

## Walking Through the Word

### Kings and Prophets (Week 14)

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Story: **From Bad to Worse: Kings and their Troubles** (E: Asa Follows God, and Trouble Between Israel and Judah, p 251-253)

Location: **1 Kings 15-16, 2 Chron 14-16**

#### Bios & definitions

**Abijam:** a variant of the name Abijah (both Rehoboam and Jeroboam had sons by this name, Jeroboam's died from a sickness [see 1 Kings 14:1-13]), son of Micaiah (variant of *Macaah*, the daughter of Uriel (see 2 Chron 13:2) and likely Tamar (Absolom's daughter, see 2 Sam 14:27)) and Rehoboam; he succeeded his father on the throne after Rehoboam's death to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> king of Judah (in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Jeroboam, king of Israel); he reigned only 3 years; ***he did evil in the sight of the Lord***

**Asa:** son of Abijam, successor to the throne of Judah as the 3<sup>rd</sup> king (in 20<sup>th</sup> year of Jeroboam, king of Israel); he reigned 41 years; **he did what was right in the sight of the Lord**, and he removed all idols, foreign altars, high places and prostitutes from the land (1 Kings 15:12, 2 Chron 14:2-6), and even removed his mother from being queen mother because she worshipped an Asherah pole; received men from the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon who saw that the presence of God returned to Judah; led a battle against Ethiopian forces larger than the Judean army, but God allowed Asa and his men the victory; attempted a treaty with Syrian king Benhadad of Aram to defeat Baasha, king of Israel, and won, but forfeited the Lord's presence with him; became diseased in his feet in old age, but didn't seek the Lord for healing

**Nadab:** son of Jeroboam, successor to the throne of Israel as the 2<sup>nd</sup> king (in 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Asa, king of Judah); he reigned 2 years; ***he did evil in the sight of the Lord***; Baasha, son of Ahijah of Issachar, conspired against and assassinated him

**Baasha:** son of Ahijah of Issachar, successor to the throne of Israel as the 3<sup>rd</sup> king (in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Asa, king of Judah); he reigned 24 years; ***he did evil in the sight of the Lord***; he wiped out all remainders of the house of Jeroboam (1 Kings 15:28) to secure his place in the kingdom

Story: **Elijah, Prophet to Israel** (E: Elijah is Fed by Ravens, A Widow Feeds Elijah, Elijah Comes Out of Hiding, Elijah and the Prophets of Baal, Elijah, the Little Cloud and the Great Rain, Elijah Under the Juniper Tree, Elijah and the Still Small Voice, p 253-264)

Location: **1 Kings 16:29-19:21**

#### Bios & definitions

**Elah:** son of Baasha, successor to the throne of Israel as the 4<sup>th</sup> king (in 26<sup>th</sup> year of Asa, king of Judah); he reigned 2 years; Zimri, his servant and commander of half his chariots, conspired against and assassinated him

**Zimri:** commander of half the chariot army of Israel, successor to the throne of Israel as the 5<sup>th</sup> king (in 27<sup>th</sup> year of Asa, king of Judah); he reigned 7 days; fulfilled the prophecy of Jehu, son of Hanani, who spoke against Baasha's household when Zimri destroyed all remnants of the house of Baasha (1 Kings 16:12); burned the king's house down on himself when Omri and all of Israel besieged Tizrah

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**Omri:** commander of the army at Gibbethon, appointed king by the rest of Israel not in Tizrah when the people heard of Zimri's assassination of Elah; successor to the throne of Israel as the 6<sup>th</sup> co-king; was co-regent with Tibni, son of Ginath, for 5 years following Zimri's death because Israel was divided over who should rule; became sole king in 31<sup>st</sup> year of Asa, king of Judah); he reigned a total of 12 years; he bought the hill of Samaria and ruled the kingdom from there; he **"acted more wickedly than all who were before him"**

**Ahab:** son of Omri, successor to the throne of Israel as 7<sup>th</sup> king (in 38<sup>th</sup> year of Asa, king of Judah); he reigned 22 years; he **"did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him"**; married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon, and worshipped the god Baal, and erected an altar in Samaria to Baal; Scripture says Ahab **"did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him"** (1 Kings 16:33); fought against Syrian king Ben-hadad (also known as Aram) and conquered them twice within 2 years because of God's help (1 Kings 20); he coveted a neighboring vineyard and Jezebel had the owner (Naboth) murdered so the king could acquire it (1 Kings 21); because of Ahab's evil and his foolishness before God, the Lord pronounced destruction to his family line (21:21-22) but showed mercy when Ahab humbled himself before the Lord (21:27-29); he died from a random arrow shot during the battle for Ramoth-gilead where he disguised himself to deceive the enemy (and Jehoshaphat)

**Elijah:** a Tishbite, from the settlers of Gilead, his name means "the Lord is my God;" a prophet sent from God to speak to Ahab regarding idol worship and the Israelites, and proclaimed a drought on the land as long as idol worship was happening (God's divine judgment); sustained by God in numerous ways: a flowing brook and ravens (1 Kings 17:3-6), a widow in Zarephath (17:10-16), fire on a water-soaked altar (18:30-38), food under a juniper tree (19:5-8); was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind riding a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:1-12), leaving his mantle to Elisha

**Jehoshaphat:** son of Asa, successor to the throne of Judah as the 4<sup>th</sup> king (in 4<sup>th</sup> year of Ahab, king of Israel); he reigned 25 years; **"He walked in all the way of Asa his father; he did not turn aside from it, doing right in the sight of the Lord"** (22:43); he made peace with the king of Israel and was called on by Ahab to join him in a battle against Aram (Syria) to regain control of Ramoth-gilead; eventually allied himself with Ahab through marriage (Ahab's daughter to Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram (2 Chron 18:1, 21:6) and the Lord removed his favor from him

**Ahaziah:** son of Ahab, successor to the throne of Israel as 8<sup>th</sup> king (in 17<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah); he reigned 2 years; **"He did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin"** (22:52); he fell through the lattice at his palace and sent messengers to the Philistines (also known as Ekron) to inquire of their gods whether he might survive; Elijah intercepted Ahaziah's messengers and sent them back with a message of death

**Joram (Jehoram):** son of Ahab, younger brother of Ahaziah, successor the throne of Israel as 9<sup>th</sup> king (in 18<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoshaphat and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Jehoram, co-regents (kings) of Judah); he reigned 12 years; **"He did evil in the sight of the Lord, though not like his father and his mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal which his father had made"** (2 Kings 3:2); bears the same name as Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, who became king of Judah, and who reigned at the same time

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Story: **Elisha, Taking Up the Mantle** (E: Elijah and the Chariot of Fire, Elisha Saves Two Boys from Slavery, A Room for Elisha, Elisha and the Shunammite's Son, The School of Prophets, A little Slave Girl Helps Naaman, Elisha's Foolish Servant, p 269-282)

Location: **2 Kings 2:1-5:27**

#### Bios & definitions

**Jehoram (Joram)**: son of Jehoshaphat, successor to the throne of Judah as the 5<sup>th</sup> king (in 5<sup>th</sup> year of Joram, king of Israel); he reigned as co-regent with Jehoshaphat for some time, then 7 years as sole king; he was defeated by the Edomites ; ***“he walked in the way of the kings of Israel , just as the house of Ahab had done”*** (2 Kings 8:18)

**Elisha**: son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, his name means “God is salvation *or* God saves;” successor as prophet of the Lord following Elijah’s departure; given his mantle and a “double portion of [Elijah’s] spirit” (2:9, 15); he acted as the Lord’s servant in many occasions: the Widow’s Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7), the Shunammite woman and her son (4:8-37), the sons of prophets and their plights (4:38-44); Naaman the leper (5:1-14); following one of his prayers, the Lord opened the eyes of a man attending to Elisha to see a great army of heavenly hosts surrounding them to protect them against a battle against the king of Aram, and the king and his army were stricken with blindness (2 Kings 6:8-23); sent word and an anointing that Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat, would succeed the throne of Israel (9:1-13), finishing the work of Elijah

**Gehazi**: servant of Elisha’s, assisting Elisha with the Shunnamite's dead son (though unsuccessfully); he took gifts for himself that Elisha had refused from Naaman and because of his greed was stricken with leprosy

**Jehu**: son of Jehoshaphat, chosen by God to overthrow the dynasty of Omri, successor to the throne of Israel as the 9<sup>th</sup> king; he reigned 28 years; also an army commander under Ahab and Joram; he carried out God’s plan for the house of Ahab (2 Kings 9:7-10)