

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #17 | The Wicked Zimri Commits Suicide!

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1. In the table below, fill in the blanks

Kings of Israel	Kings of Judah
1. J _____	5. R _____
2. N _____	6. A _____
3. B _____	7. A ____
4. E ____	
5. Z _____	

2. Part of the life of king Zimri was already learnt when we studied the life of the Elah. Arrange the order of events by putting the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes below. The first one has been done:

Sequence (1-4)	Events
1	The fourth king of Israel was called Elah. He was an irresponsible king who loved drinking wine.
	One day, when Elah was drunk in the house of Arza his steward, Zimri came in and killed Elah. So Elah reigned for only 2 years in Israel.
	Elah had a captain who was in charge of half of Elah's chariots. The captain's name was Zimri. Zimri conspired against Elah because he was an irresponsible king.
	After Zimri killed Elah, he became the fifth king of Israel.

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1 Kings 16:15-19

15 In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

16 And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp.

17 And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died,

19 For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin.

2. Based on 1 Kings 16:15, how long did Zimri reign as King over Israel?

7 hours | 7 days | 7 years

3. Which phrase in 1 Kings 16:15 tells us that the people were engaged in a war when Zimri killed Elah?

4. Who was appointed the king over Israel, instead of Zimri?

O _ _ _

5. What was the response of Zimri when he realized that Omri and the army of Israel had entered Tirzah to attack it?

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4. Suicide is the intentional and unnatural taking of one's life. Can you name two men who took their own lives out of shame, instead of repenting of their sins and seeking God's forgiveness?

S ___ & J _____

6. Should Christians commit suicide and why?

5. In the following article, which explains that only God has the right over Man's life, fill in the blanks using the helping words in the box

right | taken | live | takes | praise | hand | faith

Hear the Creator who declares, "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." (Deut 32:39). God _____ life away, and gives life also. Job repeated this truth of God's sovereignty of life and death: "...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath _____ away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). David submitted to God's determination that his sick child through Bathsheba should die (2 Sam 12:22). Christians who say that it is their right to decide if suicide is good for them challenge the authority of the sovereign God.

In fact, Job's response to his torments is exemplary, "Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine _____? Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:14-15). The life which God has given to each of us is not for us to voluntarily terminate. Christians must affirm, like Paul, that "...Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the _____ of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"(Gal 2:20). It is clear that Christians are to live according to the strength God gives, and not kill themselves, even though life is filled with labour and sorrow (Ps 90:10). No one has the _____ over his own life. In God "we _____, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Therefore, "While I live will I _____ the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being" (Psalm 146:2).