

**Abijah and Asa: A Perfect Heart**

**Lesson 7**

*for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

*1 Samuel 16:7*

**Abijam/Abijah**

Comparing the king we read about in Chronicles and the king we read about Kings give us an interesting perspective on this king.

**Chronicles’ summary of Abijah (2 Chronicles 13)**

Abijah faced a battle with a much larger and more expert army from the North. Abijah reminds Israel of their apostasy, and of the fact that they are no longer worshipping God legitimately. Judah trusts God and see him win an incredible victory for them.

**Kings’ summary of Abijam (1 Kings 15:1-8)**

* **Abijam continued following idols (1 Kings 15:12-13).**

Kings tells us that Abijam continued in the sins of his fathers, likely a reference to the continued worship of idols.

* **Abijam’s heart was not perfect (1 Kings 15:3)**

Abijam did not have a heart that was wholly committed to following God as David had.

**Is this the same person?**

Although some will argue these are conflicting accounts, nothing that either section gives need disagree with the other. Abijah was a king who sometimes said the right thing, but in his heart he wasn’t really ready to serve God completely.

**Asa**

**Asa’s strong start (2 Chronicles 14)**

* **Asa’s initial religious reforms (14:1-5)** Asa begins his reign by leading in cleaning out the wrong worship that had built up in Judah.
* **Asa’s successful national development (14:6-8)** As with any good king, Asa builds up the interior of the nation. Asa’s obedience to God leads to practical blessings.
* **Asa’s successful war (14:9-15)** When challenged with international conflict, Asa trusted God and saw deliverance.

**Asa’s religious reforms (2 Chronicles 15)**

Although Asa had already led a national revival, a prophet shows up calling on him and Judah to do more. Asa and the people respond by making a covenant with God and having a positive impact on the tribes around them.

**Asa’s disappointing end (2 Chronicles 16)**

* **Asa trusts his own wisdom (16:1-6)**
* **Asa rejects God’s warnings (16:7-14)**