

# 1 Kings 15:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

## Analysis

**And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.**

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

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

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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לֶפֶנְתִּי עַשׂ הַנְּהָרִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל אֶתְוָת אָבִיו: סְפִּתְמָה לְגַם  
H1980 H3605 in all the sins his father H2403 H1 H834 H6213 H6440  
before

אָלָה יְהָנָה עַמְּךָ שְׁלָמָם כְּלָבְבָךְ כְּלָבְבָךְ הַנְּהָרִים  
H3808 H1961 as the heart was not perfect H3824 H8003 H5973 H3068 H430  
with the LORD his God

אָבִיו: תְּזִהֵר כְּלָבְבָךְ אָבִיו: תְּזִהֵר כְּלָבְבָךְ  
as the heart of David his father H3824 H1732 H1

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 11:4** (References God): For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

**Psalms 119:80** (Parallel theme): Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

**1 Kings 3:14** (References David): And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

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