

~ABIJAH 5 (150)

(A-bi'jah) [My Father Is Yehowah]

- One of Rehoboam's 28 sons, also called Abijam, who became the second king of the two-tribe kingdom of Judah and reigned from **980 B.C.E.** to **978 B.C.E.**
- In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain priest named Zechariah of the division of **Abijah**, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (**Luke 1:5**)
- He was a regal descendant of David on both his fathers and his mother's side, the 16th generation from Abraham in the royal lineage of Jesus Christ.
- And the son of Solomon was Rehoboam, **Abijah** his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son. (**1 Chronicles 3:10**)
- Solomon became father to Rehoboam, Rehoboam became father to **Abijah**, **Abijah** became father to Asa. (**Matthew 1:7**)
- Of Rehoboam's 18 wives and 60 concubines, Maacah called Micaiah in;
- Three years he reigned in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Micaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And war itself took place between **Abijah** and Jeroboam. (**2 Chronicles 13:2**)
- The granddaughter of Absalom, was his most beloved and was favored above the others by having her son **Abijah** chosen as successor to the throne, although he was not Rehoboam's firstborn son.
- And after her he took Maacah the granddaughter of Absalom. In time she bore him **Abijah** and Attai and Ziza and Shelomith. (**2 Chronicles 11:20**)
- And Rehoboam was more in love with Maacah the granddaughter of Absalom than all his other wives and his concubines, for there were eighteen wives that he had taken, also sixty concubines, so that he became father to twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. (**2 Chronicles 11:21**)

- Consequently Rehoboam put **Abijah** the son of Maacah in office as head, as leader among his brothers, for he thought of making him king. (2 Chronicles 11:22)
- With the ascension of **Abijah** to the throne in the 18th year of King Jeroboam I of Israel, the hostilities between the northern and southern kingdoms resumed, and war ensued. Drawn up in battle formation against Judah's chosen army of 400,000 mighty men of war were Jeroboam's 800,000 warriors.
- Undaunted by such odds, **Abijah**, in an impassioned speech, addressed himself to Jeroboam's crowd, condemning their idolatrous calf worship and reminding them that Yehowah's covenant with David was for a never-ending kingdom. With us there is at the head the true God, declared **Abijah**, therefore do not fight against Yehowah, for you will not prove successful.
- Finally Rehoboam lay down with his forefathers and was buried in the City of David, and **Abijah** his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Chronicles 12:16)
- And, look! with us there is at the head the true God with his priests and the signal trumpets for sounding the battle alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against Yehowah the God of your forefathers, for you will not prove successful. (2 Chronicles 13:12)
- In the violent battle that ensued, Jeroboam's ambush was providentially thwarted and half a million of his men were destroyed, thus breaking Jeroboam's military power. Even the city of Bethel, where one of the detestable golden calves together with an apostate priesthood had been installed, was captured. And all of this, because **Abijah** had **leaned upon Yehowah**.
- And Jeroboam, for his part, dispatched an ambush around to come behind them, so that they proved to be in front of Judah and the ambush behind them. (2 Chronicles 13:13)
- When those of Judah turned around, why, there they had the battle in front and behind. And they began to cry out to Yehowah, while the priests were loudly sounding the trumpets. (2 Chronicles 13:14)

- And the men of Judah broke out shouting a war cry. And it came about that, when the men of Judah shouted a war cry, then the true God himself defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before **Abijah** and Judah. (2 Chronicles 13:15)
- And the sons of Israel took to flight from before Judah, and then God gave them into their hand. (2 Chronicles 13:16)
- And **Abijah** and his people went striking them down with a vast slaughter, and the slain of Israel kept falling down, five hundred thousand chosen men. (2 Chronicles 13:17)
- Thus the sons of Israel were humbled at that time, but the sons of Judah proved superior because they leaned upon Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 13:18)
- And **Abijah** kept chasing after Jeroboam and got to capture cities from him, Bethel and its dependent towns, and Jeshanah and its dependent towns, and Ephraim and its dependent towns. (2 Chronicles 13:19)
- And Jeroboam did not retain any more power in the days of **Abijah**, but Yehowah dealt him a blow, so that he died. (2 Chronicles 13:20)
- Nevertheless, **Abijah** went on walking in the sins of his father Rehoboam by allowing the high places, sacred pillars, and even the male temple prostitutes to continue in the land. His heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God.
- And Judah went on doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, so that they incited him to jealousy more than all that their forefathers had done by their sins with which they sinned. (1 Kings 14:22)
- And they too kept building for themselves high places and sacred pillars and sacred poles upon every high hill and under every luxuriant tree. (1 Kings 14:23)
- And even the male temple prostitute proved to be in the land. They acted according to all the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (1 Kings 14:24)

- And he went on walking in all the sins of his father that he did prior to him, **and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God**, like the heart of David his forefather. (**1 Kings 15:3**)
- During his lifetime he had 14 wives and 38 children, and upon his death his son Asa succeeded him upon the throne.
- And **Abijah** continued to strengthen himself. In time he got fourteen wives for himself, and became father to twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. (**2 Chronicles 13:21**)
- Finally **Abijah** lay down with his forefathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Asa his son began to reign in place of him. In his days the land had no disturbance for ten years. (**2 Chronicles 14:1**)