

Baasha Attacks Judah (896t BC)

1 Kings 15:16–22, 32

2 Chronicles 16:1–10

16 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.

18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold which were left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants.

And King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

19 *“Let there be a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father.*

Behold, I have sent you a present of silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me.”

20 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah and all Chinneroth, besides all the land of Naphtali.

21 When Baasha heard *of it*, he ceased fortifying Ramah

and remained in Tirzah.

22 Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah—none was exempt—

and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had built.

And King Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah.

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent *anyone* from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.

2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house,

and sent them to Ben-hadad

king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

3 *“Let there be a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father.*

Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me.”

4 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim and all the store cities of Naphtali.

5 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.

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, “Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.

8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

9 For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.”

10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in

32 There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time.

The Death of Baasha (886n BC)

1 Kings 16:1–7

1 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 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.”
 5 Now the rest of the acts of Baasha and what he did and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
 6 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.

Elah, Baasha’s Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (886n BC)

1 Kings 16:8

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.*

Elah Is Assassinated by Zimri (885n BC)

1 Kings 16:9–10, 14

9 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.
 14 Now the rest of the acts of Elah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

Zimri—King For a Week (885n BC)

1 Kings 16:11–13, 15–20

15a In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days at Tirzah.
 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.
 15b 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?

Tibni and Omri—A Tale of Two Rival Kings (885n–880n BC)

1 Kings 16:21–22

21 Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; the *other* half followed Omri.
 22 But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. And Tibni died and Omri became king.

Omri, Commander of the Army, Begins Sole Reign of Israel (880n/880t BC)

1 Kings 16:23–24

23 In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel *and reigned* twelve years; he reigned six years at Tirzah.
 24 He bought the hill Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he built on the hill, and named the city which he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

The Death of Omri (874n BC)

1 Kings 16:25–28

25 Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, and acted more wickedly than all who *were* before him.
 26 For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and in his sins which he made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel with their idols.
 27 Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did and his might which he showed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
 28 So Omri slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria; and Ahab his son became king in his place.

Ahab, Omri’s son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (874n BC)

1 Kings 16:29

29 Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

Asa Develops a Foot Disease (873t BC)

1 Kings 15:23b

23b But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.

2 Chronicles 16:12

12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

The Death of Asa (871t BC)	
1 Kings 15:23a–24	2 Chronicles 16:11, 13–14; 17:1
<p>23a Now the rest of all the acts of Asa and all his might and all that he did and the cities which he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?</p> <p>24 And Asa slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father;</p> <p>and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.</p>	<p>16:11 Now, the acts of Asa from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.</p> <p>13 So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign.</p> <p>14 They buried him in his own tomb which he had cut out for himself in the city of David, and they laid him in the resting place which he had filled with spices of various kinds blended by the perfumers' art; and they made a very great fire for him.</p> <p>17:1 Jehoshaphat his son then became king in his place, and made his position over Israel firm.</p>

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Chronological Notes

- 1) At first glance the chronology for Omri's reign seems wrong. The text says he ruled twelve years, beginning with Asa's thirty-first year. Asa reigned forty-one years (1 Kgs 15:10), which seems to create a gap of two years. What has occurred, however, is that the twelve years reflects the "coreign" of Tibni and Omri (885n–880n) and the length of time Omri ruled on his own (880n–874n). Thiele states that in this case the author utilizes a dual dating procedure "that is used for all three of the overlapping reigns in Israel and for two in Judah." Thus, Omri comes to power in Asa's twenty-seventh year after Zimri's murder of Elah (1 Kgs 16:15), fights Tibni until the thirty-first year of Asa (1 Kgs 16:23), and dies in Asa's thirty-eighth year, a total of twelve years by the northern means of reckoning reigns.¹

¹ Paul R. House, "1, 2 Kings," *NAC*, 202.