

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 15

WE'VE GOT TO PAY ATTENTION IN THIS CHAPTER AS THE STORY WILL WEAVE US BACK AND FORTH FROM ISRAEL AND JUDAH. THESE ARE THE CHAPTERS IN SCRIPTURE THAT SOMETIMES CAUSE READERS TO GROW WEARY OR QUIT. BUT NOT US! IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE WE TAKE IT VERSE BY VERSE, SECTION BY SECTION AND PAUSE AS NEEDED TO SAY "WHERE AM I?" AND "WHO'S WHO?"

1 KINGS 15:1-8 - ABIJAM, KING OF JUDAH

BIOGRAPHY & FACTS: ABIJAM BECAME KING AT THE SAME TIME JEROBOAM IS (STILL) KING IN ISRAEL (V. 1). HE REIGNED FOR 3 YEARS IN JERUSALEM (V. 2). HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS SON, ASA (V. 8)

SPIRITUAL MATTERS: "HE WALKED IN THE SINS OF HIS FATHER (REHOBOAM)."

V. 4-5 - CONTRAST THE PUNISHMENT AND CORRESPONDING CONSEQUENCE OF JEROBOAM'S SINS

1 KINGS 15:9-15 - ASA, KING OF JUDAH

BIOGRAPHY & FACTS: ASA BECAME KING IN THE 20TH YEAR OF JEROBOAM, KING OF ISRAEL (V. 9). HE REIGNED FOR 41 YEARS IN JERUSALEM (V. 10). HIS MOTHER'S NAME WAS "MAACAH THE DAUGHTER OF ABISHALOM. (V. 10). THE MENTION OF HIS MOTHER'S NAME IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT INFORMS US THAT ASA WAS ABIJAM (THE PREVIOUS KING OF JUDAH)'S BROTHER (V. 10 & V. 2). MORE ON HER IN A MIN...

SPIRITUAL MATTERS: "ASA DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, LIKE DAVID HIS FATHER" (V. 11). (WHEW, FINALLY...). HE GOT RID OF "MALE CULT PROSTITUTES" (V. 12), IDOLS WHICH HIS FATHER HAD MADE (V. 12) AND HIS MOTHER FROM QUEEN (V. 13). HE DIDN'T TAKE AWAY THE "HIGH PLACES" (V. 14) WHICH WERE LIKELY OTHER PLACES TO WORSHIP (THE LORD OR IDOLS), BUT HE DID CENTRALIZE WORSHIP IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AGAIN BRINGING THE DEDICATED ITEMS INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD (V. 15).

V. 12 - "MALE CULT PROSTITUTES" - ESV STUDY BIBLE (ON 1 KINGS 14:24 & 15:12) - "ONE ASPECT OF THE SYNCRETISTIC WORSHIP OF JUDAH UNDER REHOBOAM WAS RELIGIOUSLY LEGITIMIZED PROSTITUTION WITHIN THE SANCTUARY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE PRACTICED HAD A SPECIFICALLY RITUAL CHARACTER, DESIGNED TO PERSUADE THE GODS AND GODDESSES TO ACT IN A SIMILAR WAY AND DELIVER, THROUGH THEIR INTERCOURSE, FERTILITY TO THE LAND AND TO THE COMMUNITY"

V. 13 - MAACAH - THE QUEEN MOTHER WAS INFLUENTIAL IN THE LIFE OF HER SON ABIJAM, THE FIRST OF HER SONS WHO WAS KING. HE WORSHIPPED IDOLS LIKE HIS PARENTS DID. WHEN ASA BECAME KING, HE REMOVED HIS MOTHER AS QUEEN BECAUSE SHE HAD PERSISTED IN IDOLATRY, EVEN WHEN HE BEGAN REMOVING THE IDOLS FROM THE LAND. SHE HAD SET UP A "HORRID IMAGE" TO THE GODDESS ASHERAH. THOUGH MAACAH WAS HIS MOTHER, HE COULD NOT ALLOW THE IDOLATRY TO CONTINUE AND ADOPTED HIS "HEAVENLY FATHER'S" MINDSET RATHER THAN HIS EARTHLY PARENT'S SINFUL PATTERNS. THIS IS A GOOD LESSON FOR US ABOUT FAMILIAL LOYALTY, PRIORITIES AND AFFECTIONS.

V. 14 - ASA DID HAVE SOME FLAWS, HOWEVER, IN ALL OF THIS, "THE HEART OF ASA WAS WHOLLY DEVOTED TO THE LORD, ALL HIS DAYS"

OUT OF ORDER!!

1 KINGS 15:25-27 - NADAB (SON OF JEROBOAM), KING OF ISRAEL

V. 27 - DURING THE REIGN OF NADAB, A MAN NAMED BAASHA CONSPIRED AGAINST HIM AND ASSASSINATED KING NADAB.

1 KINGS 15:28-30 - BAASHA, SON OF AHIAH (NOT SON OF JEROBOAM), KING OF ISRAEL

BIO & FACTS: BAASHA BECOMES KING AFTER KILLING NADAB, JEROBOAM'S SON (V. 27-28). HE BECAME KING IN THE 3RD YEAR OF ASA (V. 33) AND HE REIGNED 24 YEARS (V. 33). AFTER KILLING NADAB, HE THEN KILLS "ALL THE HOUSEHOLD OF JEROBOAM" (V. 29). THIS WAS A FULFILLMENT OF THE WORD OF THE LORD (VIA AHIAH THE SHILONITE (V. 29).

CP. 1 KINGS 14:6-16 - PROPHECY AGAINST THE HOUSE OF JEROBOAM & PREDICTION OF ISRAEL'S EXILE.

SPIRITUAL MATTERS: BAASHA "DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD AND WALKED IN THE WAY OF JEROBOAM AND IN HIS SIN..." (V. 34)

1 KINGS 15:31-34 - SUMMARY OF BAASHA'S REIGN

WE RETURN TO THIS MIDDLE SECTION OF VERSES BECAUSE IT HAPPENS DURING THE TIME IN ASA'S REIGN THAT CORRESPONDS WITH BAASHA'S REIGN. BECAUSE "BAASHA" HAD NOT YET BEEN INTRODUCED TO OUR NARRATIVE, I FELT IT WAS BETTER TO FIRST MEET ASA, THEN BAASHA, AND RETURN TO THE RECORD WHICH RELATED TO BOTH.



1 KINGS 15:16-22 - ASA'S ALLIANCE WITH ARAM (SYRIA) AGAINST ISRAEL

ESV STUDY BIBLE: AS ISRAEL AND JUDAH BATTLED EACH OTHER TO DETERMINE THEIR PERMANENT BORDER, KING BAASHA OF ISRAEL ATTEMPTED TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO JUDAH BY MOVING THE BORDER DOWN TO RAMAH (WHICH IS ONLY ABOUT 5 MILES NORTH OF JERUSALEM). RATHER THAN FIGHT WITH BAASHA HIMSELF, KING ASA OF JUDAH BRIBED BEN-HADAD OF ARAM (SYRIA) TO ATTACK THE NORTHERN BORDER OF ISRAEL AND FORCE BAASHA TO WITHDRAW FROM RAMAH. ONCE BAASHA WITHDREW, ASA CARRIED AWAY THE BUILDING SUPPLIES OF RAMAH AND USED THEM TO FORTIFY MIZPAH (FURTHER NORTH) AND GEBA (NEAR THE PASS AT MICHMASH)."

AS BAASHA MAKES HIS WAY DOWN TOWARDS JERUSALEM, ASA PAYS OFF THE KING WHO RULES NORTH OF ISRAEL TO ATTACK ISRAEL, FORCING THEM TO LEAVE JUDAH ALONE. ASA'S FATHER HAD APPARENTLY HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH TABRIMMON, THE CURRENT KING'S (NAMED BEN-HADAD) FATHER. THOUGH HE USES ALL OF THE REMAINING SILVER AND GOLD IN THE TREASURES, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY, IT WORKS.

1 KINGS 15:23-24 - ASA, KING OF JUDAH DIES

V. 23-24 - AT THE END OF ASA'S LIFE, HE MAINTAINED HIS HEART'S DEVOTION TO THE LORD (V. 14). HOWEVER, AS HE GOT OLDER, HE HAD WHAT BECAME A FATAL FOOT DISEASE. UPON ASA'S DEATH, HIS SON

JEHOSHAPHAT WILL BECOME THE NEXT KING OF JUDAH. ASA REIGNED FOR 41 YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WILL SEE 5 KINGS!