

# 1 Kings 15:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.

## Analysis

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**Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Judah and Israel: Abijam, Asa, Nadab, Baasha, within the book's focus on spiritual decline of both kingdoms under various rulers.

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

## Historical Context

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First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. This period (c. 930-850 BCE) saw rapid succession and instability, especially in the northern kingdom.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical

reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

## Related Passages

## James 2:17 – Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Romans 2:1 – Judging others

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of complete obedience to God's word without compromise?
2. What does Elijah's ministry reveal about God's character and His commitment to His covenant people?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

בָּנָי יְהוּדָה וּבְשְׁנַת הַשְׁמַנִּית לְמֶלֶךְ עַשֶּׂר מִצְרָיִם	the son of Jeroboam	the son of Abijam	over Judah	reigned	of Nebat
year H8141	Now in the eighteenth H8083		H6240	of king H4428	Jeroboam H3379

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