

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

Baasha

- His name meant boldness and that would be an understatement. He was bold in many areas of his life.

He was BOLD in his takeover of the kingdom.

- He became the third king of the northern kingdom by assassinating Nadab and then completely wiping out Nadab's family. The bloody coup that led him to power was predicted by God through a prophet in 1 King 14:14.
- 1 Kings 15:25-28 Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.²⁶ He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin which he made Israel sin.²⁷ Then Baasha the son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against him, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon.²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place.

He was BOLD in his international relations.

- 1 Kings 15:16-17 Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.¹⁷ Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent *anyone* from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.
- Ramah was only five miles north of Jerusalem and to fortify that close to the capitol of the southern kingdom was very BOLD. They could stop the trade route, hinder anyone from traveling into Jerusalem for worship or even position for a future attack.
- Asa, the king of the southern kingdom, actually hired a sworn enemy, Ben-hadad the King of Damascus, to start a conflict on the northern border of Israel to distract the fortification.
- 2 Chronicles 16:5-6 *When Baasha heard of it, he ceased fortifying Ramah and stopped his work.*⁶ Then King Asa brought all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had been building, and with them he fortified Geba and Mizpah.
- It worked as Baasha stopped his plans and redeployed to the north. Asa then tore down the fortification of Ramah and used the material to reinforce his own garrison. Baasha might have had to redeploy, but make no mistake, he was BOLD in his international relations.

He was BOLD in his idolatry.

- 1 Kings 15:33-34 In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel at Tirzah, *and reigned* twenty-four years.³⁴ He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel sin.
- Baasha was BOLD in his idolatry, continuing the calf worship that was instituted by Jeroboam decades prior. He was warned about it, but remained steadfast to do that which was not right in the eyes of the LORD. His BOLDNESS of idolatry would be the reason for the end of his dynasty.
- 1 Kings 16:1-4 Now the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying,² "Inasmuch as I exalted you from the dust and made you leader over My

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people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have made My people Israel sin, provoking Me to anger with their sins,³ behold, I will consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.⁴

“Anyone of Baasha who dies in the city the dogs will eat, and anyone of his who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat.”

- The prediction for Baasha’s idolatry would be the complete obliteration of his family tree. The Baasha Dynasty would not be around for long.

The man named BOLD BOLDLY took over a kingdom, BOLDLY intimidated a nation and BOLDLY participated in idolatry. Baasha reigned twenty-four years, leaving the condemned monarchy to his son Elah. He would not have been so bold had he known what awaited his descendents.

Elah

- He was the son of Baasha. His name meant *terebinth*, which was a small Mediterranean tree found in the area of Palestine. Just like a little tree does not carry a long history, neither does this king. We know little of him.
- 1 Kings 16:6-8 And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and Elah his son became king in his place.⁷ Moreover, the word of the LORD through the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani also came against Baasha and his household, both because of all the evil which he did in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and because he struck it.⁸ In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel at Tirzah, *and reigned* two years.
 - He reigned two years.
 - He was an idolater.
 - He had a drinking problem.
 - He was not on guard.
- 1 Kings 16:9-13 His servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. Now he *was* at Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who *was* over the household at Tirzah.¹⁰ Then Zimri went in and struck him and put him to death in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and became king in his place.¹¹ It came about when he became king, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave a single male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends.¹² Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke against Baasha through Jehu the prophet,¹³ for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, which they sinned and which they made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.
- Zimri, Elah’s commander of the chariots, plotted a murderous takeover of the Baasha Dynasty. Jesus said in *Matthew 26:52* “...for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.” That is a true statement that would be applied in back to back dynasties. Baasha killed the son of Jeroboam to take reign and now Baasha’s son would be killed in the same manner.

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- Not only did Elah perish, but the entire male genealogy of Elah would be wiped out as well. They even killed the friends of the family just to make sure they got them all. It was just as God predicted through Jehu the prophet.

Zimri:

- 1 Kings 16:15-20 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days at Tirzah. Now the people were camped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. ¹⁶ The people who were camped heard it said, “Zimri has conspired and has also struck down the king.” Therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp. ¹⁷ Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah. ¹⁸ When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king’s house and burned the king’s house over him with fire, and died, ¹⁹ because of his sins which he sinned, doing evil in the sight of the LORD, walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, making Israel sin. ²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Zimri and his conspiracy which he carried out, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
- When the troops that were camped out against the Philistines heard that Zimri had killed Elah and assumed the kingship. They rallied behind a warrior named Omri, making him the commander of the army. They besieged the northern capitol and took it. When Zimri saw that it was a losing battle, he committed suicide by burning down the palace.
- He was on the throne for only seven days when Omri took over. In a period of two years there were four kings in power. Just like Elah did not know that he would die on the night of his drunkenness; Just like Zimri came and went; Just like Baasha did not know how bad it would turn out for his family tree, we know that LIFE COMES AT YOU FAST! Make sure that you are ready by being right with God today.

LIFE COMES AT YOU FAST SO BE READY!

There is an insurance company that likes to use the saying, “Life comes at you fast.” They are trying to capture the truth that many situations can arise in life that can catch you unprepared. It is true that life comes at you fast! Even truer is the concept that DEATH COMES AT YOU FAST! We must be ready for this event.

- James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” ¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”
- Luke 12:17-20 “And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’” ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’” ¹⁹ ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.”’ ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’”
- Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

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The Bird Painting

Several centuries ago, a Japanese emperor commissioned an artist to paint a bird. A number of months passed, then several years, and still no painting was brought to the palace. Finally the emperor became so exasperated that he went to the artist's home to demand an explanation. Instead of making excuses, the artist placed a blank canvas on the easel. In less than an hour, he completed a painting that was to become a brilliant masterpiece. When the emperor asked the reason for the delay, the artist showed him armloads of drawings of feathers, wings, heads, and feet. Then he explained that all of this research and study had been necessary before he could complete the painting.

Just like the painter had great preparation in the final work, we must be preparing to meet our final destiny before God.

- Hebrews 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- Revelation 2:5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

Be Prepared because Death comes at you fast!