

Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

2 Chronicles 13:1-22

V1-22

- **V1-3** after **17yrs** on the throne of Judah Rehoboam has died and now his son “**Abijah**” is ruling the Southern Kingdom of Israel, and in the northern Kingdom Jeroboam is still their King. Where God intervened and told Rehoboam through the prophet “**Shemaiah**” not to go to fight against his Jewish brethren Abijah isn’t abiding by that wisdom, and even though he is facing an army twice as large as his he is still determined to fight Jeroboam and the northern Kingdom.
- Although this boy had the blood of David flowing through his veins in being the the grandson of Solomon, and through his mother the great grandson of Absalom, he sure didn’t have David’s heart to please and serve the Lord as he will disobey the commands of the Lord and therefore spend a very short time ruling on the throne of Judah as he reigns for only for **3** short years. **V4-12 “Abiljah”** knows his history so before the battle he preaches a little sermon to try and intimidate the Northern Kingdom and persuade them to surrender and serve him.
- So he tells them they don’t stand a chance for three reasons > **1st speaking prophetically**- God promised that only a son of David would sit on throne of Israel and rule His people, **2nd speaking spiritually** - we have the priests who chose Judah and not you to minister to our spiritual needs and not yours, **3rd speaking practically** - you have vile worthless immoral men acting as priests to usher in your false worship with those two golden calves instead of coming to Jerusalem and worshipping at the temple which happens to be named after my grandfather by the way.
- “**Abijah**” has weighed all the factors and it would seem he should come out on top, because of pedigree, spiritual popularity, and although were disobedient their sin is a lot worse than ours, so if God is picking sides. He’ll just choose those who are doing a little less ungodliness than the other. That’s how man thinks and many wrongly believe God will judge like man does > **Is 55:8**. What “**Abijah**” conveniently leaves out is what caused all this in the first place, his grandfather and father’s rebellion, which led to God raising Jeroboam up as punishment for their sin.
- **V13-14** while they were negotiating Jeroboam was slickly surrounding them and being the dishonorable man that he was attempts to ambush Judah and it seemingly worked. Jeroboam looks like he is going to rule the whole Kingdom of Israel and not just ten tribes, until Judah cries out to the Lord, sometimes it takes for things to not work out the way we thought, and our over confidence to be shot down, and us being surrounded by the enemy, before we finally do what we should have done in the beginning which is “**to cry out unto the Lord**”.

- **V15-16** they even added a little shout of faith to that cry and the Lord struck Jeroboam's army and allowed Judah to go on the attack and win a great victory. **V17-20** "**Abijah**" gained back cities, and villages from the northern Kingdom and also Jeroboam never was able to recover from that set back, eventually the Lord took him out of the equation all together as he died. **V21-22** you would think that this was the time in which "**Abijah**" would whole heartedly turn to the Lord, but he doesn't, instead he follows in the footsteps of his father-grandfather before him and marries **14 wives** producing **22 sons**, and **16 daughters**, what a sad legacy to leave behind.