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**BIG WORD: 1 Kings**  
Homework for Chapters 15—16  
Discussion Dates: 27 March 2013 (in house)  
and 28 March 2013 (online)

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**DAY ONE: Overview**

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God’s Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 1 Kings 15—16.

As we’ve discussed before, the books of Chronicles are the annals of the kingdom of Judah while the books of Kings provide an historical account of both Judah and Israel. Starting in these chapters, things are going to get tricky. The rulers will be introduced in quick succession and, unfortunately, their reigns are rarely unique or lengthy.

Try to read all five chapters listed above in one sitting. Don’t worry about catching all the details or keeping the characters and lines straight. We’ll take a slower, more deliberate look throughout this study guide in each of our subsequent “days” of homework. This reading is simply to capture the big picture of events and trends.

If anything sticks out to you, jot it down here.

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**DAY TWO: Who’s Who in Judah?**

Let’s begin by sorting out who’s who, from whom and for which part of the kingdom.

I’ve separated this part into two assignments –Judah today and Israel tomorrow – but feel free to do both at the same time. As you read through 1 Kings 15—16 again, slowly this time, fill in the blanks below.

1. **Rehoboam** was the son of \_\_\_\_\_. (14:31)  
His mother was \_\_\_\_\_, an \_\_\_\_\_.  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

2. \_\_\_\_\_, son of Rehoboam, ascended to the throne. (15:1)  
His mother was \_\_\_\_\_, daughter of \_\_\_\_\_.  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, son of \_\_\_\_\_, ascended to the throne. (15:9)  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, son of \_\_\_\_\_, ascended to the throne. (15:24)

What common thread, if any, do you find among these kings and their reigns?

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### DAY THREE: Who's Who in Israel?

Now it's Israel's turn. Reviewing the same two chapters, complete the fast facts below.

1. **Jeroboam** was the son of \_\_\_\_\_. (11:26; 14:20)  
He gained the throne by \_\_\_\_\_.  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, son of Jeroboam, ascended to the throne. (14:20; 15:25)  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. **Baasha** was the son of \_\_\_\_\_. (15:27)  
He gained the throne by \_\_\_\_\_.  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, son of Baasha, ascended to the throne. (16:6)  
He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

5. \_\_\_\_\_, Chariot Commander under \_\_\_\_\_ (16:9-10)  
 He acquired the throne by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, Army Commander under \_\_\_\_\_, became king.(16:22)  
 He was contested by \_\_\_\_\_, but gained the throne by \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_.
7. **Ahab**, son of \_\_\_\_\_, ascended to the throne. (16:29)  
 His wife was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He reigned for \_\_\_\_\_.

What common thread, if any, do you find among these kings and their reigns?

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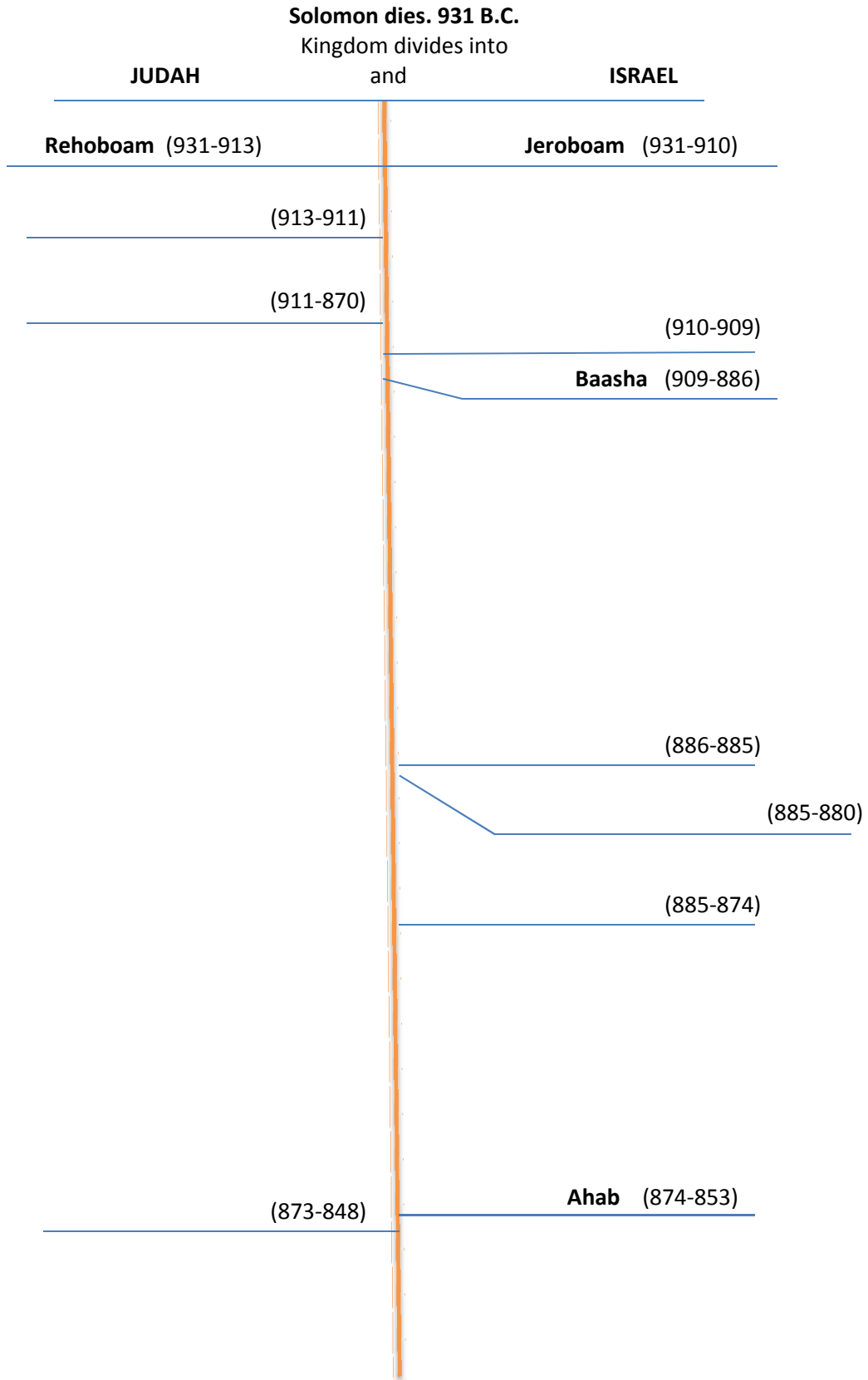
#### DAY FOUR: Timeline of Monarchies

We've looked at who reigned in what order and where, but we've not yet pieced them together into one timeline. On the next page is a simple diagram that, when completed, should give us a better visual of simultaneous chronology. This, of course, is an estimated timeline. Scholars cannot agree on exact dates because Israel and Judah employed different systems of record keeping.

Israel counted a king's reign from the time he ascended to the throne. It could have been in the middle of the year or the beginning. It didn't matter. Once he was king, they started counting his reign.

Judah, however, did not start the count of a king's reign until the beginning of the calendar year after he ascended the throne. In other words, they only counted whole years, crediting each year to whomever reigned on January 1<sup>st</sup> ... or, in their case, Nissan or Abib 1<sup>st</sup>.

The dates and lengths of reigns are further complicated by the fact that some kings shared co-regency with their sons. This is more obvious in 2 Kings, but cannot be fully eliminated from studies of 1 Kings.



**DAY FIVE: Abijah vs. Jeroboam and Asa vs. Baasha**

READ 2 Chronicles 13:1—14:1.

Why was there war between Abijah and Jeroboam?

Who initiated it?

Describe the armies. Which nation had numbers in their favor? By how much?

Who won?

What benefits went to the winner?

READ 2 Chronicles 14:2—16:14.

What did Asa do, if anything, that pleased God?

How would you describe Asa's beliefs about God?

Who were his enemies?

A prophet named Azariah delivered to Asa a message from God. What was that message?

How did Asa respond?

Asa made some mistakes when Baasha attacked. What were his follies?

How did that situation conclude?

What did the people think of Asa as their king?

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**DAY SIX: New Kings, Same Old Problem**

Do you notice any consistent patterns within the kingdoms during this time period?

How are the two kingdoms alike?

Are there any distinguishing factors between Israel and Judah? What are they?

Which of the kings followed God?

Which kings did not follow God?

Did the people follow their kings' faith practices?

The nations that turned away from God, whom did they serve?

What do you notice about God from these accounts?

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**DAY SEVEN: So what?**

What does any of this have to do with us today? What lessons can we learn from these stories and apply to our lives?

What can we learn about God's character from these passages?

READ 2 Chronicles 16:9.

Are you the type of person, wholly devoted, whom God seeks to support?

What parts of your life could be surrendered more fully?

What practical, tangible steps can you take toward doing that?