

- Recap of last week: Jeroboam is afraid people in his Northern Kingdom will get corrupted when they go to the South to worship so he sets up Golden Calves in the north and tells people to worship there instead, leading the people into sin. (I Kings 12:26-33) King Shishak of Egypt invades the South and carries everything away. (2 Chronicles 12:1-12) Rehoboam dies and he was succeeded in the South by his son Abijam or Abijah (the former is the 1 Kings spelling, the latter is the 2 Chronicles spelling.) (I Kings 14:31) (2 Chronicles 12:16)
- The North and South continue to fight. Abijam of the South has an army of 400,000 but makes an impassioned speech to the people of the North, explaining that God had promised the house of Solomon to reign and they were actually fighting against God not only by having another king but also by worshipping idols. (2 Chronicles 13:1-12)
- During this speech, Jeroboam of the North is surrounding the army of Abijam with his army of 800,000. They fight, and ultimately the army of the south wins the battle, killing 500,000 men in the process. This happens because God is with the people of the South. (2 Chronicles 13:13-19)
- Despite all this, Abijam does not remain faithful to God and is prone to the same idolatry as his father, and it is only because of David's heart that God still allows his family to continue to reign. (I Kings 15:1-7)
- Jeroboam never really recovers from the battle and he dies, but Abijah just gets stronger. (2 Chronicles 13:20-22)
- Abijah dies in the South and Asa takes his place. He is a good king who immediately tears down idols, takes away the male temple prostitutes, worships God, strengthens cities in the south, and raises an army of 580,000 really good men. He had peace for ten years. (I Kings 15:9-15) (2 Chronicles 14:1-7)
- Zerah the Ethiopian King finally invades with an army of one million people! Asa calls upon God for help, and his army routs the Ethiopian army (all one million die) and plunders their cities. (2 Chronicles 14:8-15)
- A prophet named Azariah comes and urges Asa and his army to remain faithful to God, and explains what have been the consequences of not following God. (2 Chronicles 15:1-7)
- Asa obeys and even gets all the defectors from the North (apparently quite a few people had left the North to follow Asa because they saw he followed God), to make sacrifices and swear oaths to God. (2 Chronicles 15:8-15)
- Asa even removes his own mother for being an evil queen. He does leave a couple of pagan places of worship but follows God in his heart and has no more war for thirty-five years. (2 Chronicles 15:16)
- Jeroboam dies in the north and a king named Nadab takes his place. He reigns for two years and is overthrown by Baasha who becomes king and solidifies his power by killing off the house of Jeroboam. This happens in the third year of Asa's reign, and Baasha is just as bad as Jeroboam was and reigns for 24 years (I Kings 15:25-32)
- The new King of Israel in the north named Baasha tries to build a place called Ramah. It was probably a preexisting city that Baasha was building up. Ramah actually comes from a Hebrew root word meaning "high" and its whole purpose was to keep people out of Israel. (I Kings 15:16-17) (2 Chronicles 16:1)
- Asa goes to Ben-Hadad the King of Syria who had a pact with Baasha. Asa pays off Ben-Hadad to break his pact and go with him instead. Ben-Hadad does that and while Baasha is distracted

with that, Asa's army carries off all the construction materials they were using to build Ramah up. (I Kings 15:18-22) (2 Chronicles 16:2-6)

- A seer named Hanani comes to Asa and tells him that God is mad at him for relying on the King of Syria instead of Him. Asa gets mad at the seer and arrests him and lashes out at some of his people too. Then Asa dies. (2 Chronicles 16:6-14)
- A prophet named Jehu who is the son of Hanani tells Baasha that because of his sin he and anyone who follows him will be destroyed (I Kings 16:1-7)
- Elah takes over when God destroys Baasha, but he only reigns for two years then his military commander Zimri kills him and the entire house of Baasha and takes power. (I Kings 16:8-14)
- Zimri torches the house of the King and does evil in the sight of the Lord. (I Kings 16:15-20)
- Still in the north, after Zimri dies two people claim the throne. Half the people follow Tibni and half follow Omri. Tibni only lives two years so everyone in the north follows Omri. Omri is the worst king yet and made all the people to sin too. (I Kings 16:21-28)

Questions

1. What is the correct spelling, Abijam or Abijah?
2. What two reasons does Abijam give the Israelites that they are fighting against God?
3. Who wins the battle between the armies of Abijam and Jeroboam and why?
4. How many people does the army of north have left after the battle between Abijam's army and Jeroboam's army?
5. Who is Asa?
6. What five things does Asa do right away?
7. Who finally invades and how strong is their army?
8. Who does Asa call upon for help in his first battle and what is the result?
9. Who is Azariah and what does he urge Asa to do?
10. When Asa hears Azariah's words what does he do?
11. What does Asa do to the queen mother and why?
12. In all his years, how many battles does Asa have to fight?
13. Who was Baasha and how did he take power?
14. Who was Jehu and what did he tell Baasha?
15. What was Ramah?
16. Why did Baasha want to build up Ramah?
17. What nation was Ben-Hadad king of?
18. What did Asa do to get Ben-Hadad to break his pact with Baasha?
19. What did Asa's army do while Baasha was distracted?
20. Who was Hanani?
21. What did Hanani tell Asa?
22. What does Asa do to Hanani?
23. Who is Jehu and how long does he reign?
24. Who kills Jehu and who else does he kill?
25. What happens after Zimri dies in the north?

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