

1 KINGS 15:1-24 "THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY"

To Recap:

The Book of 1 Kings

Focus	One Nation Becomes Two												
Divisions	Solomon: Third King of Israel 1 4		Solomon's Temple Built & Dedicated 5 8 9			Solomon's Fame, Fortune & Failure 11		The Kingdom Divides: Israel & Judah 12 16		Elijah: God's Spokesman in the Days of Ahab 17 19		Ahab's Final Days as King in Israel 20 22	
Topics	The King with a Divided Heart						The Divided Kingdom He Left Behind						
	Dedication						Disruption						
Place	Jerusalem						Northern Kingdom: Israel Southern Kingdom : Judah						
Time	About 130 Years												
Author	Believed to be Jeremiah												

1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat,

Abijam became king over Judah.

2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom. (David's wicked son)

3 **And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him;** his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

- Some of the greater characters of Scripture have had their names changed by the Lord because their character had changed.
 - Abram to Abraham
 - Jacob to Israel
 - Saul to Paul

Abijam:

- "My Father is YAM."
 - Chronicles spells his name Abijah, which means "Yahweh is my father."

- Kings spells the name Abijam, which means “my father is Yam,” Yam was a Canaanite sea-god.
- Could it be he started out as Abijah, a follower of Yahweh, and ended up as Abijam, a follower of a false god? ¹
- Abijam’s **three-year reign in Judah (913–911 B.C.)** was within Jeroboam’s **reign in Israel (931–910 B.C.)**. ²

- **Sins of his father:**

1 Kings 14:23–24

23 For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.

24 **And there were also perverted persons in the land.** They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

6945 **שֶׁדִּיָּם** [*qadesh* /kaw·dashe/] n m. From 6942; TWOT 1990c; GK 7728; Six occurrences; AV translates as “sodomite” five times, and “unclean” once. **1 male temple prostitute.** ³

- **The standard was King David**

- Every King would be compared to his faithfulness and heart toward God.
- May I affect generations to come in my family.

- **God had blessed and protected Abijam during his reign but his heart was not loyal to God.**

2 Chronicles 13:21 But Abijah grew mighty, married fourteen wives, and begot twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

- **“His heart was not loyal...”**

- Notice that God saw his heart – his central affection – his main interest

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. **For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**”

4 Nevertheless for David’s sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem;
5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, **except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.**

¹ Russell Dilday and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, 1, 2 Kings, vol. 9, The Preacher’s Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1987), 165.

² Thomas L. Constable, “1 Kings,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 518.

³ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

- Scriptural history can sometimes be brutal
 - Scripture reminding us of David’s great sins.
 - ALSO – reminding us of David’s great heart for the LORD.
- **Robert Hawker**: “How sweet is it to observe how the Holy Ghost doth now and then design to lead the church in the midst of an apparent history of kings and contests, to a glimpse of Jesus, on whose account, and for whom the lamp in David’s family is kept burning.
Oh! Holy Spirit! grant me grace to love thee, and to adore thine exceeding riches of grace, in thus glorifying Jesus in the darkest ages, and the most distant periods, before the coming of the Lord!” ⁴

6 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.
7 Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, 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 Abijah and Jeroboam.

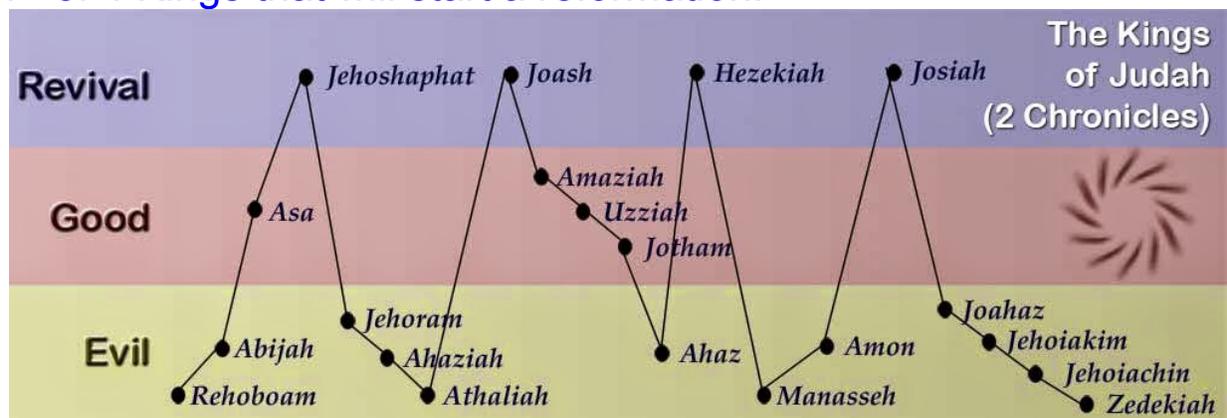
2 Chronicles 13:19–20

19 And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him: Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephraim with its villages.

20 So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck him, and he died.

8 So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.
9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah.
10 And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother’s name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.
11 Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David.

- 1st of 4 Kings that will start a reformation:



⁴ Robert Hawker, *Poor Man’s Old Testament Commentary: 1 Kings–Esther*, vol. 3 (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2013), 100–101.

12 And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

13 Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

- “Perverted persons”
 - The Hebrew word is *qēdēšîm*, which refers to both men and women who practiced sodomy and prostitution in religious rituals.⁵
 - This image is described as “obscene” in our English translation, but the Hebrew word is closer in meaning to “frightening,” “horrible,” or “abominable.” Some commentators believe it was some sort of phallic symbol consistent with the fertility cult of Asherah. The destruction of this famous image, and its public burning by the Brook Kidron, must also have made a profound impression on the people.⁶
 - **Asa removed his own Grandmother from a position of authority as Queen Mother.**
 - **Will you put up with your parent’s sinful input into your household?**

• **Asa made a choice to break the generational mold in his life.**

- His father was wicked and pagan (Abijah)
- His Grandfather was wicked and pagan (Rehoboam)
- His Great-Grandfather was wicked and pagan (Solomon)

Ezekiel 18:1–23

1 The word of the LORD came to me again, saying,

2 “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘**The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge**’?”

3 “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel.

4 “**Behold, all souls are Mine;**

The soul of the father

As well as the soul of the son is Mine;

The soul who sins shall die.

5 But if a man is just And does what is lawful and right;

6 If he has not eaten on the mountains, Nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife, Nor approached a woman during her impurity;

7 If he has not oppressed anyone, But has restored to the debtor his pledge; Has robbed no one by violence, But has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing;

⁵ Russell Dilday and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, *1, 2 Kings*, vol. 9, The Preacher’s Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1987), 168.

⁶ Russell Dilday and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, *1, 2 Kings*, vol. 9, The Preacher’s Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1987), 168.

8 If he has not exacted usury Nor taken any increase, But has withdrawn his hand from iniquity And executed true judgment between man and man;

9 If he has walked in My statutes— And kept My judgments faithfully— **He is just; He shall surely live!” Says the Lord God.**

10 “If he begets a son who is a robber Or a shedder of blood, Who does any of these things

11 And does none of those duties, But has eaten on the mountains Or defiled his neighbor’s wife;

12 If he has oppressed the poor and needy, Robbed by violence, Not restored the pledge, Lifted his eyes to the idols, Or committed abomination;

13 If he has exacted usury Or taken increase— Shall he then live? He shall not live! If he has done any of these abominations, He shall surely die; His blood shall be upon him.

14 “If, however, he begets a son Who sees all the sins which his father has done, And considers but does not do likewise;

15 Who has not eaten on the mountains, Nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife;

16 Has not oppressed anyone, Nor withheld a pledge, Nor robbed by violence, But has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing;

17 Who has withdrawn his hand from the poor And not received usury or increase, But has executed My judgments And walked in My statutes He shall not die for the iniquity of his father; He shall surely live!

18 “As for his father, Because he cruelly oppressed, Robbed his brother by violence, And did what is not good among his people, Behold, he shall die for his iniquity.

19 “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’ Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live.

20 The soul who sins shall die.

The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son.

The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

21 “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

22 None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.

23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

- **Will you be the one that breaks the cycle of your family sin?**

14 But the high places were not removed.

Nevertheless Asa’s heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

15 He also brought into the house of the LORD the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

- The highest places of pagan worship were left untouched
 - Doesn't Jesus want us to clean the entire house?
 - **I don't want this to be said of my life in the end.**
 - **Your duty as a Father is to protect your children from evil influences**
 - **Too many Fathers want to be their child's friend instead of their child's Priest, Prophet, Provider and Protector.**

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

17 And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

18 **Then Asa took all the silver and gold** that was left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

19 "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a present of silver and gold. Come and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

20 So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. **He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.**

21 Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah.

22 Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

- A little north of Ramah
- Re-establishing a northern fortress against Baasha

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

2 Chronicles 16:12-14

12 And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; **yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.**

13 So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign.

14 They buried him in his own tomb, which he had made for himself in the City of David; and they laid him in the bed which was filled with spices and various ingredients prepared in a mixture of ointments. They made a very great burning for him.

24 So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. **Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.**

- Jehoshaphat will be a true reformer and walk with the Lord in all his ways.