like carrion.

If you were told that, don't you think you might do what you could to change God's mind by getting your life right with God? (*e.g. Jonah and Ninevah*) Well, Jeroboam didn't and his son Nadab didn't! And so, the prophecy of judgment was fulfilled here in Nadab's day.

*1 Kings 15:27-31*

**God's Word is always sure! God's predicted judgments never fail!**

*Matthew 5:18—For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

*Luke 21:33—Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

**With the assassination of Nadab, Baasha took control of the kingdom for the next 24 years in Israel. We see that he too was a wicked king!**

*1 Kings 15:32-34*

So, nothing changed...Jeroboam and Nadab walked in wickedness and caused Israel to walk in the same!

And even here we see that the one whom God allowed to uproot Jeroboam's family, Baasha, didn't do any better and so the beat of doing wickedness and teaching the nation of Israel wickedness just went on!

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**This brings us to chapter sixteen of 1 Kings.**

- I. WE SEE GOD’S MESSAGE TO BAASHA. (16:1-7)**  
Jehu is the man God used to deliver a difficult message to this wicked king. He was the bearer of bad news. VThis message from God addressed several issues.
- A. Baasha Had Been Exalted By The LORD! (16:1-2)**  
God took Baasha when he was no more than a dirt ball and exalted him to be king over Israel.
- He had a poor background and humble beginnings.  
God says, *"I made you prince."*
- B. Baasha Chose To Walk In The Ways Of Those Before Him! (16:2b)**  
God's message in so many words here is, *"You have lived like Jeroboam. You have influenced the nation to sin and provoked God to anger. You are no different than Jeroboam."*
- C. God’s Judgment Of Baasha! (16:3-7)**  
God says, *"What I did to Jeroboam, I am going to do to you."*  
Baasha could have repented here, but he doesn't.

- II. WE SEE THE REIGN AND MURDER OF BAASHA’S SON ELAH! (16:8-10)**  
Baasha's son, Elah, reigned after his death, but not for long. **He reigned for only two years.**

While he was *"drinking himself drunk,"* Elah was assassinated by the captain of half of his chariots—Zimri.

His was one of many lives have been ruined and shortened by alcohol. Thomas Edison said, *"To put alcohol in the human body is like putting sand in the bearings of an engine."*

Someone said that alcohol makes a man colorful in that it gives him a red nose, a white liver, a yellow streak, and a blue outlook.

Statistics show that for every 10,000 people killed by alcohol, only one is killed by a mad dog. Yet, the mad dog is put down while the alcohol continues to be sold because it is big business in the economy and is a large source of revenue for governments!

To say alcoholism is a disease is a cop-out for not taking responsibility for one's actions. Alcoholism is a sin. In fact, God calls it the sin of drunkenness!

So, Zimri betrayed his king.

Elah's judgment was sudden and unexpected. Sometimes judgment comes swiftly...sometimes it comes slowly.

The door of Israel's throne room is like a revolving door. During Asa's reign in the South, the northern kingdom went through seven kings: ***Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab.***

- III. WE SEE THE LORD’S MESSAGE REGARDING BAASHA’S HOUSE IS FULFILLED! (16:11-14)**

Zimri fulfilled the prophecy of Jehu (16:3-4). In fact, Zimri not only killed all the house of Baasha, but ALL of his relatives and ALL of his friends.

It was not a good time to have close connections with Baasha’s family!

Over and over again, the Bible stresses that there is judgment for sinful living! And God's Word is true! The judgment for sinful living may not always be the same for one as for another!

But the reality is that God will judge sin!

We can choose to sin, but the consequences for our sin are up to God!

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**IV. WE SEE THE SHORT REIGN OF ZIMRI IN TIRZA! (16:15-16)**

Zimri reigned only seven days which was the shortest reign of the kings of Israel. It was a week, however, that was bathed in blood.

The word of his conspiracy and treachery reached the infantry that was in battle with the Philistines. Their choice for a new king was not Zimri. They wanted their commander to be Omri. Omri was popular with the men. So, the people made Omri king on that very day. There were no primaries, no pauses to think about the decision, and no time taken to pray or seek God's face about the matter.

Basing decisions or choices on that which is popular is not always the best choice. God values the character of a person, not their popularity.

Also, making rash decisions without praying about them can cause some great problems. Some of the worst decisions one can make are the ones that are rushed into—especially the ones where no time is taken to pray about the decision!

**V. WE SEE THE SIEGE OF TIRZAH AND ZIMRI BY OMRI! (16:17)**

Omri and his men did not accept Zimri as their king. The support of his army gave Omri confidence to attack the capital city of Tirzah where Zimri was which was about 10 miles east northeast of Samaria.

**VI. WE SEE THE REACTION OF ZIMRI! (16:18-20)**

Zimri saw that his plans to reign were going down the drain. With the city under siege, he put into practice the philosophy that says, *"If I can't have it, neither can you."*

So, he set the palace on fire and he died in the process! Was this suicide or did he not leave himself time to get out? We are not told! (But that had to be one bad way to go!)

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Sadly, there are people who allow some circumstance or circumstances of life to push them into reacting like Zimri did by taking matters into their own hands and end up losing their lives in the process!

Let me just say that if this was suicide, that was NOT the solution!

If you ever even get an inkling of wanting to do yourself in, get some help instead of giving in to that urge!

Now a big part of Zimri's problem is that he wasn't right with God! He died because of his sinfulness (vs. 19).

*Psalm 34:21—Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.*

*Proverbs 11:3—The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.*

Zimri walked in the way of Jeroboam, the way of idolatry and sensuality. Our lives can influence other people both now and even after we are gone whether we want to admit it or not.

This leads us to an important question, *"If people walked in our ways, would that be good for their lives or no?"*

We need to work on leaving the right kind of example to our family, friends, and all of those in our circles of influence!

Sadly for him, we that Zimri reaped what he sowed!

*Galatians 6:7—Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Zimri sowed treachery and reaped treachery. He sowed violence and hatred and reaped violence and hatred. He sowed sudden death and destruction and then he reaped it.

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What things are we sowing in our lives? Hopefully they're the right kinds of things and not that which is evil!

**VII. WE SEE THE SPLIT IN ISRAEL! (16:21)**

It is bad enough that the Nation of Israel split in two—Judah and Israel.

But now here we see a further divide—The nation of Israel is now divided into two parts. Half of the nation sides with Omri and the other half with Tibni.

The sinfulness, jealousy, and rivalry of the nation was tearing the northern kingdom of Israel apart. That's what sin does! It creates weakness, instability, disunity, and division.

*Matthew 7:26,27—And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

Wherever sin dominates, there are problems to all involved!

**VIII. WE SEE THE SUPREMACY OF OMRI! (16:22)**

Omri's forces overcame the followers of Tibni and so Tibni died and Omri became the reigning king. He had the throne, but as we will see, he too wasted his power, authority, and opportunity to turn the nation around, back to the Lord. In fact, he will become the worst king of Israel up to this point.

Nothing will compare, however, to the son he raised, a boy named Ahab, who became king after him. And we will see shortly how that Ahab grew up to be like his father, only worse.