

## LESSON 8: *Five Kings of Israel: A Kingdom Should Be Established in Righteousness*

(Read: **1 Kgs** 15:25-32; 16:1-28)

**Key Passage:** “It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.” (Pro 16:12).

### I) **Nadab: A Leader Who Failed To Open His Eyes (1 Kgs 15:25-27).**

A) As the new leader of Israel, it is surprising that Nadab chose to follow in the footsteps of his father's failures. Nadab displayed an unwillingness either to perceive or accept the truth concerning the judgments of God upon his family (see **1 Kgs** 14). As the new king, Nadab only promised *more of the same*. As a new ruler and leader of Israel, what was Nadab's big mistake? (**1 Kgs** 15:26).

---

---

1) What two things did the “way of his father” cause? (15:26, 30).

a) “He made Israel to \_\_\_\_\_”

b) He provoked the LORD to \_\_\_\_\_

2) Nadab's spiritual blindness brought further wrath upon the people of Israel. Although the nation of Israel had become a separate Kingdom from Judah, Israel remained God's people and were still required to live according to the Covenant. The further Israel plummeted into sin, the more ignorant they became and the more ignorant they became of God's expectations and commandments, the more doomed they became as a society and nation.

a) The way of the wicked is like \_\_\_\_\_;

they \_\_\_\_\_ over what they stumble. (**Pro** 4:19).

b) “For my people are \_\_\_\_\_; they know me not; they are stupid children; \_\_\_\_\_. They are ‘wise’—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not.” (**Jer** 4:22).

c) “In just a little while, the wicked will \_\_\_\_\_; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. (**Pro** 37:10).

3) How long did Nadab's wicked rule last? (**1 Kgs** 15:25, 27).

---

4) Although Jeroboam had great influence over his son's moral and spiritual life (**1 Kgs 15:26**), why is Nadab ultimately to blame for his demise? (Read **Ezekiel 18:1-32**).

---

---

a) "If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be \_\_\_\_\_"  
(**Pro 29:12**).

5) Leaders mustn't fail to realize that any endeavor in life that involves disregarding God's will is foolish. Like Jeroboam and Nadab, some foolishly believe they can follow the wrong example and still come out successful. Instead of following the failed examples of others, we should look to the wisdom of God to establish righteous and successful leadership:

a) "No one is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_,  
but the root of the righteous will never be moved. (**Pro 12:3**).

b) "My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that \_\_\_\_\_ is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ will not be cut off." (**Pro 24:13-14**).

6) We must give careful and sober thought to the paths we will take in life because:

a) **Pro 4:26** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) **Pro 5:21** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) **Pro 16:20** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) **Pro 16:25** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II) Baasha: A King Who Ruled By Violence (1 Kgs 15:27-34; 16:1-7).**

A) Baasha proved to be a horrible leader at the outset, for he gained the throne of Israel by ruthless violence. Baasha's actions certainly violated **Pro 16:12**. And while the spiritual and moral identity of Israel's society had significantly declined under Nadab's leadership, Baasha's actions plunged Israel further into moral and spiritual decay.

1) What was Baasha's first act as the new leader of Israel? (**1 Kgs 15:29**).

---

---

2) Although Ahijah, the prophet of God foretold the actions of Baasha actions (**1 Kgs 15:29**), Why does God show disappointment with Baasha? (see **1 Kgs 15:33-34; 16:1-7; 14:10, 14**).

---

---

---

---

---

3) Through his actions, Baasha proved himself to be nothing more than a murderer—who had his own interests in mind, instead of God's.

a) "you shall not \_\_\_\_\_" (**Exo 20:13**).

b) Let us not forget that, "Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ his brother is a \_\_\_\_\_, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." (**1 Jn 3:15**).

4) Who else failed to follow God's instructions and brought shame on the name of the LORD?

a) **1 Sam 15:1-35**. \_\_\_\_\_

---

b) **2 Sam 12:13-14; Rom 2:24** \_\_\_\_\_

---

5) What is God prepared to do when others shame and profane His name? (**Eze 36:20-23**).

---

B) Out of greed, Baasha ruled from violence.

1) Violence is simply unrestrained physical or verbal force designed to hurt others, or to gain mastery over them.

a) God destroyed the earth long ago because all flesh had corrupted its way, and the earth was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 6:11-13).

b) This was particularly troubling to God because mankind was (Gen 1:26)

---

c) Those who desire violence are considered (Pro 13:2).

---

d) How does God feel about those who love violence? (Psa 11:5)

---

e) We should never \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro 3:31).

f) What does God say about nations who are accepting of violence within their communities (citadels, strongholds)? (Amos 3:9-11).

1. "They do not know how to \_\_\_\_\_" (v10).

2. Their land shall be \_\_\_\_\_ by an adversary. Their defenses will be \_\_\_\_\_ and their strongholds will be \_\_\_\_\_ (v11).

e) "The violence of the wicked will \_\_\_\_\_, because they refuse to do what is \_\_\_\_\_. (Pro 21:7).

**III) Elah: The Drunken King (1 Kgs 16:8-10).**

A) Nothing is specifically said about the nature of Elah’s spirituality or leadership. However, since God knows the hearts of all, it is safe to assume that Elah was wicked. This is based upon the prophecy against king Baasha (**1 Kgs 16:3-4**). Unfortunately, Elah will be forever remembered as the leader who lost his crown and life because of drunkenness.

1) Leaders have the duty of proving themselves to be capable and self-disciplined. Heightened soberness of mind, body and spirit are imperative for good leadership. King Lemuel’s mother warned her son to understand—that as a responsible leader in whom people put their trust, he should not give his ways to those who destroy kings (**Pro 31:1-3**).

a) “It is not for kings to \_\_\_\_\_, or for rulers to take \_\_\_\_\_. Lest they drink and \_\_\_\_\_ what has been decreed and \_\_\_\_\_ the rights of all the afflicted.” (**Pro 31:4-5**).

2) Identify other leaders who neglected restraint from drunkenness, what was the result?

a) **Gen 9:20-22; Lev 18:1-7** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) **Gen 19:30-36** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) **1 Sam 25:36-38** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) **Est 1:10-12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e) **Isa 28:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) Followers of God, Especially Leaders, Must Remain Sober

1) Who was told to remain sober and why?

a) **Lev 10:8-9; Eze 44:21** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) **Num 6:1-4; Jdg 13:2-5** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) **1 Tim 3:1-3** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) **1 Tim 3:8-10** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) We Must Beware of the Folly of Drunkenness and everything associated with it (**Pro 23:29-35**).

a) "Wine is a \_\_\_\_\_, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is  
\_\_\_\_\_ by it is not \_\_\_\_\_."  
(**Pro 20:1**).

b) "Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may  
\_\_\_\_\_ drink, who tarry late into  
the evening as wine inflames them! They have lyre and harp, tambourine and  
flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not  
\_\_\_\_\_, or see the work of  
his hands. (**Isa 5:11-12**).

c) "Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies  
and \_\_\_\_\_, not in sexual immorality and  
sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and  
make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." (**Rom 13:13-14**).

d) "Or do you not know that the \_\_\_\_\_ will not  
inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral,  
nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves,  
nor the greedy, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor revilers, nor  
swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." (**1 Cor 6:9-10**).

e) "And do not get \_\_\_\_\_, for that is debauchery,  
but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and  
spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart"  
(**Eph 5:18-19**).

**IV) Zimri: A Wicked King Overcome By His Sinful Deeds (1 Kgs 16:8-20).**

A) 7 Days of Horror: Zimri was the military commander of king Elah's chariot forces (1Kgs 16:9). We are not given the reasoning behind Zimri's conspiracy to overthrow king Elah. Even though his actions were foretold by the prophet Jehu (1Kgs 16:3-4, 12), it was a murderous plot nonetheless (1 Kgs 16:11; Hab 2:12).

1) Zimri's reign was short-lived because his actions were doomed from the beginning. He reigned only \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 16:15).

2) What was the response upon hearing of Zimri's actions? (1 Kgs 16:16-17).

---

---

3) Once Zimri realized that his actions were unwelcomed and that he was about to pay for his deeds, what did he do? (1 Kgs 16:18)

---

4) Although his rule was extremely short, who's religious path did he follow and lead by? (1 Kgs 16:19)

---

5) According to **Numbers** 32:23, we can be sure that our sins will...

---

6) Although his sins were great and inexcusable, the other great tragedy of Zimri's life is that he was so overcome with the consequences of his sins that it led him to a horrible death, instead of repentance.

a) "For the \_\_\_\_\_ that is according to the will of God produces a \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_, leading to \_\_\_\_\_, but the sorrow of the world produces death." (2 Cor 7:10, NASB).

7) Zimri failed to learn from the sins of Jeroboam, Nadab, and Baasha. He did not stop to think that his actions would not go unpunished. We must be certain to learn from the past experiences and mistakes of others.

B) The Weight of One's Sins Can Be Overwhelming.

- 1) Out of bitter jealousy, Cain murdered his innocent brother, Able. What did Cain say about God's punishment for him? (**Gen 4:13**).

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) David said, "For my iniquities have \_\_\_\_\_;  
Like a heavy \_\_\_\_\_, they are too heavy for me." (**Psa 38:4**).

- 3) "How I hated \_\_\_\_\_, and my heart despised reproof!  
I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.  
I am at the brink of \_\_\_\_\_." (**Pro 5:12-14**).

- 4) Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "\_\_\_\_\_ by betraying innocent blood."  
They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and \_\_\_\_\_ (**Mat 27:3-6**).

C) Guilt Should Lead To Repentance, Not More Tragedy

- 1) "When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the LORD, and that person realizes \_\_\_\_\_,  
he shall \_\_\_\_\_ that he has committed.  
And he shall make \_\_\_\_\_ for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong." (**Num 5:6-7**).

- 2) "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah  
I \_\_\_\_\_ my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will \_\_\_\_\_ to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah  
Therefore, let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found..." (**Psa 32:3-6**).



**V) Omri: The King Who Elevated Israel's Wickedness (1 Kgs 16:16-28).**

**A) Omri's Physical Accomplishments:**

Like Zimri, Omri was also a military official in king Elah's administration. But Omri was of much higher rank—Zimri only being a commander of Chariots (16:9), while Omri was the commander of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kgs 16:16).

- 1) **A Mighty Ruler With A Strong Dynasty.** By human standards, Omri actually proved himself to be a very capable and mighty ruler (1 Kgs 16:27).
  - a) After the split of the united kingdom, the northern kingdom of Israel experienced political instability and civil war until Omri established a powerful dynasty at the beginning of the ninth century BC. He and his successors—Ahab, Ahaziah, and Jehoram (Joram)—ruled for nearly 40 years and made the northern kingdom a prosperous and powerful nation.
  - b) From Assyrian records it is evident that Omri must have been an impressive ruler, because generations later, Assyrians still spoke of Israel as the “land of Omri.”
- 2) **A Central Capital Established (1 Kgs 16:24).** Being the perceptive leader that he was, Omri recognized that the nation needed a capital that was centrally located and militarily defensible. Located about 7 miles northwest of Shechem on the main road leading to Galilee and Phoenicia, it sat on a free-standing hill which rose some 300 to 400 feet above the surrounding plain, making it quite easy to defend.
- 3) **A Great Conqueror.** Omri's expansionist activities are not mentioned in 1 Kings, but Scripture is supplemented by discovery of the Moabite Stone in 1868 at Dibon, east of the Jordan River. On this stela, Mesha, king of Moab tells that Omri conquered Moab. Israel had continued to subjugate the land in the days of Ahab, but after his death Mesha successfully rebelled against Israel (2 Kgs 3:4-5). That Omri could mount a successful war against Moab soon after becoming king shows that he was a capable ruler, because previously the kingdom of Israel had been greatly weakened by insurrection and political instability.
- 4) **His Alliances.** From History, Omri also reestablished the friendly relations with Phoenicia that had been initiated in the days of David and Solomon. Presumably he made a full alliance with King Ethbaal of Tyre and then sealed it with the marriage of his son Ahab to the Phoenician princess Jezebel (1 Kgs 16:31). Such an alliance would have been mutually beneficial, for it would have brought cedar, beautifully crafted goods, and Phoenician architectural or technical expertise to Israel; and it would have provided Israelite grain and olive oil to Phoenicia. Moreover, it would have linked their forces against the threat of the rising power of Assyria. This pact was destined to corrupt Israel, however, for it brought Baal worship into the land (1 Kgs 16:31-33). This is what the writer of Kings had in mind when he said that Omri “did worse” than the other kings of Israel before him (1 Kgs 16:25-26) while walking in the idolatrous ways of Jeroboam. (Cont. on page 50)

(Cont, from page 49).

Baal worship was regarded as more degrading than the calf worship Jeroboam had introduced. Omri, and his son Ahab after him, subscribed to both.

B) Building Meaningful & Lasting Legacies.

- 1) While Omri proved himself to be a capable leader physically, he was a horrible leader spiritually. His Religious practices not only caused the further decline of his nation but the demise of the southern Kingdom as well. The prophet Micah told the people of Judah,  
“For you have kept the statutes of \_\_\_\_\_, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a \_\_\_\_\_, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people.” (Mic 6:16).
  
- 2) Whether we realize it or not, every day we make decisions and take actions that ultimately contribute to the building up of our legacy. We must consider whether or not these decisions and actions are motivated from selfish ambition or from godly wisdom. The way we conduct our personal and public lives, our interactions with family friends and strangers, all contribute to our legacy. We must pay careful attention to what we’re building:
  - a) “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in \_\_\_\_\_” (Psa 127:1).
  
  - b) “Woe to him who builds his house by \_\_\_\_\_, and his upper rooms by \_\_\_\_\_” (Jer 22:13a).
  
- 3) What thoughts come to your mind as you consider the legacies of each person below?
  - a) Moses \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
  - b) Judas Iscariot \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
  - c) Nabal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
  - d) John the Baptizer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_