

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 15:1-8

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

1 Kings 15:1-8

Verses 1-2

¹ In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijah became king of Judah, ² and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was Maakah daughter of Abishalom.

- In this passage our attention is focused on the southern kingdom, Judah. The Abijah mentioned here is the son of Rehoboam, the king of Judah, not the son of Jeroboam, the king of Israel (see 1 Kings 14:1-18). Both Jeroboam and Rehoboam had sons named Abijah.
- The Abijah mentioned here is the son of Rehoboam who became king of Judah after his father's death. He reigned as king of Judah for 3 years (913 to 911 BC).
- His mother's name was Maakah. Maakah was the granddaughter of Absalom, the son of David. She was therefore a Jewess by birth. As a person's "Jewishness" is determined by his/her mother, Abijah was a Jew and a descendant of King David.

Verse 3

³ He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been.

- Even though Abijah was a Jew, he was not a follower of YHWH. His heart was not devoted to YHWH as was David's. He followed in the steps of his father and worshipped false gods.

Verses 4-5

⁴ Nevertheless, for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem by raising up a son to succeed him and by making Jerusalem strong. ⁵ For David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

- See 1 Kings 11:36. Even though they no longer followed YHWH, God allowed the descendants of David to continue to reign in Judah. This was to honor David.

Verses 6-8

⁶ There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam throughout Abijah's lifetime. ⁷ As for the other events of Abijah's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. ⁸ And Abijah rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. And Asa his son succeeded him as king.

- The two parts of Israel fought against each other for the years that Abijah ruled Judah.
- When Abijah died he was buried in Jerusalem and was succeeded by his son, Asa.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Kings 15:1-8. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)