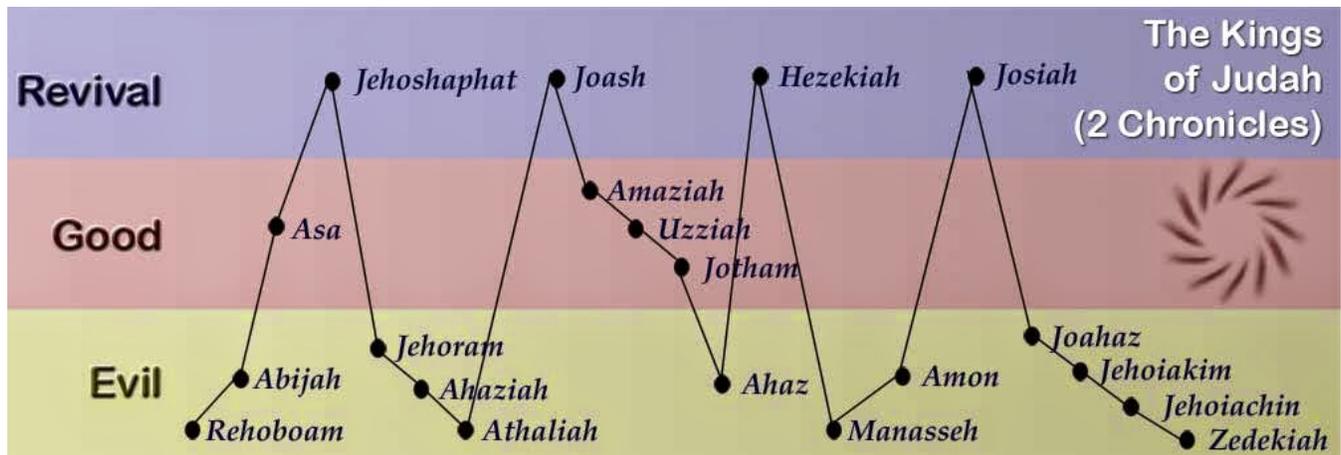


# 1 KINGS 15:33–16:34 “AHAB, THE WORST



The next verses are all for the purpose of recording in Biblical history that a life of rebellion against the Lord always ends up a ruin.

- Baasha was a terrible King over Northern Israel, but he would pale in comparison to who was coming after him – Ahab.

## Asa – King of Judah

- 1<sup>st</sup> year – **Jeroboam**: father of northern Israel’s paganism
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year – **Nadab**: no change from his father Jeroboam’s wickedness
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year – **Baasha**: killed all of the house of Jeroboam; did great evil
- 26<sup>th</sup> year – **Elah**: copied the sins of his father and Jeroboam
- 27<sup>th</sup> year – **Zimri**: King for 7 days; killed all the house of Baasha and then later committed suicide by burning his own house down around his family
- 31<sup>st</sup> year – **Omri**: did worse than all the kings before him
- 38<sup>th</sup> year – **Ahab**: did worse than even his father Omri before the Lord
  - Took a Sidonian pagan wife – Jezebel, who worshipped Baal
  - Made a wooden image for his temple of Baal in Samaria
  - Brought Baal worship to it’s height during his reign
- Asa reigned 41 years – no drama in Judah because he followed the heart of God.
  - Banished the perverted people from Judah
  - Removed his perverted Grandmother and her brothels
  - Removed the idols his Dad had commissioned

**1 Kings 15:12–14**

**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.

**14** But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

## Foxtails:



- Foxtails seem to be just harmless weed seeds
- They burrow themselves in to dog's ears, noses, eyes and paws.
- They can kill a dog.
- They go in at the point and can't back out – they must be surgically removed.
  - So is Paganism

**33** In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and reigned twenty-four years.

**34** He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

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

**2** “Inasmuch as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam, and have made My people Israel sin, to provoke Me to anger with their sins,

**3** surely I will take away the posterity of Baasha and the posterity of his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

**4** The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Baasha and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the fields.”

- **JEHU — “Jehovah is he.”**
- **For a Jew’s body not to be buried was a terrible form of humiliation.** <sup>1</sup>
  - They were all left in the fields where they were slaughtered
- The Lord had no interest in ignoring the continued paganism and spiritual abominations of Northern Israel.

**5** Now the rest of the acts of Baasha, what he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

**6** So Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. Then Elah his son reigned in his place.

**7** And also the word of the LORD came by the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, because of 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 them.

**8** In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel, and reigned two years in Tirzah.

**9** Now his servant Zimri, commander 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.

- What kind of good could ever come from a drunk?
- What kind of wise decisions could ever come from a drunk?
  - The Holy Spirit calls Christians out from drunkenness and partying:  
**1 Peter 4:3 (NLT)** You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy — their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. <sup>2</sup>

**10** And Zimri went in and struck him and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

**11** Then it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he was seated on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave him one male, **neither of his relatives nor of his friends.**

**12** Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, **according to the word of the LORD**, which He spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet,

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

<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Responsible*, “Be” Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002), 124.

<sup>2</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), 1 Pet 4:3.

**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?

- Are we to assume that Zimri acted in the will of the Lord to slaughter the entire household of Baasha?
  - Not at all – the Lord knows that the wages of continued sin is DEATH.
  - It can't be escaped – you've earned it by your actions
  - It's a debt that cannot be paid by "good deeds".
  - Every sin is a death sentence!

**Romans 7:24–25**

**24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from **this body of death?**

**25** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . .

**15** In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, **Zimri had reigned in Tirzah seven days.** And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

**16** Now the people who were encamped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired and also has killed the king." So all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

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

**18** And it happened, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire, and died,

**19** because of the sins which he had committed in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin.

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

- **The outcome of Zimri's life? – NOTHING**
  - **Successful only in killing himself**
  - **Suicide darkens all the success of a life otherwise.**
  - **All that is remembered of Zimri:**
    - Conspiracy
    - Murder
    - Treason
    - Suicide

**21** Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts (civil war in the Northern Kingdom): half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri.

**22** But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri reigned.

**23** In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah.

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

- **Samaria:**

- According to the Hebrew Bible, the name "Shomron" is derived from the individual [or clan] *Shemer*, from whom King Omri purchased the site for his new capital city (1 Kings 16:24).<sup>3</sup>
- Became the Capitol of the Northern Kingdom

**25 Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.**

- Omri's fame as a monarch, while downplayed by the author of Kings, was widely recognized in other places. The Moabite stone, discovered in 1868, refers to him as the conqueror of Moab. Assyrian inscriptions make mention of him as a great warrior. For years the Assyrians referred to Israel as "the house of Omri." His strength earned for him the title, "The David of Israel."<sup>4</sup>
- **OMRI DID EVIL IN THE EYES OF THE LORD:**
  - What about his military victories against Moab, his imposing building projects, his international reputation for wealth and power?
    - In the end they count for nothing.
    - The king's relation to God is the only thing that counts.<sup>5</sup>
- RICH? – so what!
- SOCIAL STATUS? – so what!
- POLITICAL POSITION? – so what!
- GREAT MONUMENTS BUILT IN YOUR NAME? – so what!
- ALL IS FOR NOTHING IF THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD RECORD OF YOUR LIFE -

**"He did evil in the sight of the Lord"**

**26** For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

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

**28** So Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria.

**Then Ahab his son reigned in his place.**

**29** In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, **Ahab the son of Omri** became king over Israel; and **Ahab the son of Omri** reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

<sup>3</sup> "This Side of the River Jordan; On Language", Forward, *Philologos*, 22 September 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Russell Dilday and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, *1, 2 Kings*, vol. 9, The Preacher's Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1987), 177–178.

<sup>5</sup> Russell Dilday and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, *1, 2 Kings*, vol. 9, The Preacher's Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1987), 178.

**30 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.**

- Ahab is called the son of Omri three times here:
  - *Ahab*, which can be translated “brother of the father” or “resembling the father.”<sup>6</sup>
  - Redefining what evil could be before the Lord.

**31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins** of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife **Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal**, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

- **ETH-BAAL**—with Baal, a king of Sidon (940–908), father of Jezebel, who was the wife of Ahab (1 Kings 16:31).
  - **He is said to have been also a priest of Astarte**, whose worship was closely allied to that of Baal, and this may account for his daughter’s zeal in promoting idolatry in Israel.<sup>7</sup>
- **Jezebel:**
  - Jezebel is the Anglicized transliteration of the Hebrew אִיזָבֶל (*Izevel/Izavel*). *The Oxford Guide to People & Places of the Bible* states that **the name is “best understood as meaning ‘Where is the Prince?’”**, a ritual cry from worship ceremonies in honor of Baal during periods of the year when the god was considered to be in the underworld.<sup>8</sup>
  - **The Spirit of Jezebel:**

**Revelation 2:19–20**  
**19** “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.  
**20** Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.  
**21** And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.  
**22** Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.  
**23** I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.  
**24** “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.  
**25** But hold fast what you have till I come.

<sup>6</sup> John Gray, *I and II Kings*, Old Testament Library (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963), 29.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>7</sup> M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

<sup>8</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jezebel>

**1 Kings 21:25** But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.

**32** Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

**33** And Ahab made a wooden image.

**Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**

**34** In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

**Ahab:**

**Matthew 12:26–28**

**26** If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

**27** And if I cast out demons by **Beelzebub (Baal-Zebub)**, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

**28** But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.