

BY HIS PROVOCATION WHEREWITH HE PROVOKED

1 KINGS 14:30 – 16:30

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~ The extraordinary reign of King Solomon in peace and prosperity has officially ended for the nation Israel in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God; and a dramatic change is taking place in the kingdom. Because Solomon turned away from God and did great evil, the Lord has taken away the kingdom from his line and divided it. In this report, we fully embark in our study of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. That division will continue over the next several generations of their history. For about the next three centuries from the time in which we are studying, there will not be a good king in the northern kingdom. In fact, Israel will go from bad to very bad to awful to the darkest days imaginable under the rule of Ahab and Jezebel. Morality only declines after Ahab; and the situation isn't much better in the southern kingdom of Judah and Benjamin. There were only *eight* good kings in the line of David throughout their entire history.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

JUDAH					ISRAEL					
King	Reign	Character	Prophet		King	Reign	Character	Prophet		
1. Rehoboam	931-913 bc	(17 yrs.)	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910 bc	(22 yrs.)	Bad	Ahiyah	
2. Abijam	913-911	(3 yrs.)	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	(2 yrs.)	Bad		
3. Asa	911-870	(41 yrs.)	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	(24 yrs.)	Bad		
					4. Elah	886-885	(2 yrs.)	Bad		
					5. Zimri	885	(7 days)	Bad		
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	(25 yrs.)	Good	Obadiah	6. Omri	885-874	(12 yrs.)	Bad	Elijah Micaiah	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	(8 yrs.)	Bad		7. Ahab	874-853	(22 yrs.)	Bad		
6. Ahaziah	841	(1 yr.)	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	(2 yrs.)	Bad	Elisha	
7. Athaliah	841-835	(6 yrs.)	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	(12 yrs.)	Bad		
8. Joash	835-796	(40 yrs.)	Good		10. Jehu	841-814	(28 yrs.)	Bad		
9. Amaziah	796-767	(29 yrs.)	Good		Joel	11. Jehoahaz	814-798	(17 yrs.)	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
10. Azariah (or Uzziah)	767-740*	(52 yrs.)	Good			12. Jehoash	798-782*	(16 yrs.)	Bad	
					Isaiah	13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	(41 yrs.)	Bad	
						14. Zechariah	753-752	(6 mo.)	Bad	
						15. Shallum	752	(1 mo.)	Bad	
				16. Menahem		752-742*	(10 yrs.)	Bad		
				17. Pekahiah		742-740	(2 yrs.)	Bad		
11. Jotham	740-732*	(16 yrs.)	Good	Micah		18. Pekah	740-732*	(20 yrs.)	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716*	(16 yrs.)	Bad			19. Hoshea	732-722	(9 yrs.)	Bad	
						<i>(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)</i>				
13. Hezekiah	716-687*	(29 yrs.)	Good	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah						
14. Manasseh	687-642*	(55 yrs.)	Bad							
15. Amon	642-640	(2 yrs.)	Bad							
16. Josiah	640-608	(31 yrs.)	Good							
17. Jehoahaz	608	(3 mo.)	Bad							
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	(11 yrs.)	Bad							
19. Jehoiachin	597	(3 mo.)	Bad							
20. Zedekiah	597-586	(11 yrs.)	Bad							
<i>(Destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah)</i>										
*Co-regency										
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I feel our safari needs to pray for a bit more than wisdom, judgment and discernment at this point; perhaps, as Elisha did, asking for a double portion of the Spirit of God on our understanding as we traverse this section of Scripture. Our last report ended with a bitter civil war raging between Rehoboam the son of Solomon, and Jeroboam the rebellious king of the ten northern tribes of Israel. This represents brother fighting brother and family against family. There's nothing quite as bad as civil war in the history of a nation....

XIV

30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

XV

1 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.

2 Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

~ Every king of Judah has his mother's name given with theirs in Scripture; which is unusual because generally, in Scripture, the fathers name is listed in genealogies. This is because a mother is the influencing factor in the lives of their sons. See, you are responsible for that little monster you have running around, mothers. If he was a bad king, she was a bad mother, at least partially. Likewise, when a good king turns out, she gets the credit for that, too. Today, we don't accept or believe that truth; but, friends, there is a Scriptural background for bad people, and it can almost always be traced to ungodly parents; particularly the mother! I understand this so-called safari isn't popular Bible teaching. Most people won't even read this far. I know this cuts very deep and is brutally harsh to read the things you'll read in this report; but my estimation is we need to acknowledge, emphasize

1 KINGS 14:30 – 16:30

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and comprehend the depth of influence a Christian mother has on her children; because this present, evil, lost and dying world is in deep trouble as I type this report and you read it.

To prevent a child from feeling neglected, unloved and unwanted, perhaps mom needs to stop trying to be the president of the missionary society, or singing in the choir every night, and doing everything except staying home just to hold that little one and love them by teaching them a Bible story. That's an undeniable way to show we care. It makes all the difference in the world, too; and it is totally neglected in our modern day of busy, acutely hyper-active frenetic non-stop lives. Friends, it takes a whole lot of love to bring a child up properly today. We took a lot of time with this issue because the problem will occur again and again in the Bible as we move forward. Personally, I wouldn't want to be the mother of some of these legitimate bastards we have in the following accounts; I believe it would disturb me deeply to be responsible for most of them....

3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

~ To be fair, dad is responsible, too; perhaps Abijam just had a rotten home – period. Well, God uses David as the human standard against which all of the kings of Judah will be held. This is what God creates as His standard because David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord; and that was to confess, acknowledge and repent of the sins he had committed in the Uriah incident. David's immediate repentance when confronted by Nathan the prophet is the only Biblical reason I can tell why the house of David wasn't terminated by the Lord at that moment. God had made an example of many families previously, such as Korah and Eli the high priest. God has no compunction concerning judgment, my beloved. This is our Scriptural admonition....

4 Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:

5 Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

~ Somehow, we have assumed a position in the church whereby we sit in judgment of God – which is, indeed, tragic. Well, if we’re going to sit in judgment over God regarding His dealings with David, we will do well to understand what God really said about David’s assets and liabilities. They are listed in verse five. Notice Bathsheba isn’t even mentioned. There was disobedience in David’s life, and there were severe consequences to that disobedience - but outside of the murder of Uriah, David obeyed God. David didn’t live in sin, friends. The king of Babylon, on the other hand, will live in sin. The one-time murder David committed was done by the king of Babylon every day. This entire thought is expressed by Jesus Himself in the parable of the prodigal son. See, the son – the child of God – can get in the pigpen, but a true son of the Father can’t stay there or live there. If you desire to live in a pigpen, that’s where you belong! It’s your fraternity and reveals who you are and what you’re all about. However, when you get into the pigpen, and you desire to get out – and you cry out to God – then God is going to bring you home where He can receive you. But you will never be received by God in the pigpen....

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.

~ Well, it seems important to God to mention the on-going civil war several times. Apparently, these men did nothing outstanding their entire lives except pure evil. Fortunately, this brings up King Asa – the first good king in Judah. Asa measured up to God’s standard. Asa didn’t buy the equality protest the homosexual makes today. He put it out of the land. Our nation – and most of the world – has dropped to a very low level in this connection, to be sure – and God hates it, friends. The acceptance of a homosexual lifestyle is *NOT* the mark of being a progressive and civilized

nation. Homosexual acceptance is the hallmark of gross degradation and moral decay in a society. God says He “gives up” those who take a permissive stance on this. Don’t think so? –

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness ~

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves ~

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature ~

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient ~

I don’t think the Lord could make it any clearer. God *GAVE THEM UP*, friends. Now, I already know I am very unpopular on this forum on which I teach, and I suspect this report won’t help me win any friends or influence people but, someone needs to speak out; and I am just the man to do it. We need to recognize this as sin of the worst kind and take a very definite stance against it. Homosexuality is perverted, corrupt - and the practice reveals depravation of the mind – at the lowest possible levels of thinking. That’s not opinion. That’s what God says. Let’s not mix words – make no mistake; God hasn’t changed His mind about sexual perversion today. Quite frankly, I believe this also includes sex outside of marriage. Mankind cannot get any lower than homosexuality and fornication and adultery. Our society is accepting of this type of debauchery today – and they do so in the name of being civilized, tolerant and intellectual. King Asa wasn’t having any part of it – and God calls Asa a good king as a result.

As we read on, we have an overlapping history of two years between the king of Judah and the king of Israel. The first two years of Asa were the last two years of Jeroboam. Asa had one of the longest reigns of any king in

either kingdom. Well, Jeroboam slips into eternity and Baasha takes over. I guess they accepted the homosexual lifestyle up in the northern kingdom of Israel, because Baasha makes war against Asa and continues the never-ending account...

8 And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead.

9 And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah.

10 And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

11 And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father.

12 And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

13 And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.

14 But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.

15 And he brought in the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which himself had dedicated, into the house of the LORD, silver, and gold, and vessels.

16 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

17 And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants: and king Asa sent them to Benhadad, the son of Tabrimon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,

19 There is a league between me and thee, and between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent unto thee a present of silver and gold; come and break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.

20 So Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelbethmaachah, and all Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

21 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard thereof, that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah.

22 Then king Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted: and they took away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and King Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

23 The rest of all the acts of Asa, and all his might, and 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? Nevertheless in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.

24 And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

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.

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.

27 And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.

28 Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.

29 And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite:

30 Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he 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.

33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years.

34 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

XVI

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

2 Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;

3 Behold, I will take away the posterity of Baasha, and the posterity of his house; and will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

4 Him that dieth of Baasha in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth of his in the fields shall the fowls of the air eat.

5 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?

6 So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah: and Elah his son reigned in his stead.

7 And also by the hand of the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD against Baasha, and against his house, even for 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 him.

8 In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years.

9 And his servant Zimri, captain 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 smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.

11 And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he slew all the house of Baasha: he left him not one that pisseth against a wall, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends.

12 Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet,

13 For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

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?

15 In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

16 And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp.

17 And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died,

19 For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin.

20 Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and his treason that he wrought, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

21 Then were the people of Israel 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 that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni the son of Ginath: so Tibni died, and Omri reigned.

23 In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.

24 And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

25 But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him.

26 For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

27 Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he shewed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

28 So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

29 And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.

30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.

~ So, our safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with spell-binding intrigue in the royalty of the northern kingdom of Israel. Conspiracy and murder are the order of the day at the time in which we are studying. No man was safe in Israel at this time. There was no peace because the Lord God saith, *“there is no peace for the wicked.”* The continual civil war between Israel and Judah was an evil that totally depleted the resources of both kingdoms and caused them to become subject to the powers of the nation’s round about. Both Israel and Judah were repeatedly invaded by other enemies throughout their history.

This is a sad period in the history of both kingdoms. It shows how sin has life-long consequences. I trust you have read these chapters carefully. These are very dark days for Israel, but there are even darker days to come. In our next report, we'll begin with the account of King Ahab – perhaps the worst of all kings – ever. His wife helped him scrape the lowest possible plane of existence in shame, too. Any evil Ahab couldn't dream up, Jezebel did. The evil she didn't think of *NOBODY* could think of! Jezebel was an utterly treacherous woman. We're going to meet her and get a little too familiar with her. However, God has a man on the scene, and he is the right kind of man – Elijah. Even in the worst of times, God chooses the man who loves Him to stand against evil in this world. We'll meet Elijah in the next report from our Spiritual Safari. I hope you will continue with us through one of the most spectacular sections in the entire Word of God ~