

Setting

Locate the following places on the Bible map:

- Jerusalem
- Ramah
- Ijon
- Dan
- Abel Beth Maacha
- Chinneroth
- Damascus
- Gibbethon
- Naphtali
- Tirzah
- Geba
- Mizpah

Key Terms & People

Jeroboam: King of Israel.

Abijam: Son of Rehoboam; second king of Judah; began his reign in 913 B.C.¹³

Asa: Son of Abijam; third king of Judah; began his reign in 911 B.C.

Ben-hadad: King of Syria around the time of Asa's reign in Judah.

Nadab: Son of Jeroboam; second king of Israel; began his reign in 910 B.C.

Baasha: Third king of Israel; began his reign in 909 B.C.



Story Moments

Abijam's Reign in Judah

15:1–3. What is God's evaluation of King Abijam's reign?¹⁴ _____

15:4. Why does God choose to show mercy to the nation of Judah? _____

15:5. What was the exception to David's life of faithfulness to the Lord? (See 1 Samuel 11 for the full account.) _____

15:6–8. Describe the political relations between Israel (Jeroboam) and Judah (Rehoboam and Abijam) during this time.¹⁵ _____

Asa's Reign in Judah

15:9. When does Asa become king of Judah? Who is king of Israel at this time? _____

15:9–12. 15:10–12. What is God's evaluation of King Asa's reign? Why? _____

15:13–15. What dramatic decision does Asa make about his own family and why? _____

Is Asa's obedience complete? Why or why not? _____

¹³ Not to be confused with Jeroboam's son Abijah who died in the previous chapter. (1 Kings 14:17)

¹⁴ The name "Abishalom" (15:2) is likely another way of pronouncing "Absalom."

¹⁵ Second Chronicles 13:3–20 describes a battle between Abijam and Jeroboam where the Southern Kingdom, led by Abijam, successfully defended against a flank attack from the Northern Kingdom troops and then pushed their territory north into the hill country to take the cities of Bethel, Jeshanah, and Ephraim (Ophrah).

What do we learn about Asa's heart? _____

15:16–24. What treaty does Asa propose to Benhadad, the king of Syria? _____

What is the outcome of his proposal?¹⁶ _____

How did Asa die? _____

According to 2 Chronicles 16:12, where did Asa turn when he was sick? _____

Nadab and Baasha's Reign in Israel

15:25–32. How long does Nadab rule? What is God's evaluation of King Nadab's reign? _____

Cross References

2 Chronicles 16:7–12

⁷ And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. ⁸ Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." ¹⁰ Then Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for *he* was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed *some* of the people at that time.

¹¹ Note that the acts of Asa, first and last, are indeed written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ¹² And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

¹⁷How does Nadab's short reign fulfill the prophetic word of Ahijah in 1 Kings 14:10–14?

15:33–34. How does the narrator describe the reign of Baasha? _____

Ask Yourself

What does it teach me about God that even though King David failed so miserably, God kept His covenant with him and with his children?

Do I have the courage to confront sin within my own family?

How is Asa's work to "banish" and "remove" the idolatry from his nation a good reminder of sin's defiling influence?

¹⁶ Note that 2 Chronicles 16:7–10 gives the account of Hanani the seer rebuking King Asa for his reliance on a political treaty rather than the Lord.

¹⁷ In 15:27–30, Baasha is fulfilling the word of Ahijah the prophet in 1 Kings 14:10–14.