



## CHAPTER 15

## Key Characters

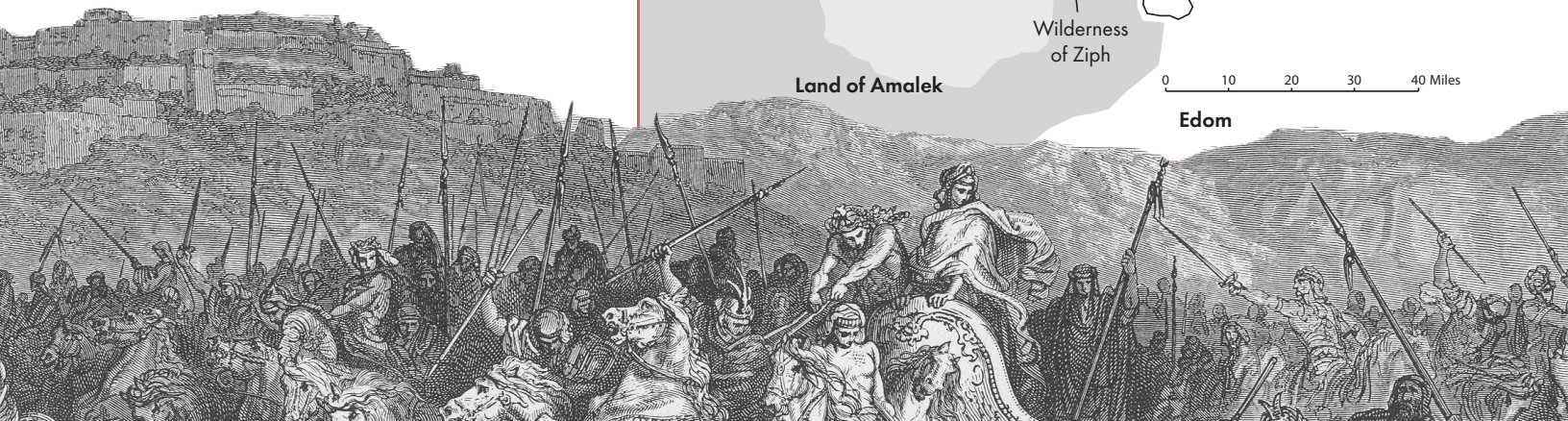
- **Abijam** – 2nd king of Judah after the nation divided.
- **Asa** – 3rd king of Judah after the nation divided.
- **Nadab** – 2nd king of Israel after the nation divided.
- **Baasha** – 3rd king of Israel after the nation divided.

## Where

- After the nations of Israel and Judah divided, Jerusalem remained as the capital of Judah.
- Baasha reigned over Israel from Tirzah.
- He built up Ramah to stop Israelites from going south to Judah.
- The “high places” were sites where sacrifices were offered to the gods. These locations were not authorized by God.

## When

- According to the timeline we are using for this study, the kingdom of Israel and Judah divided in 975 B.C.
- The period that followed, called the period of the “Divided Kingdom,” lasted the next few centuries. Israel remained a cohesive nation until 721 B.C. (Assyrian captivity), while Judah lasted until 607 B.C. (Babylonian exile).
- The kings in 1 Kings 15 reigned between 975-900 B.C.





# Outline

## - THE REIGN OF ABIJAM IN JUDAH (15:1-8):

- + Abijam became king after his father Rehoboam's death.
- + He reigned 3 years and continued the sinful policies of his father.
- + God allowed him to reign for David's sake.
- + The civil war between Israel and Judah continued throughout his reign.
- + His life was documented in the "Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah."

## - THE REIGN OF ASA IN JUDAH (15:9-24):

- + Asa took the throne of Judah after Abijam's short 3-year reign.
- + He "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done" (15:11).
- + He did away with idol worship and the cult prostitutes in the land.
- + He even removed his mother from the role of queen mother because she had made an "abominable image for Asherah." (Many historians believe Asherah was a pagan fertility goddess.)
- + One thing Asa failed to remove from Judah was the high places, but the Bible still describes him as a man's whose heart was "wholly true" to the Lord.
- + Asa fought continually with Baasha, king of Israel.
- + When Baasha built up the city of Ramah to prevent his people from going to Judah, Asa bribed the Syrians to attack Israel using the treasures in the Temple.
- + Baasha was forced to withdraw from Ramah and live in Tirzah.
- + In his old age, Asa was "diseased in his feet." He died and was buried in Jerusalem.
- + Jehoshaphat, Asa's son, reigned in his place.

## - THE REIGN OF NADAB IN ISRAEL (15:25-32):

- + Nadab, the son of Jeroboam, reigned over Israel after his father's death.
- + He reigned 2 years before Baasha of Issachar conspired against him and killed him.
- + Baasha killed all the relatives of Jeroboam, as Ahijah the prophet had foretold (14:10).

## - THE REIGN OF BAASHA IN ISRAEL (15:33-34):

- + Baasha reigned over Israel for 24 years. He took the throne in Asa's 3rd year.
- + "He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord."

# Application

- A person is not doomed by their upbringing or the influences of their youth.
- You don't have to repeat the generational sins of your family.
- After the wicked years of Solomon's later reign, Rehoboam's influence, and Abijam's godlessness, Asa flipped the script. He gave his heart to God and reformed the nation.
- If your family has a bad reputation and a past stained with sin, determine to be like Asa, determine to change things. God will help you do it!

