

Audio Transcript of Sermon
September 28, 2024
The Kings of Israel and Judah

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. Politics and government come down to the people either liking or disliking the candidates or officials and their policies. In many countries the people are free to publicly disagree with those in power, and in some there is no room for disagreement. Today, we are not going to agree or disagree with any government of man. The Bible is clear that wherever we live, we are to submit ourselves to the laws of the country in which we live, and as Christians we understand to the extent those do not contradict what is in the Bible. We are to submit ourselves to the leader of our country, governor of our state or province, and even local leaders. First Peter two verse thirteen.

1 Peter 2:13-17

13. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14. Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16. As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Whether a current leader is righteous or evil is a judgment for God. If we want to see how God judged the Kings of Israel and Judah, all we need to do is to read from the Old Testament. We know Saul got a big ego and didn't last as King of Israel. We also know that David was a man who sinned passionately and yet was a man after God's own heart. Solomon was the wisest of men, and yet in his older years followed his many wives into following the ways of foreign gods. Solomon kept busy with seven hundred wives, and had his scores of princesses and concubines, and his wives turned his heart away from God. First Kings eleven verse one.

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1 Kings 11:1-13

1. But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

2. Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

3. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

Even though David had sins of passion, David never allowed his heart to be turned away from God by the women in his life. Solomon was different, and unlike David who was a man after God's own heart, Solomon did evil in the sight of God not fully following what God commanded. The wisdom of Solomon which gave us much of the Book of Proverbs in the end didn't do much for Solomon. He built altars for these foreign gods in high places, giving these strange gods the place of honor when in Israel only the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was to be worshipped. Verse four.

4. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

5. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.

7. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

8. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

Solomon knew better and because he made a conscious decision to turn away from God, whom he had met twice, where he was specifically told to not follow these strange gods, God told him the kingdom would be taken from his lineage, from his son. Most of the tribes would abandon the throne. Verse nine.

- 9. And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,**
- 10. And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded.**
- 11. Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.**
- 12. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.**
- 13. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.**

The rest of Solomon's life was tumultuous. Jeroboam rebelled against him, causing an incredible defense of the throne. Eventually, Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place. Rehoboam went to Shechem to be coronated and then Jeroboam, who tried to rebel against Solomon heard about this plan directly from the tribes of Israel. They appealed to Rehoboam to lessen the burden on the people, and Rehoboam agreed to think about it and told them he would give them an answer in three days. First Kings twelve verse one.

1 Kings 12:1-19

- 1. And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.**
- 2. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;**
- 3. That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,**
- 4. Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.**
- 5. And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.**

During that time, he consulted with the men who had advised Solomon. Rehoboam could sense frustration with the people and wanted to give the best response to their demands. Those older advisers told him to make a deal with the

people and to lessen the burden. Rehoboam then went to a younger group of advisors, his friends, and they told Rehoboam to stick it to the people, to make the burden even harder. Verse six.

6. And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7. And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever.

8. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

9. And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

10. And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

True to his word, King Rehoboam met with Jeroboam and his entourage on the third day and relayed his decision to them. It's didn't take long for the group there to realize Rehoboam would not be a king for the people of Israel, and they left to return to their tribal lands. Later when Rehoboam sent a tax collector to those tribal lands, he was killed mercilessly. The rebellion of Israel was on. Verse twelve.

12. So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

14. And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

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15. Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the Lord, that he might perform his saying, which the Lord spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

16. So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

17. But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18. Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

19. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

Judah remained loyal to Rehoboam and Benjamin soon followed. The remaining tribes of Israel pledged their loyalty to Jeroboam. Rehoboam soon sought to reclaim the kingdom and wanted to start a war with the tribes of Israel, but God intervened and told them to return home. First Kings twelve verse twenty.

1 Kings 12:20-33

20. And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

21. And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

22. But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

23. Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,

24. Thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the Lord, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord.

Jeroboam built his palace at Shechem and thought that the kingdom would soon be returned to the house of David if they went there to sacrifice at the temple. To counter the appeal of the temple at Jerusalem, Jeroboam made two golden calves and placed one at Dan and the other in Bethel. The priests of these golden calves were not of the house of Levi. Verse twenty-five.

25. Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Peniel.

26. And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27. If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan.

30. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

31. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

So that the Holy Days would not draw people to Jerusalem and possibly return their loyalty to the house of David, Jeroboam made a competing feast on the same day where people sacrificed to the golden calves. Verse thirty-two.

32. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made.

33. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

A man of God came from Judah to Bethel with the word of the Lord and he showed how the golden calf worship was wrong. He explained how the golden calf altars would be destroyed by God. Hearing this ominous warning, Jeroboam tried to seize the man. When he stretched out his arm, his hand was dried up by God. Jeroboam begged the man of God to restore his hand to him, and God intervened and restored Jeroboam's hand. Jeroboam then tried to befriend the man of God, and the man declined Jeroboam's invitation and left a different way than he came. First Kings thirteen verse one.

1 Kings 13:1-34

1. And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

2. And he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

3. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the Lord hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

4. And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

5. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.

6. And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

7. And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

8. And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

9. For so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

10. So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Beth-el.

An old prophet was living in Bethel, and when he heard what had happened, He followed this man of God out of town and met up with him under an oak tree. Again, they tried to convince him to return to Bethel, and the man of God declined. Then the old prophet lied and claimed to be a current prophet of God who was told by God to bring this man with him back to Bethel. For whatever reason, the man of God believed this old prophet and returned and did everything he was not to do. During the meal the word of God came to the man telling him of his mistake. Verse eleven.

11. Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

12. And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.

13. And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,

14. And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.

15. Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

16. And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:

17. For it was said to me by the word of the Lord, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

18. He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.

19. So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.

20. And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came unto the prophet that brought him back:

21. And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the Lord, and hast not kept the commandment which the Lord thy God commanded thee,

22. But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

After the men were good and drunk, the old prophet sent the man of God riding out of town on a donkey. Even back then, Driving and drinking was not advisable because this man of God came across a lion while drunk on the donkey, and the lion had what might be called a finger licking good meal. It wouldn't take long for the people to come across the gruesome scene and in an act of repentance, the old prophet came to understand that he had a hand in the death of the man of God and went to retrieve the body burying the body in the grave where his own body would one day lay. Verse twenty-three.

23. And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.

24. And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.

25. And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26. And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the Lord: therefore the Lord hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake unto him.

27. And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him.

28. And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.

29. And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

30. And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

31. And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

32. For the saying which he cried by the word of the Lord against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

With the death of the man of God, Jeroboam quickly returned to his evil ways as there would be no person to wither his hands anymore. Verse thirty-three.

33. After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

34. And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

At about this time, Jeroboam's son Abijah became sick. Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself and seek the prophet Ahijah which had told him he would be king of Israel. She was to take certain food items with her. When she arrived, she discovered due to age Ahijah was now blind. God spoke to Ahijah and gave him the details of the reason for the visit of Jeroboam's wife. Ahijah confronted Jeroboam's wife and told her their son's illness was just the tip of the iceberg of punishment for the evil brought by Jeroboam. Ahijah told her their son would die as soon as she returned to Jeroboam at Tirzah. Jeroboam would go on to be a warring king and after a few decades of ruling, he died, and Nadab his son reigned in his place. First Kings fourteen verse one.

1 Kings 14:1-20

1. At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick.

2. And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, which told me that I should be king over this people.

3. And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child.

4. And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.

5. And the Lord said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman.

6. And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings.

7. Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

8. And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

9. But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

10. Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

11. Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the Lord hath spoken it.

12. Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

13. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

14. Moreover the Lord shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now.

15. For the Lord shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the Lord to anger.

16. And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.

17. And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;

18. And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

19. And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

20. And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.

Meanwhile in Judah, Rehoboam reigned, and even though he reigned in the city that God had chosen, Judah did evil in the sight of God. Under Rehoboam, Judah became a place where sin abounded, even though they thought of themselves as very religious because of all the religious shrines they built. First Kings fourteen verse twenty-one.

1 Kings 14:21-31

21. And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.

22. And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

23. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

24. And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.

During the fifth year of his reign, the King of Egypt came to fight against Jerusalem and took away the treasures of the king's palace, including the shields made of gold. To substitute, Rehoboam had bronze shields made to replace the golden shields. Those bronze shields would come in handy as the Kingdom of Judah was constantly at war with Israel. Rehoboam's reign only lasted seventeen years and he died. Abijam, his son, reigned after him. Verse twenty-five.

25. And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:

26. And he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

27. And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house.

28. And it was so, when the king went into the house of the Lord, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber.

29. Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

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.

Abijam's reign was a short one, lasting only three years. He followed in his father's footsteps and did every evil thing his father had done. God was only allowing these evil kings to rule to honor his commitment to David and to maintain Jerusalem. When Abijam died, his son, Asa, followed him on the throne. First Kings fifteen verse one.

1 Kings 15:1-8

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.

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.

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 anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

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.

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

Unlike Rehoboam and Abijam, Asa did what was right in the eyes of God, much like David. He removed the sodomites and religious shrines built by the people. He even took away the noble title of queen from his mother because she built a religious shrine in a grove. He even destroyed her religious shrine. Evidently Asa was a smart person. He saw the track record of Rehoboam and Abijam and decided he wanted a different fate than they had. A few years into his reign, he would find himself fighting against Baasha, the new king of Israel—we'll get into how Baasha became king of Israel in just a bit. Eventually, Asa died and Jehoshaphat his son followed on the throne. First Kings fifteen verse nine.

1 Kings 15:9-24

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 Ben-hadad, 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 Ben-hadad 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 Abel-beth-maachah, and all Chinneroth, 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.

Jeroboam's son, Nadab was only on the throne of Israel for two years and like his father also did evil in the sight of God. He was overthrown and killed by Baasha in the third year of Asa's reign in Judah. With Nadab dead, Baasha turned his attention to Asa and the Kingdom of Judah, and the fighting was on. First Kings fifteen verse twenty-five.

1 Kings 15:25-34

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.

Looking at the count among the Kings of the unified Kingdom of Israel, David did what was right, and Saul and Solomon did not. Among the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, so far only Asa did what was right. Jeroboam, Nadab, and Baasha did not do what was right, nor did Rehoboam and Abijam. That's two that did what was right and five that did not do what was right. When the kings did what was right, the nation prospered, and when the kings did not do what was right, the nations suffered. We will continue this study next week as there is so much more to study.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together next time on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.