

I Kings 14:1-16:28 –18 August 2022

“Chances To Turn Toward Victory”

Introduction

*I & II Kings demonstrate that a king’s allegiance to God’s Law is the key to success & protection

*The 1st half of I Kings depicts the reign of Solomon

*The 2nd half of I Kings begins the divided kingdom

*We now have 2 tribes in south called Judah led by a descendant of David & 10 tribes in north called Israel

*The years of these stories will come & go rapid fire

*In some cases, there’s a specific thing the king did that we should learn from

*In some cases, there’s not something specific, but just the idea that he didn’t turn the tide back to God

*Later from chap 17 til end of book it’s about 1 king & the prophet of the day Elijah

*But here, God would have us go quickly from king to king to see the many chances they had to turn toward God, to turn toward victory

***We’ll see 3 qualities of turning to the Lord for help**

1st quality of turning to God is to turn w/ humility, openness & premeditation (Chap 14)

Intro – We 1st will finish looking at the reign of Jeroboam in Israel

Read Chap 14:1-4

1. Jeroboam knows who to ask in time of trouble
2. Disguised so she didn't have to deal with her own sinful identity, but could get from God
 - a. Be honest with God don't hide
 - b. Garden of Eden hide b/c couldn't be honest
 - c. Ananias & wife hide in lies Acts 5

Read Vs 5

1. God gives a word of knowledge to His man

Read Vs 6-13

1. So, the prophecy of the child's death & the kingdom taken from Jeroboam's family
2. Do you see that God takes personal notice of each person (the young child from vs 13)

Read Vs 14-16

1. Not only will Jeroboam's lineage be cut off, but 10 tribes of Israel will be sent out of the land
2. All b/c Jeroboam led & Israel followed him into idolatry without repentance

Read Vs 17-20

1. So the child dies as the prophecy stated
2. *Now we transition in vs 21 back to the southern kingdom of Judah & King Rehoboam*

Read Vs 21-24

1. Evil in that they provoked God to jealousy by giving their worship to false gods & allowing male homosexuality in the land

Read Vs 25-28

1. All the gold only lasted about 40 years before it was plundered by Egypt
 - a. Judah humbled themselves when attacked by Egypt (Read II Chr 12:5-7)

- b. But didn't plan to serve God ahead of time
(Read II Chr 12:14)
2. Replacing w/ bronze that needs man's effort to maintain the shine, unlike the gold, shows decline

Read Vs 29-31

1. So, his lineage continues

**2nd quality of turning to God is to turn to God
before turning to men (Chap 15:1-24)**

Intro – Now we see Abijah's reign in Judah

Read Chap 15:1-3

1. Abijah takes the throne when his father Rehoboam dies & *continues* in his idolatry

Read Vs 4-5

1. God only allowed Abijah to reign for His grace He had for David, Abijah's great-grandfather
2. He had opportunity in good times to ask the Lord to use him, but never did

Read Vs 6-8

1. So he only reigned for 3 warring years
2. In a battle w/ Jeroboam, Judah & Abijah relied on God while outnumbered 2 to 1 (II Chr 13:18)
 - a. Even though he was characterized by evil living, he had moments when he turned to God
3. *Now we transition to his son's reign in Judah*

Read Vs 9-15 – *Asa in Judah*

1. Being “perfect w/ the Lord” is that your heart *wants* to do right w/ each situation
 - a. Not that you found & fixed every single problem

Read Vs 16-22

1. It should have been that he turned to the Lord instead of Syrians for help (Read II Chr 16:7-8)
2. God already help him beat the Ethiopians
3. Maybe we don't see the hand of God b/c we always try bailing ourselves out in our strength

Read Vs 23-24

1. Guess you could say he was ‘defeated’ haha
2. Even w/ foot disease, he didn't seek God but doctors (II Chr 16:12)

3rd quality of turning to God is to turn to the Lord to break the cycle of sin (Chap 15:25-16:28)

Intro – Now we transition back to Israel in the north with the reign of Nadab the son of Jeroboam

Read Chap 15:25-26

1. Not a single King of Israel does what is right in the sight of the Lord

Read Vs 27-31

1. Only says that Baasha's treason kills him
2. This is fulfillment of the prophecy to Jeroboam, Nadab's father

Read Vs 32-34 – *Baasha in Israel*

1. This was a fresh start, a fresh dynasty but Baasha STILL follows after false gods instead of turning himself & Israel back to the Lord

Read Vs 1-7

1. So the prophecy to remove Baasha's lineage from being kings is here
2. What grace just that God would talk to them

Read Vs 8-14 – *Elah in Israel*

1. Only says that Zimri's treason kills Elah while drunk
2. This fulfills prophecy to Baasha, Elah's father
3. A pattern has emerged – New chance to turn to God.....but no turning!

Read Vs 15-20 – *Zimri in Israel*

1. Zimri only reigns 7 days & is attacked by Israel's general Omri, so he commits suicide by fire
2. This is 3rd dynasty to come & go in only 46 yrs

Read Vs 21-22 – *Omri in Israel*

1. Without the Lord's direction, it's just every man doing what they think is right

Read Vs 23-24

1. The whole northern kingdom of Israel will become known as Samaria

Read Vs 25-28

1. Known for building Samaria and being the worst king up until his son Ahab comes next
2. Strength isn't enough to make impression w/ God

Conclusion

So many chances to turn to the Lord...they all had David's example to look to for how to turn back & have victory. We need to take every opportunity to rely on Jesus to direct our steps toward success

1. **Turn to the Lord with humility, openness & premeditation**
 - a. Be willing to be vulnerable & honest
 - b. We need to stop hiding in self-effort
2. **Turn to the Lord before turning to men**
 - a. Maybe we're robbing the Lord of wanting to do a miracle in our life
 - b. Let's show God we value Him above all
3. **Turn to the Lord to break the cycle of sin**
 - a. Without the Lord's direction it's just sin upon sin
 - b. Trust the Lord can intervene and do great things

Read II Chr 16:9 – God WANTS to be in your life