

Week 21

1 Kings 15-16; 22:41-50; 2 Chron 14-20

Division Begets Civil War

Civil War! When the pent up resentments of a nation turn on itself, a heart of murder is unleashed. As we open this section Israel and Judah are battling over a border to geographically divide the already socially divided people. Then there comes the internal strife, as Israel finds itself at war with in its own borders. Most of the Kings we confront in these pages are driven by pride and arrogance. There are a few exceptions that briefly stand out. These are the same forces at work in our world today, forerunners of perilous times to come. Remember the focus of our study is to help us walk faithfully, meditating on God's Law, fixing our focus on our future glory, like the Blessed Man in Psalm One. And the ultimate Blessed Man? It is Jesus. Hold fast to him and run the race, enduring to the end.

The Outline: Division Begets Civil War

1 Kings 15 *Border Battle: North Against South*

- 15:1-8 Abijah King of Judah [2 Chron 13]
- 15:9-24 Asa King of Judah [2 Chron 14-16]
 - 9-15 His reforms
 - 16-19 Battle with Baasha King of Israel
 - 20-22 Alliance with Benhadad of Syria
 - 23-24 Asa dies
- 15:24 Jehoshaphat becomes King of Judah
 - 22:41-50 *The reign of Jehoshaphat [2Chron 17-20]*
- 15:25-30 Nadab King of Israel; killed by Baasha
- 15:31-33 Baasha and Asa always at war

1 Kings 16 *Murder, Strife and Civil War in Israel*

- 16:1-7 Reign of Baasha of Israel
- 16:8-14 Reign of Elah of Israel; killed by Zimri
- 16:15-20 Reign of Zimri; died in battle against Omri
- 16:21-28 Reign of Omri
- 16:29-34 Ahab is introduced; worse than any King before him