

Royal Lessons for Life

Abijah and Asa

(Judah)

Abijah's Biography

- His name is spelled *Abijam* in I Kings and *Abijah* in II Chronicles.
 - The spelling variation could be separate the name of God (*Jah*) from an evil king with such an evil report as found in I Kings.
- He appears to have been the eldest son of his father Rehoboam's favorite wife – II Chronicles 11:20-22
- Abijah leads Judah into battle against Jeroboam and Israel – II Chronicles 13:3-20
 - Abijah's 400,000 men are surrounded by Jeroboam's 800,000.
 - Abijah makes one of the greatest speeches in the Bible – II Chronicles 13:4-12
 - God delivers Judah and Israel suffers a massive loss – II Chronicles 13:15-20
 - I think this victory is early in his reign and the success went to Abijah's head – note how he "waxed mighty" in II Chronicles 13:21
- His short record in I Kings 15:1-8 largely ties the character and course of his rule to that of his father, whose example he also followed in having many wives and children – II Chronicles 13:21
- He dies after a reign of only three years – II Chronicles 13:2

Asa's Biography

- Asa is the first good king over Judah and reigned for 41 years, the first part being than the later – II Chronicles 14:2, 16:11-13
- His early reign is marked by peace and religious reformation – II Chronicles 14:1-5
- He defeats a massive army led by Zerah the Ethiopian – II Chronicles 14:9-15
- The prophet Azariah prompts him to renew his religious reforms – II Chronicles 15:1-19
- When Israel attacks late in his reign, he hires mercenaries from Damascus instead of trusting in the Lord – II Chronicles 16:1-10
- His last years he is crippled by disease in his feet – II Chronicles 16:12-13

Lessons from the Lives of Abijah and Asa

- The names of Abijah/Abijam show us the importance of living up to the name of our God – Hebrews 11:16
- Asa is proof that we do not have to follow our wicked ancestry – Joshua 24:15
- Asa is a great example of the importance of starting and staying the course – Luke 9:62