

WEARY IS THE HEAD. 1 KN. 16:8-20. 01/22/23. #23.

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¶In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel, and reigned two years in Tirzah. ¶Now his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him as he was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, steward of his house in Tirzah. ¶And Zimri went in and struck him and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. ¶Then it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he was seated on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave him one male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends. ¶Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, by which they had sinned and by which they had made Israel sin, in provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols. ¶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? ¶In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri had reigned in Tirzah seven days. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. ¶Now the people who were encamped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired and also has killed the king." So all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp. ¶Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon, and they besieged Tirzah. ¶And it happened, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire, and died, because of the sins which he had committed in doing evil in the sight of the Lord, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin. ¶Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the treason he committed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

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1. Elah is e-last

- a. Baasha had taken the throne via assassination of Nadab, son of Jeroboam
 - a1. He killed all of Jeroboam's descendants
 - a2. He engaged in the same evil as Jeroboam
- b. Baasha's motivation was power & not serving the Lord (a mere lust to exalt himself)
- c. After Baasha ruled for 24 years, his son, Elah, reigned in his place
 - a1. Elah continued the sins of his father
 - a2. Elah reigns for just 2 years
- d. While the army was at Gibbethon in Philistia (east of Ashkelon) Elah is in the house of his steward, Azra, in Tizrah to the north, getting drunk
 - a1. Gibbethon was where Nadab was when Baasha had assassinated him
 - a2. Like David (2 Sam. 11), Elah was not with his army
- e. Zimri (commander over ½ the chariots), slays Elah while he is drunk (Zimri is not with the army either)
- f. Zimri has no actual support

2. Zimri's week on the throne

- a. The army hears about the slaying at Gibbethon
 - a1. Their response was anger
 - a2. They appoint their commanding general, Omri, as their new king
- b. The army went to Tizrah to remove Zimri from the throne & replace him with Omri
 - a1. After a few days, Zimri is surrounded
 - a2. When Zimri realizes he could not escape, he burns his palace down over his head
- c. Omri begins to rule

3. The stumbling & provoking principle

- a. The Lord continually accused the kings of 2 issues
 - a1. Causing Israel to sin
 - a2. Provoking God to anger
- b. Causing Israel to sin
 - a1. Leadership requires being the right issue
 - a2. Jam. 3:1 we are not to be many teachers because how one lives & what one teaches comes under strict judgment by the God
 - a3. Lk. 12:48 those who have been given much wealth, influence, & opportunities are more strictly judged than those given less
- c. Mt. 18 anyone who offends (causes to stumble) "little ones who believe in Lord" faces judgment
- d. By causing Israel to stumble & be led away from the Lord, Israel's kings faced the wrath of God
- e. These kings provoked the Lord to wrath
 - a1. Provoke = entails grieving, disappointment frustration, & vexation
 - a2. God elevated these kings to shepherd his people, but instead they pridefully used the throne for their own selfish desires
 - a3. The kingdom belonged to God, not a king
- f. Our lives, families, positions of authority, & everything else belongs to God (we are stewards)
 - a1. We will give an account of all God has put within our sphere of influence
 - a2. Living/serving are great responsibilities