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YouTube Prayer Link

### Completely devoted to the Lord

First Kings chapter 15 focuses on the history of the kings of Israel and Judah. This chapter records the reign of Asa, the third king of Judah, and the reign of Nadab, the second king of Israel. Among them, Asa was approved by God during his reign because he did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah, purged the land of idols, and waged a war with the nation of Israel. And during his reign Nadab did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did all the sins of his father Jeroboam, so the Lord was angry with him and his house.

'Faithful obedience' (v.3), 'follow with perfect heart'. Abiyang, like Solomon, did not fail to follow God, but he refused to follow God with a perfect heart. Abiyang condemned the northern kingdom and rebuked them for worshipping "the golden calf of God" according to the wicked customs of the Gentiles, and boasting that they would worship God "in obedience to the commandment of the Lord our God." Thus, Abiyang's "all the evils" were not by not worshipping God, but by worshipping God and idolatry, just as many believers "serve God and mammon."

Jesus taught us in the Bible that we cannot serve God and wealth at the same time, which is reflected in the word Mammon, which means wealth, money, or the power of wealth. Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters." It's not about hating this and loving that, or valuing this and ignoring that. You cannot serve God and mammon at the same time. This verse reminds us that one cannot serve God wholeheartedly and pursue wealth at the same time. Because there is often a conflict between the two. God is our Lord, and He requires our wholehearted service and obedience to Him. However, wealth and money often become temptations and idols in our lives, leading us away from true devotion to God.

When we see wealth as the main pursuit of life, we treat money as our master rather than putting God first. Greed and the pursuit of wealth can lead us to abandon our obedience to God and turn away from God's will in pursuit of material comfort. Such a mindset distracts us from serving God because our hearts are occupied with wealth, and serving God means that we let go of everything that distracts us and pursue God's kingdom and His righteousness wholeheartedly. This does not mean that we are to be poor, but rather to rely on God in faith, understanding that wealth is not the ultimate goal of our lives, but a resource that God has given us that we should use to glorify God and serve His kingdom.

Therefore, serving God wholeheartedly is an ongoing process that requires us to constantly strive to be free from the temptation of wealth, to pursue God's will wholeheartedly, and to embody obedience and reverence for God in our lives. When we put God at the center of our lives, we are able to experience His blessings and peace because we know who our true Lord is and what our purpose in life is

Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two lords." It's not about hating this and loving that, or valuing this and ignoring that. You cannot serve God and mammon at the same time. "

This passage reminds us that we cannot serve God wholeheartedly and pursue worldly riches (mammon) at the same time. We must choose to return to a master, either God or wealth, and this is a choice that cannot be compromised.

Luke 16:13: "A servant cannot serve two masters, either hating one and loving the other, or weighing one over the other." You cannot serve God and mammon at the same time. "

This passage is similar to the Gospel of Matthew, emphasizing that you cannot serve God and wealth at the same time.

## We pray together

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us this wonderful time to gather together in Your presence. We pray to You to help us serve You wholeheartedly and pursue Your will with all our hearts. Grant us the firmness and determination of our hearts not to be deceived by worldly temptations and riches, but to put You at the center of our lives.

Lord, teach us how to demonstrate loyalty and obedience to You in our daily lives. Help us live like Christ at work, at school, at home, and in social interactions, so that our words and deeds glorify Your name. Give us the keen inspiration to discern and resist all temptations that lead us away from Your ways.

Lord, we acknowledge that we are often distracted in our lives, and we ask for Your forgiveness and strength so that we can devote ourselves to serving You. May Your Spirit fill our hearts and guide us on the path of righteousness and be faithful servants of Your kingdom.

Thank You for hearing our prayers and asking for Your grace and preservation to be with us. In the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen

## 1 Kings Chapter 15

15:1 In the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijah became king of Judah.

15:2 and reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Magah, and she was the daughter of Absharon.

15:3 Abiah did all the wickedness that his father had done before him, and his heart was not like the heart of his father David, and he was sincere and obedient to the God of Yahwathah.

15:4 Nevertheless the God of Yahweh, for the sake of the Avid, gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, that his sons might reign in his stead, and establish Jerusalem.

15:5 for David did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh and Hua in his life, and he did not violate all the commands of Yahweh and Hua in his life.

15:6 During his lifetime, Rehoboam was at war with Jeroboam.

15:7 Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah. Abizoh was often at war with Jeroboam.

15:8 Abijah slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. And Asa his son succeeded him as king.

15:9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king of Judah.

15:10 And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Magah, and she was the daughter of Absharon.

15:11 Asaa imitated his father David in what was right in the eyes of the eyes of the Lord,

15:12 remove the prostitute from the land, and remove all the images made by his fathers.

15:13 and degraded his grandmother, Queen Magacha, because she had created an abominable image of Asherah. Asa cut down her image and burned it by the brook Kidron.

15:14 but the altar has not been abolished . But Asa was honest in his life to Jehovah.

15:15 And Asa sanctified his father, and the sanctified gold, silver, and vessels, and brought them to the temple of Jehovah.

15:16 Asa and King Baasha of Israel were at war during their lifetimes.

15:17 And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and to build Ramah, and to let no one go in or out of Asa's king of Judah.

15:18 So Asa gave into the hands of his servants all the silver and gold that was left in the treasury of the house of Jehovar, and in the royal house, and sent them to Benhada, the son of Heezon king of Syria, who lived in Damascus.

15:19 And he said, thy father made a covenant with my father, and I will make a covenant with thee. And now I give thee silver and gold as gifts, and I beseech thee, I beseech thee, that thou wilt break thy covenant with Baasha king of Israel, and that he may depart from me.

15:20 Ben-Hadad listened to King Asa and sent his captains to attack the cities of Israel. And they conquered Eun, but Abel, Maachah, and all the land of Chireeth, and all the land of Naphtali.

15:21 When Basha heard this, he stopped building Ramah and stayed in Tirzah.

15:22 Then King Asa declared unto all Judah that there should not be a prevarication, and commanded them to bring away the stones and wood which Bashah had used to build Ramah for the building of Geba and Mizpah of Benjamin.

15:23 Now the rest of the acts of Asa, and all that he did, and his might, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah. When Asa was old, he was sick in his feet.

15:24 Asa slept with his fathers and was buried in the graves of his fathers in the acropolis of his fathers. And Jehoshaphat his son succeeded him as king.

15:25 In the second year of Asaa king of Judah, Nadab son of Jeroboam reigned as king of Israel for two years.

15:26 And Nadah did the evil which was in the sight of the eyes of Yahweh, and did the ways of his father, and did the sin of which his father made Israel into sin.

15:27 Baasha, the son of Ahijah of Issachar, rebelled against Nadab and slew him at Gibedon of the Philistines. At that time Nadabab and Israel were besieging Gibdon.

15:28 In the third year of King Azaar of Judah, Baasha killed him and usurped his throne.

15:29 And as soon as he became king, he slew all the house of Jeroboam, and every one that had breath was left behind, and it was fulfilled, which Jehohua had spoken through his servant Ahijah the Shiloite.

15:30 This was because of the sin of Jeroboam which caused the Israelites to fall into sin and provoked the wrath of the god Jehovah.

15:31 Now the rest of the things that he did, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel.

15:32 Asa and King Baasha of Israel were at war during their lifetimes.

15:33 In the third year of Aza, king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahiah, reigned over all the Israelites in Tirzah, twenty-four years.

15:34 He did the things which were evil in the eyes of Yahweh, and did the ways of Jeroboam, and he did the sin in which he made the Israelites into sin.

In 1 Kings 15, the history of the nation of Israel is recorded. The first verse begins with the reign of King Asa of Judah in the eighteenth year of Jeroboam II, when the kingdom of Judah was attacked, and King Asa prayed for God's help, and God heard his prayers and protected Judah from the enemy.

In the twentieth year of King Asa, Baasha and the Israelites attacked Judah, but King Asa used his treasures and the treasures of God's house to bribe Ben-Hadad king of Syria to stop supporting Baasha. As a result, the nation of Israel did not attack Judah.

After the death of King Asa of Judah, his son Jehoshaphat succeeded him as King of Judah. During Jehoshaphat's reign, he walked with integrity and obeyed God's commands. Jehoshaphat also allied himself with King Ahab of Israel, and the two nations united to defeat the Moabites.

During Jehoshaphat's reign, Ahab, king of Israel, died and was succeeded by his son Ahaziah. Ahaziah did not walk uprightly, but followed the god Baal like his father. His reign lasted only two years as he fell to his death from the temple wall of Baal.

After the death of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, he was succeeded by his son Jehoram. Joram did not walk uprightly like his father, but followed the god Baal like Ahab, king of Israel. God was therefore angry with him and allowed the Edomites and Philistines to invade Judah. During his reign, Joram fell ill as a result of his sin, and eventually died of illness.

Overall, this chapter focuses on the history of Judah and Israel, as well as the kings of Judah and Israel, including their rule and beliefs. In this chapter, kings who act uprightly are blessed and protected by God, while those who do not believe in God and do not obey God's commands are punished and judged by God.

Some important verses from 1 Kings 15:

15.1-8: King Asa of Judah is commended by God for his actions as he kept God's commandments, removed the pagans from his land, rebuilt the temple, and made war with the king of Israel.

15.9-24: Baasha son of Nadab, king of Israel, overthrows Nadab's family and succeeds to the throne. However, he also sinned, causing God's wrath to fall on him and his family.

15.25-34: Ahijah, the son of Nahash, king of Israel, succeeded to the throne, and like his predecessors, he sinned, causing God's wrath to fall on him and his family. He had been king for only two years before he was slain by his servants.

These verses emphasize God's rewards and punishments for loyalty and disloyalty, as well as the importance of keeping God's commandments. It also shows that some kings in history are remembered, but they are not necessarily recognized and praised by God. On the contrary, those kings who walk justly and keep God's commandments will be blessed and glorified by God.

First Kings chapter 15 tells the story of the reigns of the different kings of Israel and Judah. This chapter lists a series of kings of Israel and Judah, describing their actions and manifestations during their reigns, including whether they kept God's commandments and the impact on the nation and people. Here are the main ideas of this chapter and what you can learn from reading it:

Central:

The central idea of this chapter is to describe the stories of the different kings of Israel and Judah. By enumerating the actions and manifestations of these kings, emphasize whether or not they kept God's commandments, the impact on the nation and people, and God's evaluation of their behavior.

After reading:

**The Importance of Faithful Obedience to God:** In this chapter, some kings are praised for their faithful obedience to God's commandments and their rule of nation according to God's ways. This reminds us that leaders should be guided by loyalty and obedience to God's will, seeking God's guidance and blessings.

**God's Judgment and Grace:** In this chapter, some kings are judged and condemned by God for breaking God's commandments. However, there were kings who were not entirely perfect, but God still bestowed mercy and grace on them because of their ancestor David. This reminds us that God is righteous and will judge those who break His commandments, and that He is also a merciful God who gives grace to those who truly repent.

**Influence of Leaders:** In this chapter, the actions and manifestations of different kings are described, which directly affect the condition of the country and its people. This reminds us that the actions and decisions of leaders have a significant impact on the country and society, and that their loyalty and leadership have a direct impact on the prosperity and tranquility of the country.

Lessons from History: In this chapter, the stories of different kings are enumerated that we can learn from. We can see the results of the actions and decisions of different leaders, learn the right path from them, and avoid repeating them.

Overall, 1 Kings 15 presents the stories of the different kings of Israel and Judah, emphasizing the importance of faithful obedience to God and the impact of leaders' actions and decisions on nations and peoples. It also demonstrates God's judgment and grace and the value of the lessons we can learn from history. We should lead and live in a God-fearing manner, faithfully obey God's will, and draw wisdom from history to build a better society and nation.