

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Aug. 19

MONDAY

After Jeroboam died, his son Nadab reigned for two years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and Baasha assassinated him, took the crown, and killed every member in the family line of Jeroboam, thus fulfilling the word God had spoken about that in 14:14.

READ: I Kings 15:25-30

Jeroboam's reign had started out with so much promise: hand-picked by God to take over leadership of the ten tribes of Israel. Read what God offered him in 11:37 and 38. And how did Jeroboam respond to God's amazing offer? We read in 13:33 that *he turned not from his evil ways*. And now in 15:29, we read that his entire family is wiped out. What a great price sin demands! It robs us of much that God has for us, and gives us only sorrow and loss.

TUESDAY

Here's a summary of several kings: Nadab was king; there was constant war between Asa and Baasha; Baasha ruled over Israel for 24 years; and Baasha did evil in the sight of God as Jeroboam had done, and made Israel to sin.

READ: I Kings 15:31-34

These events, we are told, are recorded in the book of the chronicles. If we read II Chronicles 16:9 we come across a great verse from the story of Asa told there: *The eyes of the Lord run to and fro thru-out the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are right towards Him*. (I'm thankful for cross references, aren't you?) What a neat picture of our God, watching over us and caring for us - eager to show Himself mighty on our behalf!

WEDNESDAY

A man named Jehu prophesied that King Baasha would meet the same ending that his grandfather Jeroboam had met because he had *walked in the way of Jeroboam*, that is, in the way of sinful choices and disobeying God.

READ: I Kings 16:1-5

The Lord explained to Baasha that God had raised him up out of the dust and exalted him as prince (and later king), but Baasha had not acknowledged God nor followed in his ways. In a sense, has not God raised you and me up out of the dust and exalted us as heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus! Every day, we do well to acknowledge that, and give thanks for His wondrous grace!

THURSDAY

Baasha dies and his son Elah became king of Israel, but he reigned only two years. Jehu the prophet also predicted his fall and demise for he, too, failed to honor God. Elah was assassinated by Zimri who then claimed the throne.

READ: I Kings 16:6-10

As the king, Elah was to be the spiritual leader of Israel. But instead, he is in the house of one of his servants drinking himself into stupor. When God equips us for a task, the right thing to do is, of course, stay the course, and accomplish the task. Leave the partying for those who do not serve the same King which we serve. Leave it altogether and press on to higher and greater things which matter for eternity.

FRIDAY

King Zimri killed all the male heirs of Elah so that there would be no one who had a legal right to the throne. This, in the end, was judgment on the households of Baasha and Elah for the sins the two kings had committed.

READ: I Kings 16:11-14

It's hard for us to imagine such wickedness from those who claimed the title as "God's Chosen People". Yet, here it is. Zimri killed every male child, relative, and friend. Without blinking an eye - because that's what kings did. And that's a big part of this whole story: God's people copied the lifestyles of the non-believers all around them. Listen, we have a wonderful opportunity just before us: the examples of others who love and serve the Lord. We can walk as they walked. Thank you, Lord, for those who have walked before us. Help us to follow in their footsteps.

SATURDAY

When word of Zimri assassinating Elah and claiming the throne spread thru Israel, the army - under General Omri was battling Philistines. They stopped and marched against Zimri, declaring that Omri should be king. They fought and when Zimri saw he was defeated, he burned the palace, killing himself.

READ: I Kings 16:15-20

Who made the decision to light a match and burn down the palace? Zimri did. Yet the text says that this was a result of the sins he committed. Do you see that? One of the results of sin is that is the depression and resignation that leads to thoughts (and actions) of suicide. No wonder I sometimes say that sin comes with a hefty price tag. It can really weigh you down! Let us lay every weigh and the sin that besets us, and run well the race! #95