

Park Street Church Christian Formation

Wavering Trust to Outright Apostasy:
Rehoboam, Asa, and the Downward Spiral
[1 and 2 Kings 14-16; 2 Chronicles 11-16]

Review: “Mapping” Time and Space

United Monarchy under Saul, David, Solomon				
Temple Construction – 966 BC				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Prophets</u>	<u>Judah</u>	<u>Foreigners</u>
931 BC	<i>Jeroboam</i>	Ahijah “Man of God”	Rehoboam	Egypt (Shishak)
	Abijah	Shemaiah		
	Nadab		Abijah	
	<i>Baasha</i>	Azariah Hanani	Asa	Syria (ben-Hadad)
	<i>Omri</i>	Jehu, son of Hanani		

Review: Characteristics of North and South

- North – changing dynasties and capitals – Shechem, Tirzeah, Samaria
- South – line of David; tribe of Judah; Temple in Jerusalem
- Border area - Benjamin

Rehoboam’s Fortifications (2 Chr 11:5-12)

- Rehoboam consolidated his rule and secured the kingdom against attack
- “. . .he acted wisely” (2 Chr 11:23)

Apostasy (1 Kings 14:21-24; 2 Chr 12)

- But Rehoboam abandoned the Torah
- Did evil in the eyes of the Lord
- Invasion by Shishak [1 Kings 14:21-28]
- Repentance and partial reprieve – “My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak but they will become subject to him so that they may learn the difference between serving Me and serving the kings of other lands.”

In the Meantime up north. . .

- Baasha assassinated Nadab and killed Jeroboam's whole family, thus ending the first northern dynasty
- Baasha attempted to extend his control over the more isolated south

What's a King to Do?

[read 1 Kgs 15:18-22; 2 Chr 16:2-16]

- Baasha's move against the south provoked an extraordinary piece of diplomacy – apparently successful.
- It also prompted an equally extraordinary rebuke from the prophet, Hanani
- How did Asa's life end?

The North Spirals Down

- Prophecy of Jehu, son of Hanani, to Baasha
- Elah – the last of Baasha's dynasty
- Zimri obliterated the rest of Baasha's family; death at his own hand after seven days
- Civil war – Omri's forces vs Tibni's
- Omri consolidated his position and moved capital to Samaria
- Ahab married Jezebel – worship of Baal became "state religion"

What are the lessons for us?