

II Chronicles 13-16 – 20 November 2025

“Is Your Faith P.U.R.E.?”

Introduction

*We’ve begun our way looking thru the history of the Southern Kings of Judah during the Divided Kingdom

*Each king had wonderful resources & opportunities to choose to serve the God of the universe

*Today we look at Rehoboam’s son King Abijah & then his son King Asa

*In each account we’re given a special chance to recognize whether they used their time for the glory of God by faith, or if they trusted in man

Today, we look at 4 attributes of P.U.R.E. faith

We’ll make it easy today b/c P.U.R.E. will be our acronym for our 4 attributes

#1 – Do we have a personal faith or just a generic, national faith? (Chap 13) [Abijah's Reign]

Read Vs 13:1-3

1. Abijah will reign for 3 short warring years only
2. We're not told who started this war, but a few years earlier God disallowed Judah to war against Israel in the north
3. We see Judah outnumbered 2 to 1
 - a. Makes sense since they began with just 2 of 12 tribes & smaller territory

Read Vs 4-12

1. Abijah argues against Jeroboam by saying that Judah is devoted to Yahweh & Israel is not
 - a. This is said in a very nationalistic sense & not from personal devotion
 - b. In I Kings 15:3-4 – Abijah is characterized as one who did evil...in his personal devotion
2. He says, we still have true worship w/ Temple & priests, and you do not
 - a. Not that he personally knew God though

3. But he certainly knew his spiritual history
 - a. God made a covenant of “salt” w/ David
 - b. Covenant made w/ sacrifice picturing a pure, enduring, valuable covenant

Read Vs 13-14

1. When you’re pinned in on every side,
remember no man can shut off your access to God

Read Vs 15-19

1. Simply for trusting in God, Judah wins the day evening against 2 to 1 odds
2. Judah takes Bethel at this time, however Bethel will go back-and-forth over the coming years
 - a. This is added insult against the golden calves that Israel had brought as lucky charms b/c 1 of the 2 was set up at Bethel

Read Vs 20-22

1. Abijah is a great example of 2 great truths
 - a. Even an evil man can sincerely call on God
 - b. One great act of trusting in God, doesn’t indicate the true spiritual condition of the heart

#2 – Do we have an unchangeable faith that’s grounded in God’s Word? (Chap 14) (Asa’s Reign]

Read Vs 14:1-6

1. I Kings says, “He did right before the Lord & His heart was perfect w/ the Lord all his days”
 - a. Not that he was perfect, but that his heart’s direction was fixed on the Lord always
2. Willing to make spiritual course corrections

Read Vs 7-8

1. Even in rebuilding their infrastructure, they believed God had given them the ability to do it

Read Vs 9-11

1. This isn’t simply turning to God, but believing that numbers are NOT what wins a battle
 - a. Asa believed what Joshua said (Read 23:10)
2. How could Asa stand so strong believing that God would certainly deliver?
 - a. B/c of where they were standing
 - b. Ethiopians were invading on God’s land!

Read Vs 12-15

1. B/c they faced this very large danger trusting God & didn't shrink in fear, God delivered them
2. Not only that but God enriched them for this obedience

#3 – Do we have a robust faith that removes and presses into new territory? (Chap 15)

Read Vs 15:1-2

1. The divide should always be before our eyes
 - a. He's set before us life & death, choose life
 - b. In even small decision, choose life
2. The decision point isn't just "is this right or wrong", but "will this please my heavenly Father"

Read Vs 3-7

1. There is always grace for the one that left God to come back, but how much better to never leave
2. How do we ensure that we never leave?
 - a. Keep our hands to the work
 - b. Yes, rid sin, but then focus on new works

Read Vs 8-9

1. So the King is stirred to do both (remove the sin & renew good works
2. It's like repentance & faith; we must do both

Read Vs 10-15

1. There's national awakening & they're stirred to renew their 2-way covenant w/ God
2. This is the same as what we do at communion
 - a. We come differently than Israel; they were in a 2-way (if/then) covenant; ours is one-way
 - b. We come to remember what Jesus did
 - c. We come having done nothing but receive
 - d. But it's our renewal & reminder of the covenant that we're in

Read Vs 16-19

1. He even removed his idolatrous Queen Mum from being queen & burned her idols
 - a. When you're willing to purify your own home, taking leadership, it will carry you far

2. As far as the high places, territory has been growing, and he didn't purify these new areas

#4 – Do we have an enduring faith that's not overruled by our fleshly desires? (Chap 16)

Read Vs 16:1-3

1. Tech note: how could this be the 36 year?
 - a. Could be 36 year of the Kingdom of Judah
 - b. Could mean the 26 year of Asa's kingdom
2. Notice that Asa isn't turning to Syria for the sake of being friends, but to place his trust in him
 - a. We make friends of all, but we trust in God

Read Vs 4-6

1. If you judge Asa's decision by its immediate short-term results, you will say it's a success
2. But God often has much bigger plans in mind

Read Vs 7-9

1. His fear of man (Israel) dwarfed his faith in God
2. His eyes were on man's threats instead of on God's abilities

3. God had a bigger plan to bring even greater peace, but Asa got in the way
 - a. Will we trust God's instructions, even when we don't see the future?
 - b. Maybe we don't see the hand of God move, b/c we're always bailing ourselves out

Read Vs 10

1. Most men take this as disrespect to their authority and decisions
 - a. Generically giving advice is easy to receive
 - b. But if you give them advice after an action, it's often received with offense
 - c. This was right & good for the prophet, but Asa wasn't able to humble himself in the deepest part of his pride & self-confidence
2. Notice Asa lashed out against, not God, but the messengers of God and his friends
 - a. He's defending his "wonderful" decisions instead of repenting & seeing God's wisdom

Read Vs 11-14

1. There seems to be a bitterness that developed late in Asa's life toward God
 - a. Not b/c God didn't do great for him, He did
 - b. But b/c God wanted to do more great things & Asa turned to men instead of to God
2. Growing old will make you bitter or better
3. So he has developed a foot disease; I guess you could say he was “defeated”

Conclusion

So how “pure” is your faith?

1. **Is it simply a template received from your family or nation; or is it a personal trust in a Savior you've come to experience?**
2. **Is it unchangeable, never moving b/c of culture, but grounded in the Word?**
3. **Is it robust, both removing & renewing**
4. **Is it enduring, ever stronger over the flesh**