

1 Kings 15

Verses 1-8

Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. ² He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. ³ He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, like the heart of his father David. ⁴ But for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to raise up his son after him and to establish Jerusalem; ⁵ because David did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite. ⁶ There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. "And the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead." And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead."

Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah.

See chart 1505 2s

Southern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841-835	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835-796	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796-767	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

² He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.

Maacah was the favorite wife of Rehoboam.

See 2 Chron. 11:20 – 21

²⁰ After her he married Maacah the daughter of Absalom, and she bore to him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith. ²¹ Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom more than all his *other* wives and concubines.

As parents we can love our children equally but that is not the case with a husband or wife. This is one reason why God says that the two shall become one flesh. More than two means that someone is a lesser partner.

See Genesis 2:24

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

³ He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, like the heart of his father David. ⁴ But for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to raise up his son after him and to establish Jerusalem; ⁵ because David did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

Abijam was like his father Rehoboam who was like his father Solomon.

There were two sins that undermined the relationship between God and most of the kings of Israel. These were the first two commandments.

See Exodus 20:3-4

³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth.

Solomon & Rehoboam broke these commandments but David never did.

Because David never sought after other gods he was given a dynasty that held the throne in Jerusalem for almost 400 years.

⁶ There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.

This divide between the North and South was deep. In a battle between Abijah and Jeroboam the North lost 500,000 men.

See 2 Chron. 13:16 – 18

¹³ But Jeroboam had set an ambush to come from behind, so that *Israel* was in front of Judah and the ambush was behind them. ¹⁴ When Judah turned around, behold, they were attacked both from front and rear; so they cried out to the Lord, and the priests blew the trumpets. ¹⁵ Then the men of Judah raised a war cry, and when the men of Judah raised the war cry, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. ¹⁶ When the sons of Israel fled from Judah, God handed them over to them. ¹⁷ Abijah and his people defeated them with a great slaughter, so that five hundred thousand chosen men of Israel fell slain. ¹⁸ The sons of Israel were subdued at that time, and the sons of Judah conquered because they trusted in the Lord, the God of their fathers. ¹⁹ Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured from him *several* cities, Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephron with its villages.

In comparison the United States had 418,000 casualties during World War 2. However the population of the U.S. at that time was around 132 million compared to 4 or 5 million for Northern Israel during the time of Abijah.

It hard to comprehend the toll this must have taken on their society. At least 1/10 of their total population was killed in this battle. The loss of these men was bad enough but the effect this had on their wives and children had to be devastating.

Verses 9-15

So in the twentieth year of Jeroboam the king of Israel, Asa began to reign as king of Judah. ¹⁰ He reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. ¹¹ Asa did what was right in the sight of the Lord, like David his father. ¹² He also put away the male cult prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols which his fathers had made. ¹³ He also removed Maacah his mother from *being* queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah; and Asa cut down her horrid image and burned *it* at the brook Kidron. ¹⁴ But the high places were not taken away; nevertheless the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the Lord all his days. ¹⁵ He brought into the house of the Lord the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils.

So in the twentieth year of Jeroboam the king of Israel, Asa began to reign as king of Judah.

See Chart 1510 3s

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
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9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

¹⁰ He reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.

This is the second time Maacah has been mentioned (see verse 2 above).

This woman was actually the grandmother of Asa and she held the important post of queen-mother. The Jews called any female ancestor Mother and any male ancestor father.

Abishalom is another spelling of Absalom. However, Absalom only had one daughter who was named Tamar so Maacah was probably his granddaughter.

See 2 Samuel 14:27

²⁷ And to Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar; she was a woman of beautiful appearance.

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the sight of the Lord, like David his father. ¹² He also put away the male cult prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols which his fathers had made.

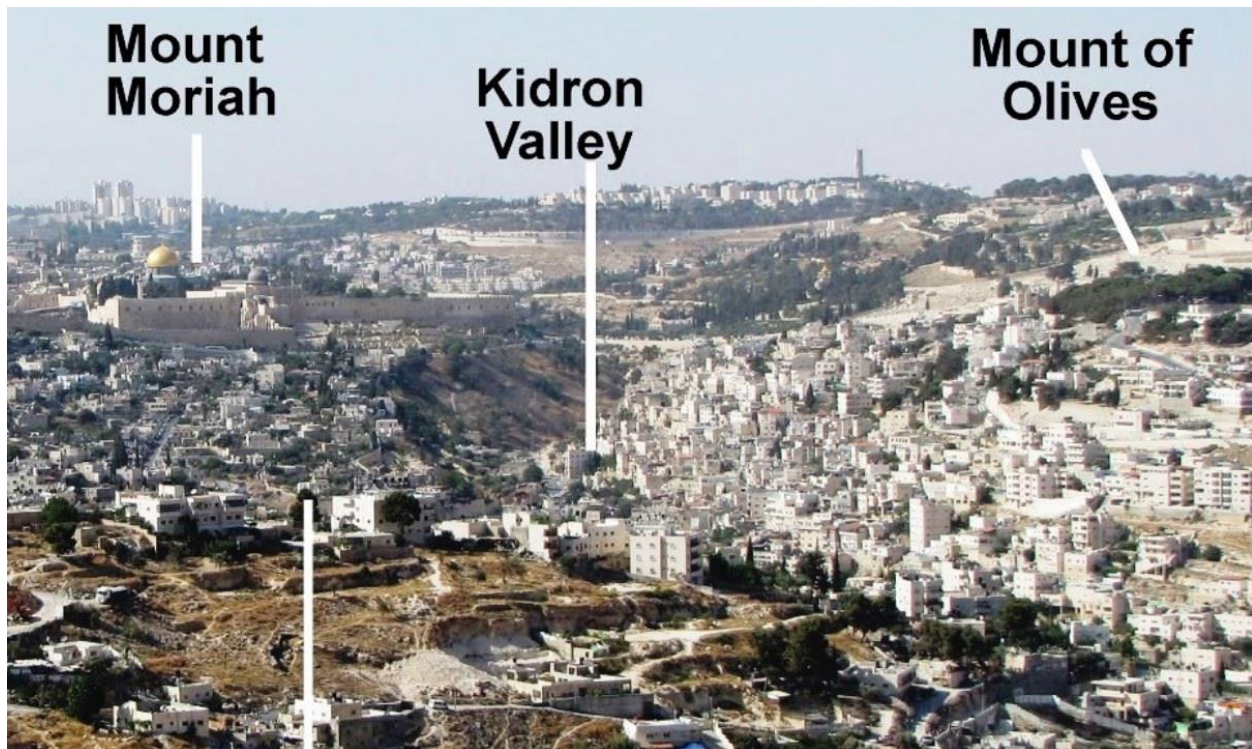
God judges us on what we do and that is true from the least of us to the greatest. Many kings of Israel followed the broad path but there were a few good kings who followed the narrow path and brought some reforms.

¹³ He also removed Maacah his mother from *being* queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah; and Asa cut down her horrid image and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.

The pagan goddess Asherah was hailed as the mother of 70 different gods, including Baal.

Asa cut down her image and burned *it* at the brook Kidron. The brook Kidron runs thru the Kidron valley.

See Pic 1515



See video 1516 9.26 Kidron Valley

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.26.html>

¹⁴ But the high places were not taken away; nevertheless the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the Lord all his days.

The idolatry of Israel was deeply entrenched; so much so, that even the best rulers could not rid Israel of the high places.

Verses 16 - 22

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.

Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

The rift between the North and the south continued.

In 2 Chronicles 13:17 Abijah and his troops (the south) slaughtered 500,000 of Israel's best fighters (the North). Despite this horrific loss the wars between the north and south continued between Asa and Baasha.

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.

See Map 1520



Baasha tried to overtake the south by cutting off their supplies. Ramah was used as a military post for the troops that were in charge of that mission.

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.”*

Asa was a good king, but this was the wrong thing to do. He was relying on a foreign ruler instead of relying on God for help.

See 2 Chronicles 16:7

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, for that reason the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.**

When the Cushite's had invaded Judah, Asa had asked the Lord for help but this time he asked the king of Syria for help. The prophet Hanani rebuked Asa for his lack of faith and Asa's response was to imprison the prophet.

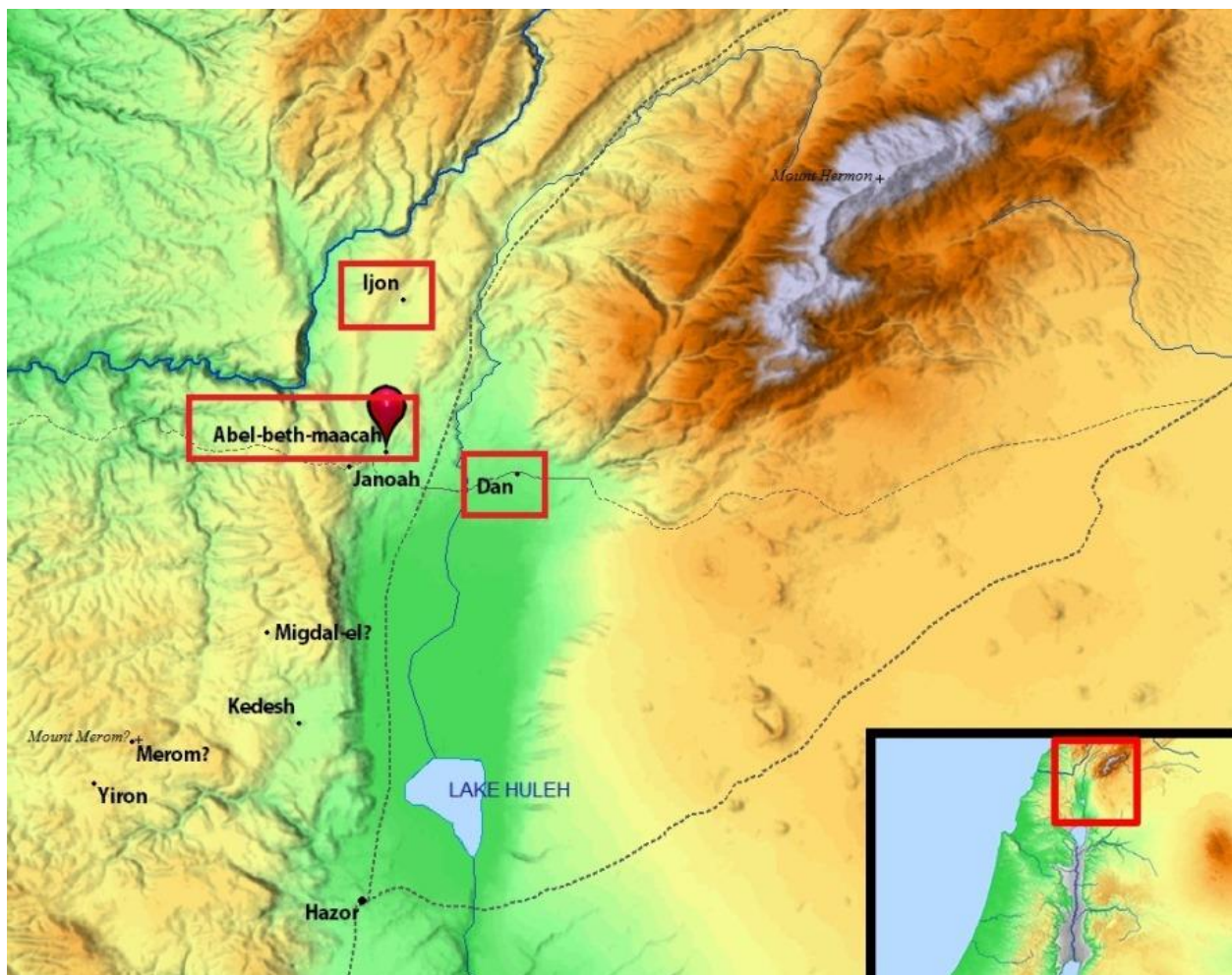
See 2 Chronicles 16:10

¹⁰ Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa mistreated some of the people at the same time.

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.

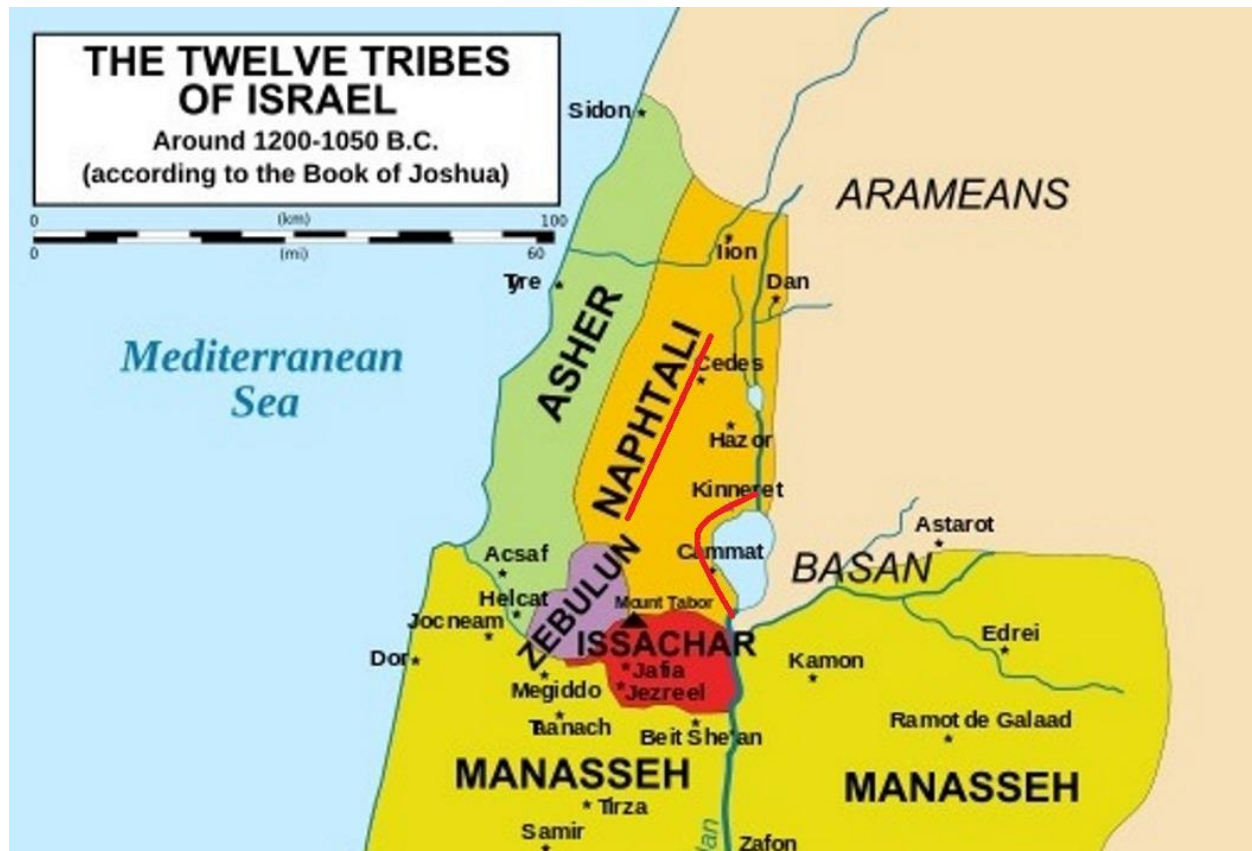
Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah

See map 1525



Chinneroth refers to the western shore of The Sea of Galilee which is part of “all the land of Naphtali”.

See map 1530



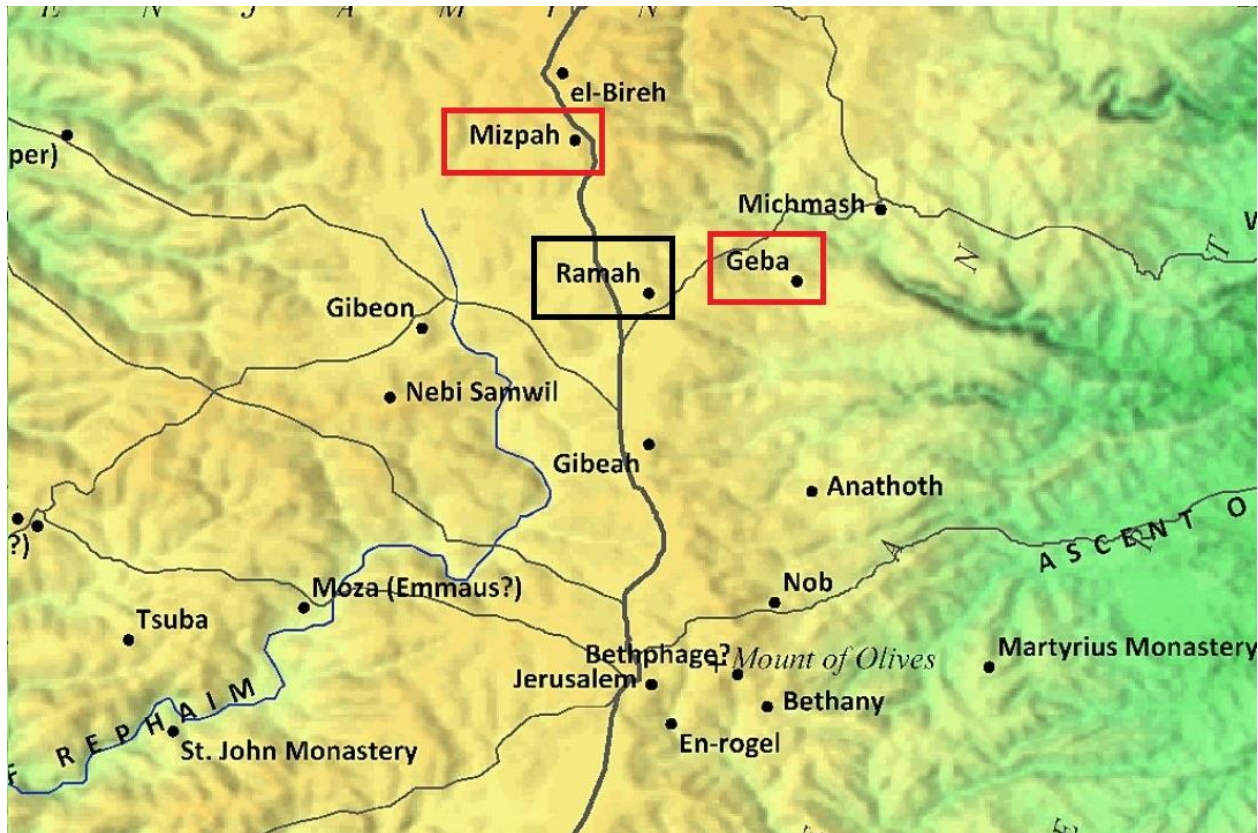
The Sea of Galilee is also known as Lake Tiberias and Kinneret. It is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth at 700 below sea level. The Dead Sea is the lowest saltwater lake. It is 13 mi long and 8 miles wide with a circumference of 33 miles. Its maximum depth is 141 feet. The lake is fed partly by underground springs but its main source is the Jordan River, which flows through it from north to south.

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.

With aid from Damascus Asa defeated Baasha. Then he confiscated the materials which Baasha had used to fortify Ramah and used it to build Geba and Mizpah.

See map 1535



Verse 23-24

²³ **Now as for 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? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.**

²⁴ **And Asa lay down with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of his father David; and his son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place.**

The disease in his feet began in the 39th year of Asa's reign.

See 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.**

Our first response when we get sick should be to ask the Lord for healing and then seek out medical help. We seek out medical help because faith without works is dead.

There is another important lesson to be learned from the life of Asa.

In the beginning of his reign he was quite faithful to the Lord. But in the 36th year of his reign, he didn't seek help from the Lord concerning the safety of Judah. Then in the 39th year of his reign, he didn't seek help from the Lord concerning his health.

Old age is not the time to get lazy or forgetful about our faith.

Verses 25-30

Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. ²⁶ He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin which he made Israel sin. ²⁷ Then Baasha the son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against him, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon.

²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place. ²⁹ It came about as soon as he was king, he struck down all the household of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam any persons alive, until he had destroyed them, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, ³⁰ and because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger.

Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.

See Chart 1540

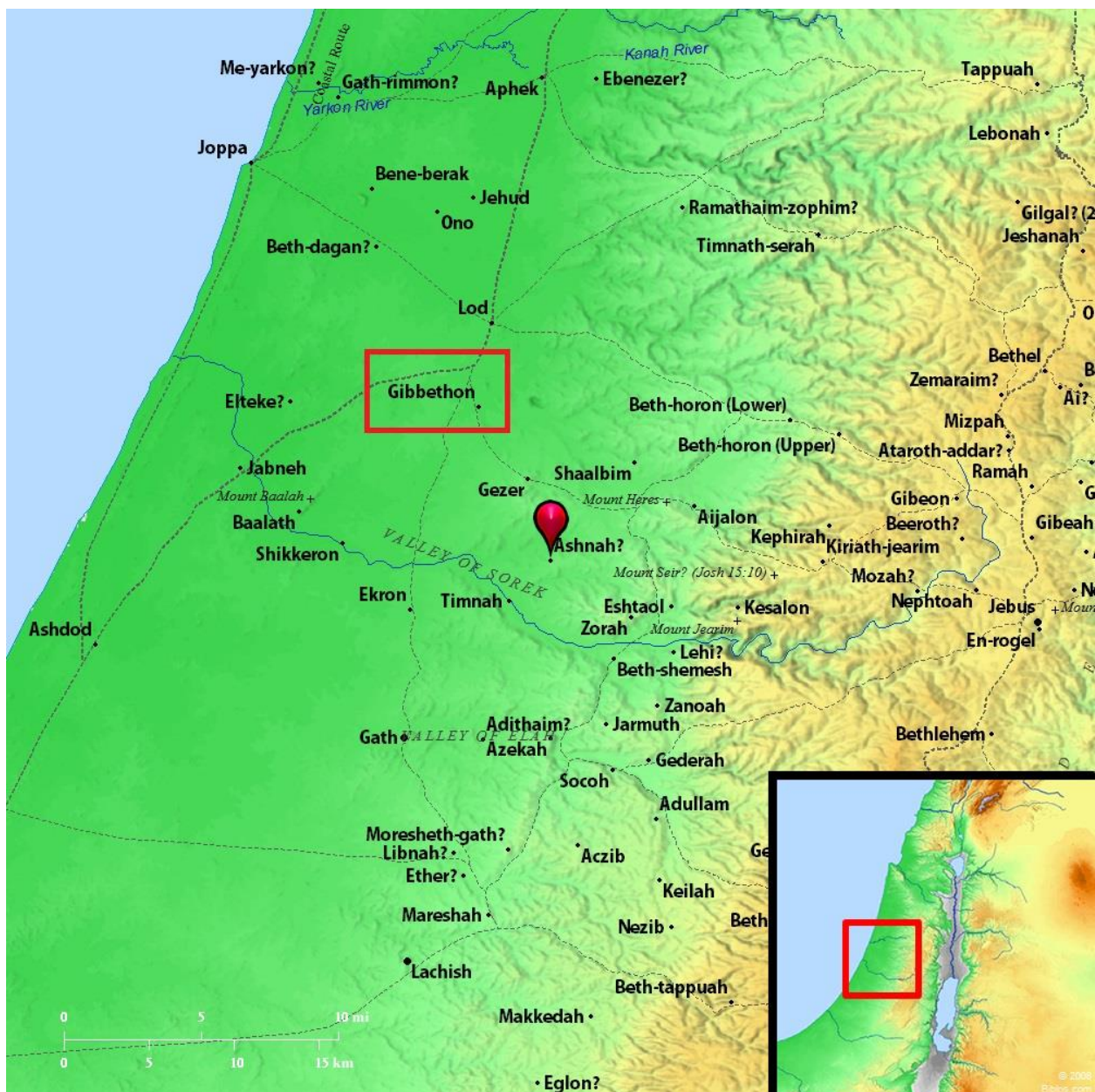
North					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	

²⁶ He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin which he made Israel sin.

We know very little about Nadab other than he did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

²⁷ Then Baasha the son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against him, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon.

See Map 1545 Gibbethon



In the times of Joshua, it was assigned to the Levites

See Joshua 21:23

²³ And from the tribe of Dan, Elteke with its pasture lands, Gibbethon with its pasture lands,

However, at this point in time it belonged to the Philistines.

²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place.

See chart 1550

North					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
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²⁹ It came about as soon as he was king, he struck down all the household of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam any persons alive, until he had destroyed them, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,

What Baasha did to the house of Jeroboam had been prophesied to happen 17 years before it took place.

See 1 Kings 14:14

¹⁴ Moreover, the Lord will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who will eliminate the house of Jeroboam this day and from now on.

³⁰ **and because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger.**

Why did all of the family of Jeroboam die? They died because of the sins of Jeroboam. It is not uncommon for family members to suffer because of the sins of their father.

Verse 31 - 32

³¹ **Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Nadab and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?³² And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.**

The divide between the North and South did not heal as the years passed.

1. See 1 Kings 14:30

³⁰ **And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.**

⁶ And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.

2. See 1 Kings 15:6

⁶ **And there was war between Rehoboam (Abijah) and Jeroboam all the days of his life.**

The use of the name Rehoboam in this verse is actually a reference to Abijah.

3. Verse 32

³² **And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.**

The time period mentioned here covers from 930 BC to 886 BC, a period of 44 years.

Verse 33 – 34

In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, and reigned twenty and four years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."

None of the kings of the North followed the Lord.