

Abijah

1 Kings 15:1-8

2 Chronicles 13:1 – 14:1

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Rehoboam was succeeded as king of Judah by his son Abijah. Abijah ruled for only three years, but that whole time he and Jeroboam of Israel were constantly at war.

On one occasion Abijah marched his army to the hill country of Ephraim and announced to the people of Israel, "The Lord, the God of Israel, made a covenant giving David and his descendants the kingship of Israel forever. You have turned away from the Lord to worship the golden calves that Jeroboam made to be your gods. But Judah is led by a descendant of David, and we have not abandoned the Lord our God. We still follow the Lord's commands, which you have rejected. The priests of the Lord, descendants of Aaron, present offerings, burn fragrant incense, light the lampstand, and fulfill all of the Lord's other requirements. Your army is twice the size of ours, but God is with us. Do not fight against the Lord."

Meanwhile, Jeroboam sent troops around behind the army of Judah and attacked from the front and the rear simultaneously. The priests blew the trumpets, and the men of Judah raised a battle cry. God routed Jeroboam and the army of Israel before Abijah and the army of Judah. The Israelite army fled. Over half of Jeroboam's men were killed. Judah was victorious because they trusted in the Lord.

Jeroboam of Israel never regained power, while Abijah of Judah continually grew in strength. When Abijah died, his son Asa succeeded him as king, and there was peace in the land.