

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 15

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

And we are currently in the section of 1 Kings where the writer of 1 Kings gives us the historical accounts of the kings in the Northern Kingdom and the Kings in the Southern Kingdom.

So far in the Southern Kingdom or Judah – up to this point there has been 4 kings – Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam and the king that we are going to look today

In the Northern Kingdom, up to this point, we have only had one – Jeroboam (as the Lord took away 10 kingdoms away from Rehoboam and gave them to Jeroboam because of the sins of Solomon.

So the writer is going to go back and forth – this guy ruled the Northern Kingdom and he was wicked and this is what he did (because all the kings of the Northern Kingdom were wicked) and this is the king who ruled during this time in the south and a good portion of them were wicked but you did have a few good kings – and this is what they did.

So tonight we are going to look at the next two kings of the southern kingdom (one was wicked and the other one was kind of good and then we are going to look at the next king of the Northern Kingdom who of course was evil – and Lord willing, we will learn some valuable applications for our walk in Christ -

Let's pray...

[1Ki 15:1-34 NKJV] 1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. 2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name [was] Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.

Abijam succeeds his father Rehoboam and rules over Judah for three years.

What makes Abijam interesting is that he actually left no legacy regarding his reign.

He is the great-grandson of David

The grandson of Solomon

The son of Rehoboam

You would think he would be notable, but he is not.

Think about David's legacy – we have 2 Samuel (24 chapters dedicated to his reign)

Solomon – the first 11 chapters are dedicated to what he did

We have been studying about Rehoboam for the last 3-4 weeks.

Yet, Abijam gets 8 verse – and besides getting a little insight on his character – no accomplishments.

Turn with me to 2 Chron 11

We get a little bit more insight on Abijam.

BTW – 2 Chron only provides more insight on the kings of Judah – not the kings of Israel or the Northern Kingdom.

[2Ch 11:18-22 NKJV] 18 Then Rehoboam took for himself as wife Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David, [and of] Abihail the daughter of Eliah the son of Jesse. 19 And she bore him children: Jeush, Shamariah, and Zaham. 20 After her he took Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom; and she bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith. 21 Now Rehoboam loved Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom more than all his wives and his concubines; for he took eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and begot twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. 22 And Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maachah as chief, [to be] leader among his brothers; for he [intended] to make him king.

So from 2 Chronicles we find out that Abijam or Abijah as he is referenced in 2 Chron – he wasn't even the rightful heir to the throne – he wasn't the oldest son.

He was only the oldest son of Rehoboam's favorite wife.

And even with that favor shown to him – as we will see, he was not a godly king.

3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

Abijam followed the same steps as his father – Rehoboam.

Last week when we looked at Rehoboam's reign, we saw that one of the things that he did was to allow to drift away from the Lord – it was under his reign that the people of Judah began to build these altars all over the land – they turned to idolatry.

You might remember also that one of the things that Rehoboam practiced was the sin of hypocrisy – he wanted to maintain the appearance that the hand of God was still with Judah – even as God allowed them to be plundered by the king of Egypt.

So he had them made the shields out of bronze to substitute the ones that Solomon had built out of pure gold.

We also learned last week that Rehoboam was too proud to seek God – he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.

So Abijam kept idolatry going, he kept polishing bronze and he did not have the need to seek God.

Abijam certainly knew all about God,

And that He was a God with power who could deliver.

But he never sought God on a personal level.

ABIJAM WAS A HALF-HEARTED FOLLOWER OF GOD.

He certainly had head-knowledge of God,

For he knew where to turn in times of danger,

He just didn't have any true commitment to Him.

God has always demanded more than lip service.

God has always demanded more than half-hearted commitment.

Jesus said, we must be willing to leave everything to follow Him.

You cannot serve God and mammon.

Yet that is precisely what Abijam tried to do.

He called on God when he needed God, otherwise God was not a priority.

In a lot of ways, he is not that different from Jeroboam.

Jeroboam didn't need God, until his hand was withered,

And then he was ready for God to heal him.

And as soon as God did, Jeroboam returned to his sinful ways.

And we know what happened to Jeroboam – God pronounced judgment on him – that He was going to wipe out Jeroboam's descendants – that people would not be able to find their dead bodies because the dogs and the birds would eat their carcass.

Why didn't God pronounce the same judgment on Abijam –

One reason -

4 Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; 5 because David did [what was] right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

The reason Abijam didn't suffer the same consequences as Jeroboam is because God is faithful to His word

Abijam's life is a testimony

To God's unfailing commitment to keep His word.

God's covenant with David will never be broken,

And God proved it by not forsaking David here.

God made a promise to David & even Abijam couldn't mess it up.

So anything good that was happening in Judah was as a result of David's faithfulness to the Lord.

It wasn't because what Rehoboam did or Abijam did – it was because of David.

God was preserving the dynasty of Jerusalem for the sake of David

Even though 3 generations have now turned their backs on God,

God continues to bless them for David's sake.

And the same can be said for our lives today –

We have to understand the importance of the impact that our lives have on our children and our children's children.

Just like sin impacts others

Righteousness has the same effect – it impacts others as well.

They both have a ripple effect that works on out.

Now – don't miss the big picture here church

When we see David here and this covering that is provided by David and what God is doing for Judah because of David –

This should remind us about Jesus – the ultimate David, the perfect David, because the truth is – everything that we enjoy today is because of Jesus

Because of Jesus – you and I now have life

Because Jesus did right in the eyes of the Lord.

6 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. 7

Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between

Abijam and Jeroboam. 8 So Abijam rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.

Abijam's life is remembered by the fact that there was never any peace at any time when he reigned.

We see it mentioned twice here in these two verses.

And this is what happens when we are not walking right with the Lord – our lives are filled with constant turmoil and warfare.

Not the spiritual warfare that helps our spiritual growth –

But the turmoil and warfare that are the result of our rebellion against God.

The turmoil and warfare that are the result of us failing to submit to the Lord.

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

10 And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name [was]

Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. 11 Asa did [what was] right in the

eyes of the LORD, as [did] his father David.

He truly loved God, he genuinely desired to serve God.

The writer is comparing him to David.

He did what was right – meaning, Asa did not worship other gods.

But just like David – he made some questionable decisions.

Now, let's look at his legacy -

12 And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the

idols that his fathers had made. 13 Also he removed Maachah his grandmother

from [being] queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of

Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned [it] by the Brook

Kidron.

Asa was a man of conviction –

He didn't just stand around and let the people of Judah worship idols – he did something about it.

These perverted persons were male prostitutes that were used in the worship of false gods – he gets rid of them

He idols that had been made – he gets rid of them.

He start to spiritually clean house.

And notice in verse 13 –

His conviction leads him to bring reform even in his own house –

Grandma is worshipping idols – grandma is not living with us anymore.

And Asa destroyed the idol she worshipped.

It's one thing to claim to love God, but Asa is taking it serious.

He is completely devoted to God

[Mat 10:37 NKJV] 37 “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Jesus was referring to people like Asa.

Even his own grandmother could not get away with idolatry.

Why was Asa so committed?

You might want to write down – 2 Chron 15:1-8

Because we are told that God gives Asa a warning – the same warning He gave to Jeroboam and Solomon and David –

If you seek God, God will be found by you and if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

So, Asa took the warning to heart.

He purges the place.

14 But (btw – but's are never good after you have something good written about you)

But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

Even though Asa does good by removing from the kingdom the idols and the perverted men – he didn't finish the job. He selectively removed certain things.

Now, the high places that are listed here in verse 14 – these were not the altars that were dedicated to the pagan gods – Asa does destroy those.

However, he does not destroy the high places where people would offer sacrifices to God

The problem was that God never approved of the high places – the only place He approved was at the tabernacle and then later at the temple.

That was it – remember, we come to God on His terms, not our terms.

Just because it is more convenient for us – doesn't mean that it is right in His eyes.

That is why the Northern Kingdom rebelled against God – it was more convenient to worship calves in Israel or to offer sacrifices in the high places than to travel to Jerusalem.

Nevertheless – remember what I told you a few weeks ago, many times when we see the word nevertheless, we see God's grace –

Even though Asa didn't tear down all the high places, Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

15 He also brought into the house of the LORD the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

So not only did Asa bring reforms to the nation by getting rid of the idol worship.

He restored the worship of the temple.

Everything that was removed by the king of Egypt – he restored them to the temple.

And why did he restore it to the temple, because he loved God.

He loved God with an undivided hearts

And when we serve the Lord with an undivided heart – there is going to be a restoration.

And that is what we ultimately want – for God to do a restorative work in our lives.

16 Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 17

And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

Earlier we saw how Abijam was constantly at war – but the war he fought was because of his sin.

Asa however, is submitted to the Lord – so if there is warfare in his life it is because of a different reason.

This is the kind of warfare that doesn't break you – this is the type of warfare that strengthens us in the Lord.

[1Pe 1:6-9 NKJV] 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, [being] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see [Him], yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of [your] souls.

Again, this is a testing to those who are committed to Him, to show us where we are in this growth process.

To cause us to become more dependent upon Him as we grow.

So based on what we have learned about Asa –

We would expect him to turn to God – to be dependent upon God. That God would protect him.

Let's see what he does.

18 Then Asa took all the silver and gold [that was] left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, 19 "[Let there be] a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a present of silver and gold. Come and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

Asa didn't seek God,

Asa sought Ben-Hadad.

He offered him God's treasure in return for help against Israel.

Asa placed his trust in man over God.

He put his trust in chariots and man instead of God.

20 So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali. 21 Now it happened, when Baasha heard [it], that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah. 22 Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none [was] exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah. 23 The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet. 24 So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

From a political perspective, it appears like Asa made a good decision.

But in a spiritual sense, he was in great danger.

It made God angry.

Turn to 2 Chron

2 CHRONICLES 16:7-10

[2Ch 16:7-12 NKJV] 7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have

not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. 8 "Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. 9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of [those] whose heart [is] loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for [he was] enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed [some] of the people at that time. 11 Note that the acts of Asa, first and last, are indeed written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. 12 And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

So even in death –

Asa did not allow it to drive him closer to God,

Instead Asa continued to seek for his salvation in man.

25 Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. 26 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

So now we have Israel's second king – he is just like his dad, Jeroboam.

27 Then Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha killed him at Gibbethon, which [belonged] to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. 28 Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. 29 And it was so, when he became king, [that] he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, 30 because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sinned and by which he had made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he had provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

So here we have the fulfillment of God's judgment against the house of Jeroboam –

God had promised he would sweep Jeroboam off the face of the earth,

And Baasha was the man God used to do it.

31 Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and

[reigned] twenty-four years. 34 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

Think about what we just read -

Baasha has just fulfilled a prophecy that was given against Jeroboam and his family being cut off.

The prophecy even said why his family was going to be cut off – because of their sins that they had committed.

And what does this guy do –

He goes right out and commits the same sins.

Isn't that the human way?

We don't learn from our mistakes

We continue to repeat them

And one of the things that we are going to learn next week is that Baasha will reap what he sow – and the same judgment that was pronounced against Jeroboam – will be pronounced against him.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'