

# The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #19 | King Ahab brings Baal Worship to Israel!

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

## **1 Kings 16:29-33**

**29** And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.

**30** And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.

**31** And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

**32** And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

**33** And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

1. In the lifetime of Asa, how many northern kings did he witness taking the throne in succession of each other? To answer this question, open your bibles to the following passages in bold to answer and fill in the blanks below:

In **1 Kings 15:25**, we read that Nadab, the second king of the northern kingdom, began his reign over Israel in the s \_\_\_\_\_ year of Asa King of Judah, and he reigned for 2 years. Nadab is the son of Jeroboam. This is the 1st dynasty of the northern kingdom comprising Jeroboam and Nadab.

It was in the t \_ \_ \_ \_ year of Asa's reign when Baasha, the third king of the northern kingdom, reigned in Israel (**1 King 15:33**). After Nadab the son of Jeroboam died, a new dynasty of kings began. Baasha reigned over all Israel in Tirzah for 24 years.

The son of Baasha, Elah, began his reign t \_\_\_\_\_ - s \_\_\_\_\_ year of King Asa (**1 Kings 16:8**). He was the fourth king of Israel. Elah's reign was not long, and by t \_\_\_\_\_ - s \_\_\_\_\_ year of Asa, he was killed when he was drunk by Zimri. This was the end of the second dynasty of the northern kingdom, comprising Baasha and Elah.

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After Elah, Zimri reigned over Israel, and he became the fifth king of Israel (**1 Kings 16:10**). But after seven days of Zimri's reign, Omri took over the throne, and Omri became the sixth king of Israel. This also happened in the twenty-seventh year of Asa. Omri reigned for a total of twelve years, during which he moved the capital from Tirzah to Samaria. Zimri was the king in the 3rd dynasty of the north, and Omri was the king of the 4th dynasty in Israel.

Continuing in the 4th dynasty, Omri's son, Ahab, reigned over Israel. In **1 Kings 16:29** we read that it was in the t \_\_\_\_\_ - e \_\_\_\_\_ year of king Asa that Ahab began to reign over Israel.

Ahab was the last northern king Asa saw, as Asa died in the fourth year of Ahab (1 Kings 22:41). Therefore, in the lifetime of Asa, how many northern kings did he witness taking the throne in succession of each other? (*Clue: count the number of underlined northern kings to get the answer*) \_ Kings

2. Why does scripture twice describe (v30 and 33) that Ahab was the most evil king the northern kingdom had seen thus far, "above all that were before him"? Tick all the boxes that correctly explain the evil of Ahab.

- He removed all the idols in Israel.
- He treated the matter of making graven images and idols to worship God, a light matter.
- He killed Ethbaal, the priest of the temple of Baal.
- He married a Baal worshipper called Jezebel, who was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of Zidonians.
- He married a Non-Jew called Jezebel, who was the daughter of Ethbaal, a Zidonian.
- He worshipped and served Baal and built an altar and a grove for the worship of Baal.

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3. Who is Ethbaal? His name means “ \_\_\_\_\_ him is \_\_\_\_\_”. World History informs that Ethbaal was originally a priest of the temple of Astarte, in Tyre.

4. Who is Jezebel?

Not only was she the d \_\_\_\_\_ of Ethbaal, and a Baal-worshiper, Jezebel is also described in Scripture the representation of a very wicked woman. In the letter to the church in Thyatira, there is a record of a prophetess Jezebel, who teaches and seduces God’s servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. The name Jezebel is used to describe a wicked woman with p \_\_\_\_\_ and i \_\_\_\_\_, who c \_\_\_\_\_ true religion, and t \_\_\_\_\_ followers of God to sin. This representation of a wicked woman in Thyatira is exactly what Jezebel did in Israel, which will be learnt in the later chapters of 1 and 2 Kings.