



THE REIGN OF KING BAASHA

The name *Baasha* means “boldness; he that seeks or lays waste.”

Baasha was of the house of Issachar. There is a high probability that when we are first introduced to him, he is serving as a commander in the military of King Nadab. However, when he saw an opportunity to grab more power and to seize control, he took with force what didn't belong to him – a decision that would cause him even greater problems down the road. He conspired against King Nadab.

1 Kings 15:27 says, “And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.”

The word *conspired* here means “to knit together.” In other words, he found others who agreed with him and together they chose to assassinate the King Nabab while fighting against the Philistines in Gibbethon.

After murdering Nadab, Baasha proclaimed himself the new king of Israel, the northern kingdom, and his first order of business was to secure his throne by eliminating any rivals to the throne. He had the relatives of Nabab killed thus fulfilling the prophet Ahijah's message that the house of Jeroboam would be completely destroyed.

1 Kings 15:29-30 says, “And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite: Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.”

Instead of learning from the faults of Jeroboam, he followed in his steps. He too chose to reject the word of God by continuing in the same idolatrous practices of Jeroboam. A decision that generate the exact same result in his home as it did in Jeroboam's home – complete destruction.

1 Kings 16:1-4 says, "Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins; Behold, I will take away the posterity of Baasha, | and the posterity of his house; and will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat. Him that dieth of Baasha in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth of his in the fields shall the fowls of the air eat."

1 Kings 16:7 says, "And also by the hand of the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD against Baasha, and against his house, even for all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam; and because he killed him."

The simple reality is that the decisions that the northern kingdom had been making had caused them not to be nearly as prosperous as the southern kingdom. Fearing that the people of the northern kingdom would seek to flee the northern kingdom for the southern, Baasha led the nation in constant battles with the southern kingdom.

1 Kings 15:32 says, "And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days."

He came to the southern city of | Ramah to accomplish two things:

- (1) He wanted to use it as a base of military operations against the southern kingdom
- (2) He wanted to regulate, or restrict, travel to and from the southern kingdom.

1 Kings 15:16-17 says, "And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah."

As Baasha began to bring in all the materials to build up the city of Ramah, King Asa of the southern kingdom got nervous and sprung a plan of his own. He approached Benhadad, King of Syria – an ally of both the northern and southern kingdom. After giving him gold and silver out of the treasures of the Lord, Asa convinced Benhadad to sever his allegiance with Baasha and to attack the Kingdom of Israel. This move by the King Asa caused Baasha to stop the work in the city of Ramah. He retreated to the city of Tirzah and established it as the new capital of the Northern Kingdom.

2 Chronicles 16:1-5 says, "In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, | There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, | and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali."

And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease.”

The sad reality is that Baasha’s desire to seize control cost him and everyone else around him greatly.

The northern kingdom lost part of their **ASSISTANCE**.

2 Chronicles 16:3 says, “There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.”

The northern kingdom lost part of their **INHERITANCE**

2 Chronicles 16:4 says, “And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.”

The northern kingdom lost part of their **INVESTMENTS**.

2 Chronicles 16:6 says, “Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.”

The family of Baasha lost their **CHANCE** (opportunity).

Though Baasha would go on and reign for a total of 24 years as the king of Israel and seemingly die of natural causes, his son and many in his family would not be so fortunate.

1 Kings 16:5-6 says, “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? So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah: and Elah his son reigned in his stead.”

1 Kings 16:12-13 says, “Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.”

Now, what do we learn from the life of King Baasha. I think it’s this – bullying never benefits anybody. Simply defined, bullying is when someone uses their “perceived” might to intimidate, isolate, humiliate, pressure, or cause harm to others.” Though we don’t find the word bullying in the Bible, we do find the word brute or brutish and we also find many examples.

2 Peter 2:12-15 says, “But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray,”

Jude 1:10-13 says, *“But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with | you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.”*

The reality is that bullying continues to this very day and, according to many statistics, is a growing problem even in the church. These individuals who have a personal agenda and they are determined to get what they want. They want control and they will do whatever is necessary to get it regardless of the damage that it causes. They like to stir up trouble. They usually love attention just as much as they like getting their way. While their work usually begins behind the scenes as they seek to form alliances (convincing others to join their cause), it always eventually blows up leaving a noticeable and devastating path of destruction.

Psalm 49:10 says, *“For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:1 says, *“So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.”*

Essentially there are 2 categories of bullying: aggressive and passive.

AGGRESSIVE BULLYING

Aggressive bullying includes:

VERBAL bullying (using words to belittle or demean someone).

EMOTIONAL bullying (using words to mock, shock, tease, or ostracize someone).

PHYSICAL bullying (using one’s body or an object to exert power or control over someone else in an abusive manner).

SOCIAL bullying (consistently excluding another person or sharing information or images that will have a harmful effect on someone with others).

PASSIVE BULLYING

While passive bullying is still active, it isn’t as aggressive. But it can be just as destructive. Passive bullying is when one refuses to fulfill their responsibility, withholds assistance, or when one does whatever they can “behind-the-scenes” to prevent, undermine, hurt someone else.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans chapter twelve, provides the answer to bullying.

Romans 12:17-21 says, *“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in | so*

doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

FAMILY CONNECTIONS OF KING BAASHA

AHIJAH – Baasha's father

1 Kings 15:33 says, *"In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years."*

ELAH – Baasha's son

1 Kings 16:6 says, *"So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah: and Elah his son reigned in his stead."*