Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 66 – God Stops Rehoboam From War Through Asa's Death (II Chronicles 11-16)

1. Why didn't Rehoboam go to war against Israel?
   - *"(1) And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam. (2) But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, (3) Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying, (4) Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of me. And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam"* (**II Chronicles 11:1-4**).

2. Did Rehoboam prepare defenses to protect his kingdom?
   - Yes: *"(5) And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah. (6) He built even Beth–lehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, (7) And Beth–zur, and Shoco, and Adullam, (8) And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph, (9) And Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah, (10) And Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and in Benjamin fenced cities. (11) And he fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine. (12) And in every several city he put shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side"* (**II Chronicles 11:5-12**).

3. Why did the priests and the Levites have to come back to Jerusalem?
   - *"(13) And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts. (14) For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD"* (**II Chronicles 11:13-14**).

4. Was idolatry occurring under Jeroboam's reign in Israel?
   - Yes, he promoted it: *"And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils* [**he- goat; calf idols: ASV; NKJV; Strongs**], *and for the calves which he had made"* (**II Chronicles 11:15**).

5. Did people return to Jerusalem after the priests who served God and supported Solomon?
   - Yes: *"(16) And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers. (17) So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon"* (**II Chronicles 11:16-17**).

6. Was Rehoboam like his father Solomon when it came to women?
   - In the manner that he wanted many wives, yes (**II Chronicles 11:18-23**).
   - Solomon had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart (**I Kings 11:3**).

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7. What happened when Rehoboam had established his kingdom, and had strengthened himself?
   - *"And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him"* (**II Chronicles 12:1**).

8. Why did Shishak king of Egypt come up against Jerusalem?
   - *"(2) And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, (3) With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. (4) And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem"* (**II Chronicles 12:2-4**).

9. What message did Shemaiah the prophet bring to Rehoboam and to the princes of Judah?
   - *"Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak"* (**II Chronicles 12:5**).

10. What happened after the message Shemaiah brought was heard?
   - *"(6) Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD is righteous. (7) And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. (8) Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries. (9) So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. (10) Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house. (11) And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber. (12) And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well"* (**II Chronicles 12:6-12**).

11. What was the problem that caused Rehoboam to do evil?
   - *"And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD"* (**II Chronicles 12:14**).

12. Who reigned when Rehoboam died?
   - Abijah his son reigned in his stead (**II Chronicles 12:16**).

13. As Judah and Israel battled, what did Abijah say to Jeroboam and Israel?
   - *"(4) And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; (5) Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of*

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Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? (6) Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord. (7) And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them. (8) And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods. (9) Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods. (10) But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business: (11) And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him. (12) And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper" (**II Chronicles 13:4-12**).

14. Did Jeroboam's ambush work?
    - No, he should have listened to Abijah warning that he was fighting against God. Notice what happened: *"(13) But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them. (14) And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. (15) Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. (16) And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and **God delivered them into their hand**. (17) And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men. (18) Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, **because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers**. (19) And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Beth–el with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephrain with the towns thereof. (20) Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and **the LORD struck him**, and he died"* (**II Chronicles 13:13-20**).

15. Who recorded the rest of the acts of Abijah?
    - Iddo (**II Chronicles 13:22**).
    - We've seen the name of the seer twice in our current study (**12:15; 13:22**).
    - This name appears several times in the O.T. (**I Chronicles 6:21**, **Ezra 5:1; 6:14**, **Nehemiah 12:4; 16**, and **Zechariah 1:1; 7**).

16. How does Asa look as a king in the beginning of his reign?

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- Good: *"(1) So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years. (2) And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: (3) For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: (4) And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. (5) Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him"* (**II Chronicles 14:1-5**).
- There is a "but" which we'll talk about in question 22. While he removed high places, obviously he did not get rid of all of them: *"But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days"* (**I Kings 15:14**; cf. **II Chronicles 15:17**). He also stopped trusting in God as we'll see in chapter sixteen.

17. How did Asa defeat the Ethiopians?
    - *"(9) And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. (10) Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. (11) And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. (12) So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. (13) And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. (14) And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them."* (**II Chronicles 14:9-14**).

18. What message did Azariah give to Asa?
    - *"(1) And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: (2) And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; **The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.** (3) Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. (4) But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. (5) And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. (6) And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity. (7) Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded"* (**II Chronicles 15:1-7**).

19. How did Asa respond to the message he received from Azariah?
    - *"(8) And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD. (9) And he gathered all Judah and*

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Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. (10) So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. (11) And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. (12) And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; (13) That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. (14) And they sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets." (**II Chronicles 15:8-14**).

20. Did the Lord remove Himself from Judah because of Asa?
    - No, He was found of them because they sought him aright: *"(15) And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about"* (**II Chronicles 15:15**).

21. Why did Asa remove his mother from being queen?
    - *"And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron"* (**II Chronicles 15:16**).

22. With Asa sounding great so far, are there any "but's"?
    - Yes: *"But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days"* (**II Chronicles 15:17**).
    - We will also see in stopped trusting in the Lord in the next chapter.

23. Who besieged Judah?
    - *"In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah"* (**II Chronicles 16:1**).

24. What did Asa do to stop the besieging of Judah?
    - *"(2) Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Ben–hadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, (3) There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. (4) And Ben–hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel–maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. (5) And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. (6) Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah"* (**II Chronicles 16:2-6**).

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25. What message did Hanani the seer tell Asa?
    - *"(7) And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. (8) Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. (9) For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.* ***Herein thou hast done foolishly****: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars"* (**II Chronicles 16:7-9**).

26. How did Asa respond to Hanani?
    - *"Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time"* (**II Chronicles 16:10**).

27. When you consider how Asa died, did he learn anything from Hanani's message?
    - No: *"And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians"* (**II Chronicles 16:12**).

28. What was done for Asa in his burial?
    - *"And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him"* (**II Chronicles 16:14**).

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