

**Theme:** Our peace and security will not be found in any king/ruler or kingdom. It rests securely in the God of promise and the promise of God.

**Background:** Will Judah face the same end as Israel? Will it fare any better?

**Introduction:** Trials of a very good friend. Keeping the end of the story in view.

## I. Rehoboam’s Legacy

### A. The good (1 Kings 14:21a)

1. 3 good years (2 Chronicles 11:17)
  - Strengthened by those who returned to Judah
2. Ruling in Jerusalem (14:21)
  - The LORD had chosen to put his name there

### B. The bad (14:21b-24)

1. Nature or nurture
  - An Ammonite mother – mom was from a sworn enemy
  - False worship is given credence in the nation
2. They “did evil in the sight of the LORD”
  - a. Permitting Canaanite worship! (see Hosea 4:14)
  - b. Provoking Canaanite-like judgment

### C. The ugly

1. Provoking God’s jealousy! (This included all of Judah)
  - A righteous, holy jealousy! (Exodus 20:4; 34:14)
  - Not a sinful coveting (desiring what I don’t have)
  - Jealous for what is rightfully yours and precious!
2. Judgment foreshadowed – Shishak
  - Jerusalem is plundered but, mercifully, not destroyed

NOTE: This incursion is verified in records of the region and period.
3. A pretense of glory! (14:27-29)
  - Shields of bronze to imitate the shields of gold

NOTE: Sadly, they serve as a reminder of glory lost!

  - Far better to humble himself before the Lord!

APPLICATION: The fall marred the image of God in us. In sin, we try to dress it up anyway – pretend that nothing has changed. But that glory can be renewed in Christ the Lord.

## II. Abijam’s Choice

### A. Abijam’s insignificance (15:1,2,6-8)

1. God still showing mercy – provides for an heir for the throne of David
  - There is still a lamp, a light in Jerusalem
2. A short reign – 3 years
3. At war the whole time

### B. Abijam’s distinction (15:3-5)

1. Just like his father Rehoboam (physical “father”)
  - A heart like his dad
2. Not like his father David (spiritual “father”)
  - Not a heart like his spiritual dad

NOTE: Following not the Father of the promise – but the father of rebellion

### III. Asa's Peace

#### A. Asa's faithfulness

1. Did what was right! The nation saw a spiritual reformation under Asa (15:11)
  - The idols are destroyed
  - The influence of the queen mother is removed (15:13)
  - He supplied the house of the Lord (15:15)
2. Faith put to the test
  - Left the high places (likely left as places to worship Yahweh)
3. Final assessment?
  - He was wholly true to the Lord all his days.

#### B. Asa's unfaithfulness

1. A formidable enemy – Baasha, son of Ahijah (We will meet him next week)
  - Fortifying Ramah (About 5 miles north of Jerusalem)
2. Emptying the treasury!
  - To “bribe” Syria
  - To break their covenant with Israel
3. Syria (Ben-Hadad) attacks Israel's cities in the north.
4. Asa dismantles Ramah
  - He fortifies cities of his own

NOTE: Judah is, thereby, impoverished both physically and financially

NOTE: Political success and spiritual success don't always correlate (2 Chron. 16:7)
5. Asa is far from the perfect king.

### IV. Finding Hope

#### A. In Rehoboam?

1. He is a scoundrel
2. He is God's instrument – God *uses* scoundrels!
3. God's promise stands – in spite of the likes of Rehoboam! (cf. Exodus 33:19)

#### B. Abijam?

1. Like his father!
2. Will Judah continue – or fall like Israel?
3. God's love for David (1 Kings 11:13, 32, 34)
  - God will not permit his promise to fail
4. David's love for God! (15:4,5)
  - Not perfect – reminded of Bathsheba and Uriah

NOTE: Lord, let me be counted faithful!

#### C. Asa – gives me great hope.

1. The assessment? (15:14b)
  - So much like me!
  - So much like the church!
  - Faithful, but susceptible to the world
2. Standing fast – slowing the slide to destruction
  - It just takes *one*