

Lesson 19 (Juniors): "Israel – Jeroboam to Ahab" (Apostasy Deepens)

**I. INTRODUCTION: ISRAEL'S DEPARTURE FROM CHRIST**

**A. Last week we saw that through Jeroboam the 10 tribes of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) rebelled against Solomon's foolish son Rehoboam.**

1. This was God's judgment on Solomon for his sin – what was Solomon's sin?
2. This was also caused by the sins of men: how did Rehoboam the son of Solomon sin? How did the people of Israel, led by Jeroboam sin? Why was Israel's sin so terrible?
3. How did Jeroboam, the 1st king of Israel make his sin worse? He set up the Calves in D&B. How did God show His anger against Jeroboam for this sin of idol worship?

**B. God judged Jeroboam for his sin – God gave Jeroboam the kingdom of Israel but Jeroboam did not lead the people in the ways of God, instead he led them further away from God: he took them out of the house of David, and he took them away from the worship of God in the Temple.**

1. Jeroboam had a son called Abijah, and this son became sick so Jeroboam sent his wife to ask the prophet if his son would get better. His wife disguised herself but the Lord told the prophet who was coming.
2. The prophet told Jeroboam's wife that her son Abijah would die as soon as she arrived home, and that only Abijah would die in peace. All of Jeroboam's family would die violent deaths: "The dogs and birds of the air would eat the dead bodies of Jeroboam's family."
3. The Word of the Lord came true: Jeroboam ruled for 22 years and was buried but his son Nadab died after two years. He died when a man called Baasha killed him. Baasha became king and killed all Jeroboam's family. But Baasha did not serve God. He served the GCs, and God prophesied judgment on his house too.

**II. MURDER AND MAYHEM**

**A. Because Israel had sinned against the Lord, Israel had no peace. There was not one family of kings in Israel. One king ruled, and then another rose up and killed the previous king. Sometimes, a king's son and even grandson would rule after him, but the story of Israel was murder.**

1. We saw that already: Jeroboam's son was murdered by Baasha. Baasha ruled for 24 years but his son Elah only ruled for 2 years and he was murdered.
2. Elah was a wicked man. One day he was drinking himself drunk in the palace when a man called Zimri rose up and murdered him, and said, "I am king." Zimri then killed all the family of Baasha.
3. But Zimri did not last long. He was king for [guess] 7 days. The people did not want Zimri as king. They chose Omri who was the captain of the army to be king. When Zimri saw this, he hid himself in the palace and burned the whole palace down on top of himself!

**B. Omri was a wicked king – more wicked than any before him.**

1. But in many ways Omri was a successful king – he moved the palace and capital to Samaria.
2. He had many victories. He made the nations around him pay tax. He made an agreement with the heathen, and he even took a heathen queen to be his son's wife. His son was Ahab, and Ahab's wife was Jezebel, a wicked woman!
3. Ahab made the sin in Israel even worse. In Jeroboam's day, the worshipped the GC and called it Jehovah. Now, they worshipped Baal, an idol god, the god of Jezebel's people. In fact, under Jezebel, the worship of God was almost impossible: the priests of Baal sat at Jezebel's table, and Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord.

**III. MERCY FOR A REMNANT**

**A. The king was wicked – Ahab! The queen was wicked – Jezebel! The people worshipped Baal, but God's people were still in Israel. God had 7000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal. And for their sakes, God sent prophets to the Kingdom of Israel.**

1. **Elijah the prophet came to Ahab and said to him, "As the Lord God of Israel liveth before whom I stand, there shall be no dew, nor rain these years, but according to my word."**
  - a. For three and a half years there was no rain in Israel – people died, animals died. And Baal could do nothing!
  - b. Elijah had to leave Israel – for a while God fed him with ravens, but then he sent him to a widow (describe the meeting and the cruse of oil).
  - c. After three and half years God sent Elijah back to Israel and to Ahab, get to Mt. Carmel, and bring the prophets of Baal and we shall see who is God.
2. **At Mt. Carmel God showed that He was the true God.**
  - a. [Describe the challenge] – the Baal prophets failed.

- b. [Describe what Elijah did – 12 stones of Israel, trench, three barrels of water, prayer and fire from heaven!
  - c. The people were amazed and the prophets of Baal were killed, and then it started to rain. But Jezebel was furious and tried to kill Elijah, and Elijah ran away.
- B. Ahab was not changed by Mt. Carmel. He and Jezebel still worshipped Baal. One day, Ahab saw a vineyard that he liked. It belonged to Naboth, a godly man of Israel. Ahab said to Naboth that he would buy the vineyard or give him a different vineyard. Naboth refused and Ahab sulked.**
- 1. **When Jezebel heard about it, she made a plan to get Naboth's vineyard and get rid of Naboth.**
    - a. [describe plot] Naboth invited to feast – Naboth accused – Naboth killed
    - b. When Ahab went down to the vineyard, Elijah came to him, and accused him, and said to him that all his family would die. And the dogs would lick his blood in the place where Naboth's blood was licked up by the dogs.
    - c. Ahab later died in battle just as God had said.
  - 2. **All the kings after Ahab were wicked but none was as wicked as Ahab.**
    - a. Some of the later kings no longer worshipped Baal, but they all worshipped the GC
    - b. None of the kings went back to worship in the Temple, and none of them came back to the house of David.
    - c. Next week, we will continue our look at the kings of Israel.

### The Kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram (Joram), Jehu, Jehoahaz,  
Joash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekakiah, Pekah, Hoshea