

## ABIJAM'S SHORT REIGN. 1 KN. 15:1-8. 01/01/23. #40.

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15 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah. <sup>2</sup> Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem: <sup>5</sup> Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. <sup>6</sup> And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead.

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### 1. Like father, like son

- a. After Rehoboam died, his son, Abijah reigned
  - a1. Abijam ruled only 3 years
  - a2. Jeroboam had 4 more yrs. in his reign left when Abijah took the throne
- b. The key point = Abijam continued the sins of dad
  - a1. He did not reign after pattern of David, who obeyed God (except for Uriah abomination)
  - a2. His short reign may have been punishment by God for his wickedness

### 2. Mother of distinction

- a. Maacah, daughter of Abishalom, was Abijam's mom
  - a1. She was the favorite wife of Rehoboam, who had 18 wives & 60 concubines (2 Chn. 11)
  - a2. Absalom's daughter
- b. Maacah was made queen mother for life, but her grandson removed her when she made an idol
- c. Most translations state that Asa, Abijam's son, was also Maacah's son
  - a1. This is not possible
  - a2. There are no separate words for *grandmother*, *grandfather*, *father-in-law*, *mother-in-law*, etc. in Hebrew (every ancestor was considered your father or mother)

- a3. NIV has it right when it calls Maacah Asa's grandmother (his prominent ancestor)
- a4. Same issue appears in Greek with the 2 genealogies of Christ in Mat. & Luke

### 3. Abijam's short reign

- a. 2 Chron. 13 Abijah battled Jeroboam & Israel surrounded Judah
  - a1. When Abijah cried out to the Lord, God gave Judah victory
  - a2. 500,000 Israelites were slaughtered that day
- b. Abijam took many of the cities of Israel back in Ephraim, including Bethel where the gold calf was
- c. Abijam had 14 wives, 22 sons, & 16 daughters
- d. Still, Abijam did not depart from Rehoboam's sins, so the Lord took him & shortly also took Jeroboam
- e. Again, the *Chronicles of the kings of Judah* are mentioned (missing book)
- f. Abijam did something many people do
  - a1. When he was surrounded in battle, he cried out to the Lord
  - a2. After the Lord delivered him, Abijah went back to his sinful ways
  - a3. Many people try to bargain with God when they are in trouble, but forget God when the crisis is over
- g. God did not take away territory from Judah for David's sake (God honors the covenant he made even when wicked kings ruled)
  - a1. Much of God's blessings on us point to his covenant with Noah or Abraham
  - a2. Temporal blessings do not transfer to eternal blessings
  - a3. Only when we enter a personal relationship with God do we obtain eternal blessings
- h. Abijam, like Rehoboam & Solomon, had a godly example in David (except for the Bathsheba sin)
  - a1. Like Abijam's son, Asa, he could have followed righteousness
  - a2. Ezk. 18:20 we all have choices to make