

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022 • Read 1Kings 15:25–16:28**

Questions from the Scripture text: Who became king where, when, for how long (v25)? What did he do (v26)? Like whom? In what particular sin? Who did what in v27? With what result (v28)? What did Baasha further do (v29)? According to what? Why (v30)? What does God not bother to detail (v31)? What final summary does v32 give (cf. 14:30, 15:7)? When did who become king where for how long (v33)? What did he do (v34)? What was this great evil? To whom did what come in 16:1? What had Yahweh done for Baasha (v2)? But has Baasha done now? What will the Lord do (v3)? Like what? What does this mean exactly (v4, cf. 14:11)? What does God not bother to detail (v5)? What happens to Baasha in v6? Who reigns in his place? For what two things is he ultimately judged (v7)? When does who become what for how long (v8)? Who did what in v9? What was Elah doing at the time? What did Zimri do (v10)? What did he do (v11)? According to Whose Word did this happen (v12)? Why (v13)? What else doesn't God bother to detail (v14)? When did who do what for how short (v15)? What happened during that time? What do the people hear (v16)? Whom do they make king? What do he and they do (v17)? What does Zimri see in v18? What does he do? Why did this happen (v19)? What particular sin? How is his entire reign summarized in v20? What happened to the people of Israel at this point (v21)? Who won (v22)? When did who become what, for how long, where (v23)? What did Omri buy and build (v24)? What did he do (v25)? How badly? But still in what sin (v26)? What else didn't matter enough to be included in detail (v27)? What happened to Omri in v28? Who reigned in his place (v28)?

What are we to learn from the instability in this period of the northern kingdom? 1Kings 15:25–16:28 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that for all of the raging and plotting of politics, men are going to die, and what ultimately matters is what we are before God, since His Word judges us and rules/overrules even all the treacheries/murders of men.

Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab govern the northern kingdom over the thirty-six years of verses. And one man governs the southern kingdom.

It seems like the great contrast is between the chaos of the north and the stability of the south, but that's not the assessment that the Lord gives us. Rather, the Spirit tells us that Asa did what was right (15:11) by removing the idols of his fathers (v12) and the obscene image from his mother (v13). Of the others, He says that Nadab "did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin by which he made Israel sin" (v26). And Baasha "did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin" (v34). Baasha gets an extended (16:2–4) and repeated (16:7) treatment of just how like Jeroboam he was. Then Elah's entire reign is about getting killed by Zimri to fulfill the prophecy against him for walking in Jeroboam's sin.

Zimri reigned for only seven days (v15), but even in only seven days (!), he is judged as evil for "walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin (v19). The message is pretty clear. For all the wickedness that all of these men committed, the one that is most offensive to God is the fabricated religion of Jeroboam. God required immediate repentance, and Zimri didn't give it.

Even Omri, who ends up being the first of a great dynasty of evil, is judged primarily for walking "in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he made Israel sin, provoking Yahweh God of Israel to anger with their idols" (v26). Things are going to get worse with his dynasty (v31), but this again shows God's hatred for manmade religion.

It's not coup conspirators like Baasha (15:27) and Zimri (16:9) that control the rise and fall of nations. It's the Word of God like that on the lips of Ahijah the Shilonite (15:29) and Jehu son of Hanani (16:1, 12). This is going to be the ongoing theme of the Elijah and Elisha sections, but just now it's a reminder that since the word of the Lord is ultimately in control, all will be judged on whether they did right in the sight of Yahweh—particularly in the area of that God-designed worship by which He gives us to come to Him through Christ.

From God's perspective, how will our days be judged in our nation and our churches? What does He expect from you? What comfort or encouragement do you have in the face of how powerful the wicked are?

Sample prayer: Lord, if You judged Zimri as evil for not having repealed the sin of Jeroboam in his reign of just seven days, then surely You require reformation and purification of worship from us. Forgive us for when we are tolerant of much that is man-made in worship. Forgive us when we go through the motions in the worship that You have commanded, but our hearts are not in it to offer ourselves to You or to rest upon Christ alone as the worthiness of the worship. For His sake, forgive us; and, sanctify us to care about what You care about, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP51B "From My Sins, O Hide Your Face" or TPH180 "Kind and Merciful God, We Have Sinned"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First, Kings, 15 verse 25. Through 16 verse 28. These are God's words. So knit up the Son of gerbone became king of Israel. And the second year of Asa, King of Judah and it rained over Israel.

Two years needed, evil in the side of you. All band walked in the way of his father and in his sin, but which he had made Israel to send and Basha the son of adhesion of the House of Issachar conspired against him and Bash up killed him and giveth on which belonged to the Philistines while, Nadab and old Israel lead siege to givethan.

Bashar killed him. In the third year of Isa, King of Judah and reigned in his place 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 Yahweh, would you have spoken by his servant Age of the silent Night because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sent?

And by which he had made Israel to sin. Because of his provocation with which he had provoked Yahweh God of Israel to anger. Now, the rest of the act of NATOB and all that he did, or they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel, and there was war between Asa and Bash.

The king of Israel, their days, and the third year of Asa, King of Judah. But after the son of Egypt became king overall, Israel, in Tirza and reigned 24 years, He did evil and the sight of Yahweh. And he walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin, by which he had made Israel to send.

And the Word of Yahweh came to Jehu son of Hanani against Basha saying and as much as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over my people, Israel and you have walked in the way of Euroboam and have made my people Israel to send to provoke me to anger with their sins.

Surely, I will take away the posterity of bash on the posterity of his house and we'll make your house. Like the house of Jerobrone, the son of Nibact, the dogs will eat. Whoever belongs to Bash and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the fields.

Now the rest of the acts of Asha, what he did his might and they're not written in the book of the chronicles of the Kings of Israel. So the Ash arrested with his fathers and was buried in Tirza, and the Neela his son reigned in his place. And also the word of Y'all.

We came by the Prophet. J. Do the son of an Annie against Basha and against his house because of all the evil that he did in the side of Yahweh in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands and being like the house of Jeroboam. And because he killed them and the 26th year of Asa, King of Juda Ayla, that's on a bash.

I became king of Israel and drained, two years in Tirza. Now, his servant Zimmer he commander of Aphas Chariots, conspired against him as he was in. Tirsa drinking himself drunk and the house of artsa Stewart of his house. In Tirza and Zimmery went in and struck him and killed him in the 27th year of as a king of Judah and reigned in his place.

Then I came to pass when he began to rain, as soon as he was seated on his throne, that he killed all the household of Basha. He did not leave him one male either of his relatives nor of his friends, This is Emory destroyed all the household of Asha.

According to the Word of Yahweh, which he spoke against Basha by Jegu, the Prophet for all the sins of Asha. And the sons and the sins of Ella, his son by which they had sinned by which they had made Israel to sin and provoking Yahweh God of Israel to anger with their idols.

Now, the rest of the act of eland all that he did or they're not written in the book of the chronicles of the King's of Israel. And the 27th year of Asa, King of Judas. Emory had reigned in tieredza, seven days and the people were in camp against giveth on which belonged to Flintstones.

Now, the people who were in camped here, it said Zimmery has conspired and is also killed the king. So all is real made Omri. The commander of the Army king of Israel that day in the camp, an armory and all Israel with him. Went up from giveth on and they besieged tears up and it happened.

When Zimmery saw that, the city was taken. He went into the Citadel of the King's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire and died because of the sins which he had committed in doing evil inside of Yahweh in walking in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which year to commit it to make Israel to send.

Now the rest of the acts of Zimmering and the treason that he committed Are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the King's of Israel. And the people of Israel were divided into two parts. Half of the people, followed dimini the son of Gannett to make him King and have followed hombre.

Put the people who followed Armory prevailed over the people who followed Timney the son of Ganact. So Tiffany died, Albury, reigned and the 31st year of Asa. King of Judah. I'm Rebecca King of Israel and reigned 12 years, six years. He reigned in Tirza. And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shimmer for two talents of silver.

And then he built on the hill and he called the name of the city, which he built Samaria. After the name of Samur, owner of the Hill Armory did evil in the sun, in the eyes of Yahweh and did worse than we're all all who were before him for he walked in the all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Niebact and in her sin by which he had made Israel to sin provoking, Yahweh, God of Israel to anger with their idols.

Now the rest of the acts of Almory which he did and the might that he showed or they're not written in the book, The Chronicles of the kings of Israel Psalmory rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria and they have his son rent in his place.

So far the reading of gods inspired and inherent worked.

So in Judah, all this time, covering the passage that we're in Asap, one man is reigning and up in the northern kingdom of Israel, you can count through them. You have Nadab and then Basha and then elah and then Zimmery. And then this attempted reign by Tibney but then also Armory and Ahab.

So you have seven men in the north and just one in the south and not only do you have the long reign of Asa versus the comparatively short range? Although you have bash, bashes rain is pretty long, especially Quebec comparison to the other six guys. One of whom doesn't even successfully.

Take the throne Omri. Overcomes Tiffany before Tiffany ever really it gets to be thrown. Could you have three dynasties, you have the dynasty of Jeroboam and his son? Nadab who are wiped out by Basha, You have the dynasty of Baasha and his son Ela who are wiped out by Zimri and then you have this new dynasty at the end Armory and Ahab which is going to end up being the most famous dynasty of the northern kingdom Armory and Ahab.

And the Lord is going to raise up, a King Jehu, not the same as Jehu's son of Hanani here in Chapter 16 who is a prophet but another Jehu whom the Lord is going to raise up and that Jehu is not only going to wipe out the

The Omri dynasty, but he's also the one who has already been prophesied that the Lord is going to use to destroy the altar of jar bones underneath in front of the prophecy from a couple times ago. And so you have these wicked kings. All of them there are none who do right in the site of Yahwe.

That's something that the Lord has been mercifully doing every once in a while in the southern kingdom and it's going to continue almost right up until it's going to continue even after the northern kingdom is eliminated but you also have wicked kings in the southern kingdom because that's what we deserve to be.

That's what we are apart from grace and yet God not only in the surprise of his grace and which is not compelled to give it to anyone. But also in keeping with covenant promises that he has made so that whenever he does it in the family line of David we say yep he's still keeping his promise to David and we remember that that promise includes Christ.

We're encouraged not only by the God who saves and by the God who keeps promises to families through their lines and in whom you one day will trust. His promises concerning your children. As you use his means and look to him to save them. But the freedom of His grace and the heaping of his promises are all bound up in Christ.

Well, you don't have the line of David in the North. So the Davidic dynasty is going to last all the way to battle on and really forever because Jesus is from the Davidic dynasty. But you have three dynasties in the space of one Davidic king here in the portion that is before us and what has provoked, the Lord to such wrath that he is letting the northern kingdom.

Be like the rest of the earth. This is why family dynasties don't work out in in Kingdoms, not just in the northern kingdom of Israel, but in all the kingdoms of men, You study British heresy and you have not just one royal family but you have multiple royal families that spend time trying to obliterate each other when when one finally gets the upper hand And so we have multiple times in the passage that's before us.

Now, which a new king comes thrown and what's his first order of business. So wipe out all the descendants of the previous king. So that you because if you can have, if you're gonna have your dynasty. So the New King thinks to himself, you gotta wipe out the previous one.

The problem is you're setting a precedent So someone's going to off you and then wipe out all of your descendants because they don't just want to replace you but they want to make sure that you don't have a dynasty that continues And so God is giving them over to their sin.

What is so provoked? God, that he would give Israel, the northern kingdom, 10 of the 12 tribes over to such political upheaval and the answer over and over, and over again. As the sin of Jeroboam, son of Nabach the Lord hates man-made worship. You see the even in our passage the emphasis on with the work of his hands.

He provoked. Y'all way to anger with the work of his hands. The fact that the worship that was being done was not the worship that has given by God, who is the only one who can make a way for us to come to him. And that way ultimately is Christ but not the worship that is given to us by God.

But the worship that we invent because it feels and seems worshipful which is what Jeroboam had done. And you even see how although there was to be one family from which the priests came and the Levites Jerome. One of the emphases on his manmade. Worship was how inclusive it was?

Anybody could be a priest From any family and the Lord is doing something similar. Now, even in, how he judges the kings you have kings from Jerome's tribe. I can't remember which one it is. Was it Naphtali? Now I can't remember what what family what tribe Jeroboam out of knee bat was from.

But then you have another one from Issachar here and so God is giving them kings from any tribe just like they chose priests from any tribe and so there's a there's an appropriateness and a symmetry even in the temporal justice of God in the working out of nations. He often uses that and that of which a nation is most proud to destroy that nation, She's a good lesson for our nation, but a little bit far-field from the, from the passage.

So the sin that has provoked God, is this man-made worship and God expects leaders in the civil sphere to put an end to the false worship of those who are under under his authority. What would a right repentance have looked like Now, God's not giving them repentance, He doesn't owe them repentance.

But what would have it looked? Would? It have looked like it would have looked like, taking down the worship places in Bethel, and Dan, most of all eliminating worship on the high places. Telling the people that they must follow the worship prescribed by God, which means go to Jerusalem, You don't have to join the nation of Judah.

God has judged the nation of Judah and take and taken away from David. The ten tribes. But you do have to worship there because it's God who has given us our ten tribe nation in the north. And it's God who had commands what worship is. And so you go there and no longer.

Are we gonna have these priests from whatever tribe, you want to no longer? Are we gonna have these feasts that we made up? Must have only Levites as priests? And there are Levitical cities in the northern part of the kingdom and we'll honor them as the priests set apart by God.

And we'll observe only the feasts that were invented by God. That was the duty of a king to, to restore to the proper clergy, proper oversight of the proper worship. It's still the duty of civil governments today, not to take over the church. But to forbid the nation false worship and to point them to the true Church of Jesus Christ and the elders who teach and oversee according to the Scripture.

And so it's required of a king, of course, that he be Christians required of everyone to repent and believe in Jesus Christ. This is a duty in response to the gospel and it's a requirement of the government to to forbid, false worship and point people to the true church and to call upon the church for Reformation.

It's not like things were going wonderfully in the South. I mean they were going better since Asa was king at this time but that wasn't always true. During the time of the divided Kingdom is very complex thing, But we need to pray for civil government, that recognizes that it's God who raises kingdoms up, and it's God who tears, kingdoms down, and he does.

So, primarily in response to how he has been worshiped, and so these kings are not just judged for their own false worship. But for what Israel does under them, what their leadership results in as far as the spiritual life of the people who are under them. So not only Jeroboam of Shechem is continuing now to be judged for causing Israel to say, But by Asha is judged for being a second Jeroboam and the same pronouncement about none of his descendants are going to get buried.

You remember, Jeroboam? And Basha was the only one of his descendants who would get buried. The same? Pronouncement is now made against the House of Basha with the birds and the dogs eating the corpses in 1st Kings, 16 verse 4. And even Zimri is judged. He reigned seven days and yet he's condemned for not having ended the false worship of Jeroboam.

Son of Nebat have not having brought into brought Israel into Reformation and people say, well, seven days. You know, that's a little bit extreme. He didn't have time. Well, you don't take time to repent when you know something is sinful. You turn from it. Immediately, it takes time to succeed and grow, and become more consistent in that repentance.

But the repentance itself, the turning against the sin and engaging in the battle against it, that is immediate. You can't even start to win the battle or start to make progress in the battle until you've engaged in the battle. But God expects immediate reformation and for us from our sins, he expects immediate repentance.

How am I going to kill my pride? If I don't immediately start hating my pride and fighting against it. If I tell myself a little pride is okay that I'm not repentant. But if I tell myself, all of my pride is a horror against God taking to myself, what belongs only to him and I still have these risings of pride in my heart that are continual and very difficult to crucify but at least I'm engaged in the battle.

You say, well, it seems a little bit harsh and a little bit exacting to highest standard to condemn Emery for not having started Reformation after seven days. Well, you know what? He accomplished in seven days, the elimination of Basha and every descendant that belonged to Basha. You can tell what matters to someone by their actions.

There are lots of people who when we examine ourselves or someone else examines us, and especially with worship things and our attitude towards it and our commitment and our habit of it, to say, oh well, you know, we're really busy, we don't really have time for family worship, you know, the weeks, just so full of other things and it's really hard for us to get there to the prayer meeting, etc.

Etc. Well, or something that they need to be supporting financially. So we'll just you know, money's tight right now. You know what people find a way to make the time for things that they want to do? People find a way to afford the things. They want to afford Zimri in his seven-day reign, found a way to make time to eliminate the house of Basha.

What he didn't find a way to make the time to do was to eliminate the false worship. And so the Lord it shows us here not just the duty of kings, but the priorities of our hearts, of course, there's no room for making excuses. We are our hearts are exposed for saying, but it was only seven days and maybe your heart, didn't say that.

But my heart did and I'm sure many others do. And that's, that's our fleshliness, our not loving, God, and his right worship. Like we should finally you see the Lord naming. People that would not ordinarily, be written in the history books. You would write the name Basha in the history book, although God says about him, you know, the rest of the acts of Asha, I what he did and his might, right?

So, apparently, the notable thing about Basha was how powerful he was, and we remember that from the previous passage, because Asa had to hire Syria to help him with Basha. And so you'd write Basha in the history book, you might not write Zimri in the history book, the seven-day reign except for he did wipe out all the house of Asha and seven days as far as political history is concerned.

He seems pretty successful but the two big things he did was he committed treason. No, the one big thing is he, he committed treason the rest of Acts.

Where is it?

Now, I can't find it. Anyway, the one thing that has been written about him is that he committed to treason. Oh verse 20, sorry I didn't look far enough to another rest of the act of Zimri and the treason that he committed. So he's not powerful like Basha, he committed treason. But the main thing isn't the political intrigue.

The main thing is whether or not they stand against God. And so you have the kings whom history might be interested in, but the ones whom God are interested in are especially Adonia the silent Night whose words, the Lord fulfills by destroying the House of Jeroboam. And then Jehu and any whose words, the Lord fulfills by destroying the house of Asha.

And you're gonna have, then you're gonna have a war against the words of Elijah. And then later the words of Elijah and you're gonna have other kings and other prophets and the kings and the prophets are going to be budding. Heads. This is the story of the northern kingdom and yet it's the Word of God on the mouth of the persecuted guy in several cases as we get further on or at least in this thus far, the as far as everyone else is considered unimportant guy.

It's the words of God that are controlling the narrative here. The wicked are going to do with the wicked are gonna do. Basha actually gets judged for the way he wipes out the house of Jeroboam because he's a wicked man, doing wicked things. And yet, God does for good what wicked men do for evil.

So on the one hand Basha, he gets judged for wiping out Jeroboam, but on the other hand, the word of the Lord, on the mouth of a prophet. Of the prophet gets fulfilled by what Basha did. And so God's Word is ruling and overruling all things. He's doing everything right.

He's doing everything good, and that's true in your life, too. Even when there are evil people doing evil things, it's the Word of God. Carrying out the purpose of God that wins the day. Wicked people seem to gain the upper hand for a moment, but God's purpose. According to his word is always winning the day, not just gonna win, it sometime later, but the way we see these prophecies along the way of men, who would have been completely unimportant to the rest of the world.

But who are men of God? Who spoke the Word of God? They're the ones who really are from a right and final view of history exercising. The real power. Right now as we hear the Word of God together in this kitchen on the Lord's Day as we hear the word of God together and the Holy assembly, very unimportant to the rest of the 330 million people or more, I guess.

Now, in our nation, and yet more power. That looking at the whole course of the history of this world than anything. Biden doesn't a White House because

whatever Biden's doing in the White House is actually under the authority and control of God to carry out his word. And so it's not that what we're doing.

Doesn't matter. That's what we're doing. Seems like it doesn't matter from a sociopolitical perspective, but the Lord makes it to win the day in an ultimate sentence. And then an even along the way there are seasons of temporal blessing. And if we keep preaching the Word of the convictions are passed down to our kids, if Americans continue with a reproductive rate of 1.4 when replacement is 2.1, but Americans generally are at 1.4 but Reformed Christians are you know 4.1 who knows what the Lord might use that to do.

But apart from his mercy, causing us who are fathers to lead our children. Well, then it won't matter how many kids we had. We will have made them to send and continue to provoke God to wrath. Well there's a lot here and it could have been better organized and there's something stuck in the back of my head now that I missed.

But let's pray our Father in heaven. We thank you for this portion of your word, more to see how sinful men are and how sinful we are and not in most of our cases, to the extent of murdering an entire line of people in order to establish our position and our influence.

And yet often Lord, using our tongues in a way that comes, from the same spirit or even just desiring and coming things from same view, of power and control. And success as the world seems to have or there's the world has. So we confess before you that everything that we see on a large scale, in the wickedness of the kings of Israel, in this passage that the seeds of it and the reality of it remains in our hearts and our lives spiritually.

And so we thank you for your mercy in Christ that you are a gracious Savior. And that you've given in to be a Redeemer. We thank you for your promises. We thank you that you do work in the lines of the righteous just as much as we see sin passed down in the lines of the wicked, we pray, O, God, that you would keep your promises to us and to our children, we pray for that.

Our Lord for our elders in the congregation. We pray for me as leader of our home and for our sons who are one day. Be leaders in their homes. We pray for civil authorities and every sphere over which every role and responsibility in, which you have placed them. That each of us would see the duty that we have to lead the ones who are beneath us in right worship and right doctrine and to designate those whom you have designated in your church as teachers and shepherds Lord.

The way of thinking that we learn from this passage is so far. Now, from what we see in the nation, from what we see in the churches, even from what is in many families, forgive me. Oh God. For how much my own leadership, has fallen short and the family to lead these children and following Christ and being devoted to him and rejecting whatever comes from themselves and their own flesh.

Help us O Lord to crucify the flesh together and toast. Only in Christ. We ask all these things in his name. Amen.