

1 Kings 15:1-24 **Line of David continues to reign in Judah – God loved David**

Abijam Reigns in Judah (2 Chron 13:1-14:1)

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. 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.

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.

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.

Asa Reigns in Judah (2 Chron 14-16)

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. 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.

¹⁴ But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless 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.

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.

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."

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.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Abijam Reigns in Judah [1 Kings 15:1-8, 2 Chron 13:1-14:1]

✧ 1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam (Abijah) became king over Judah. 2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom (Absalom). 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 was the son of Rehoboam, grandson of Solomon, great grandson of David.

✧ Abijam was the son of Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom. [2 Chronicles 11:18-23]

✧ Abijam followed the fallen pattern of Solomon who turned to idolatry in his old age, and the ways of Rehoboam who turned to idolatry early in his reign demonstrating that the godly heritage of David was quickly overshadowed by the idolatry of Solomon and Rehoboam in the lives of their sons.

✧ It is very easy to pick up on the ways of wickedness, while the ways of righteousness require deliberate choice and commitment.

✧ Abijam reigned in Jerusalem only 3 years.

✧ 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.** [1 Kings 15:4-5]

✧ God endured the disobedient ways of Solomon, Rehoboam, and Abijam because of His love for David who had remained fully committed to the Lord all the days of his life except for the case of Uriah the Hittite.

✧ David remains the pattern of a righteous king of Israel.

✧ Solomon, Rehoboam, and Abijam (Abijah) fell short.

✧ 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. [1 Kings 15:6-8]

✧ Rest, quiet, and peace ended with Solomon because of the sin that entered the kingdom through them.

✧ However, in his last war with Jeroboam, Abijam (Abijah) turned to the Lord and rebuked the idolatry of Jeroboam and Israel, therefore Yahweh gave Abijah and his 400,000 men of Judah a great victory over Jeroboam and his 800,000 men of Israel and Israel lost 500,000 men in the battle. [2 Chronicles 13:1-20]

✧ After a 3 year reign, Abijam died and his son Asa reigned in his place.

Asa Reigns in Judah [1 Kings 15:9-24, 2 Chron 13:14-16]

✧ 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 (Absalom). [1 Kings 15:9-10]

✧ Jeroboam reigned over Israel 22 years during the time of Rehoboam 17 years, Abijam 3 years, and to the 2nd year of Asa the kings of Judah.

✧ Asa reigned over Judah 41 years in Jerusalem.

✧ 11 **Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did his father David.**

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.

14 But the high places were not removed. **Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the Lord all his days.** [1 Kings 15:11-14]

✧ After seeing the great victory Yahweh granted to his father Abijah and Judah over Jeroboam and his vastly superior army, Asa chose to follow the Lord God of Israel.

✧ Asa banished the sodomites (perverted persons) from the land.

✧ Asa removed all the idols his fathers Solomon, Rehoboam, and Abijah had made.

✧ He also removed his grandmother Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom from being queen mother because she had made an image of Asherah (Ashteroth or Asherim, the goddess of wood – or grove), the abomination of the Sidonians, one of the goddesses of the people God had driven out of the Promised Land to give the land to Israel. [Exodus 34:13, Deuteronomy 7:5, 12:3, Judges 6:25, 30]

✧ Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

✧ Asa's heart was loyal to Yahweh all his days.

✧ However he failed to remove the high places where the people worshipped.

✧ God had commanded the people to worship in the place where He chose to make His Name reside, which was where the Tabernacle was located and later the Temple Solomon had built in Jerusalem. [Exodus 20:24, Deuteronomy 24:5-7, 14:22-23, 16:1-6]

✧ Asa also enjoyed a great victory over the Ethiopians [2 Chronicles 14:1-15]

✧ 15 **Asa 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.** [1 Kings 15:15]

Asa king of Judah war against Baasha king of Israel

✧ 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.

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." [1 Kings 15:16-19]

✧ Where is Asa's faith in Yahweh? He turned to Syria for help instead of to God.

✧ His action was costly but it worked for the time.

- ✧ It would have been better to follow his father's example and turned to Yahweh for deliverance. [2 Chronicles 13:1-20]
- ✧ Asa could have headed off the building of Rama by Baasha if he had trusted in Yahweh.
- ✧ Using human reasoning and fear, we too often forget the God Who is able to help the most.
- ✧ 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. [1 Kings 15:20-21]
- ✧ 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. [1 Kings 15:22]
 - ✧ They did get some building materials out of the deal, but it would have been better to defeat Baasha with the help of Yahweh in the first place the way Abijam defeated Jeroboam and his 800,000 man army of Israel. [2 Chronicles 13:1-20]
 - ✧ The prophet Hanani was sent to Asa to rebuke him for turning to Syria, which Yahweh was ready to deliver into the hands of Asa if Asa had relied on the Lord as he had done when faced by the armies of the Ethiopians and the Lubim. [2 Chronicles 16:7-10]
- ✧ 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. [1 Kings 15:23-24]
 - ✧ Even with the disease in his feet his last 3 years, Asa turned to the physicians instead of to the Lord. [2 Chronicles 16:11]
 - ✧ Asa died in the 41st year of his reign. [2 Chronicles 16:13]
 - ✧ We so often turn to physicians instead of to the Lord when we face health maladies.
 - ✧ God is the only One truly trust worthy.