

Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

2 Chronicles 14:1-15

- Solomon with all his wisdom didn't listen to his own counsel and forsook the Lord and his Word and brought idolatry into Israel, this caused judgment upon the entire nation and after Solomon died his son Rehoboam in his pride, split the Kingdom into two parts > the Southern which consists of two tribes Judah and Benjamin, and the Northern Kingdom with the other ten tribes. Now one of the best Kings that we'll read about is now going to take the throne, and he is going to restore a measure of Godliness and decency by going back to the ancient paths of God's truth

V1-15

- **V1** after the battle in which **500,000** died on the battlefield can you imagine what that even looks like, then God strikes Jeroboam with either a battle wound, or disease, the wording "struck down" lets us know he died a brutal death. This is one of the most wasted potential that we see in scripture > **1 Kings 11:29-39**- God told him that if he served Him then He would bless him and not bring about the judgment that was to occur in David's lineage, and what did Jeroboam do? He ordered the people to build two golden calves and said here are your gods leading the Northern Kingdom into idolatry which will lead to his defeat and death.
- **V2-5** Abijah his father dies after a short three-year reign, and Asa takes the lead and were told he will be upon the throne for forty-one years, when he takes the throne Jeroboam was still on it in the north, and by the time he's finished he will have seen eight Kings come and go until the notorious Ahab comes into power. What's interesting is Asa was more like David his ancestor than he was Abijah his own father, and one of the first things he did was remove the idols.
- To get a better idea to why God said "**he did what was right in His eyes**" turn to **1 Kings 15:11-13** he removed his own grandmother "**Maachah**" Absalom's granddaughter from being queen because of her false worship. To go against grandma shows how devoted he was to pleasing God and serving Him, he also banished all those practicing homosexuality and idol temple prostitution, as finally there seems to be someone who has a true heart for the Lord leading the people and now we see the results of Godly leadership as he commanded Judah to seek the Lord God and to keep His commandments and if not they'll be consequences **V4**.
- **V6-8** then he strengthened the nation's defenses and God blessed his endeavors, twice God says the land was quiet and that it had rest and prospered. I want us to pay attention to the order from which Asa operated, before taking care of the practical he first dealt with the spiritual. He enacted the spiritual reforms of removing the idols, shrines, priests, practices, and people, then all those who were outwardly perverted and encouraging others to do the same he banished. After that was taken care of then he dealt with the nation's military and social needs, we have it backwards as we try to solve our all of our other needs before we even begin to look at the real problem which is, our nation and world has fallen woefully short spiritually.

- **V9-11** although Asa had done what is right it didn't stop the enemy from launching an attack upon them, anytime we have peace, prosperity, rest, we can expect an interruption at some point from the enemy, and for Judah it's the Ethiopians with an army almost twice as large as there's. Asa prayer shows he knew God's power was not limited or enhanced by either man's weakness or strength, for the battle belonged to the Lord's and he was willing to give it to Him.
- **V12-15** when we do that, we can expect victory and not defeat, as God fought on Asa and Judah's behalf because they were attempting to serve and obey Him. So just like the lord struck Jeroboam He also struck the Ethiopians and Asa chased them down and scripture says they were broken before the Lord and His army, notice we become God's army when we surrender and serve Him, we stay in our own troop if we choose to live life on our own terms, and that leads to a life lived under the cruel authority of Satan and his minions and he is a merciless taskmaster.
- Before we leave this chapter, I want to draw our attention to > **1Kings 14:24** which says it was under Rehoboam Solomon's son watch that homosexuality became readily acceptable in the Kingdom. When a father lives like Solomon does you don't know how much further their son is going to take the sin they grew up under and was readily acceptable, but also just because you didn't have the best upbringing it's not an excuse to not do what is right. God will still expose us to truth in the midst of a cesspool and then we still have to make the right choice amen!