Victory With God At Our Head

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Text: II Chronicles 13:1-18

# Intro

1. For Solomon’s sins he was told God would divide the kingdom of Israel; but, for the sake of his father David, it would happen in Solomon’s son’s days (*I Kings 11:9-13*).
2. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, was a weak king and allowed the rebellion of Jeroboam the son of Nebat to divide the kingdom as foretold to Solomon. There was war between them all their days.
3. II Chronicles 13:1-22: When Rehoboam died, Abijah, his son, became king and had a confrontation with Jeroboam and reminded him why the kingdom was divided.
4. The prevailing two themes of this encounter are:
   1. Rebellion to God is a losing endeavor!
   2. Victory is only found when God is at the Head of His people!
5. People need to learn the lesson still today that victory only comes with God at our Head!

## I. Sins of Jeroboam

* 1. **Rebellion (II Chr. 13:5-8)**

1. The first thing Abijah reminds Israel of is its unrightful leader’s rebellion against his master, the king of Judah. He reminds them that Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon, and that the rightful kings come from the line of David (*Vs. 5*).
2. Jeroboam rebelled and Israel with him against God’s anointed, God’s elect (I Kings 11:26)
3. God did give the kingdom of the Northern Ten Tribes of Israel to Jeroboam, but it began with his rebellion against Solomon, and God told him to obey Him and He would establish his house like David’s over Judah (I Kings 11:26-39) – *Jeroboam rebelled against Judah and God in idolatry!*
4. **Application:**
   1. How many people do that today? How many rebel against God’s Son?
   2. *Mt. 28:18*: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”
   3. *I Cor. 15:23-28:* “All things are put in subjection” (Even His enemies!)
   4. Who are the enemies of Christ who will be put in subjection under His feet? Those who do not know God and those who rebel and do not obey the gospel *(II Thess. 1:7-9).*
   5. Even those who profess to be Christians can rebel against God in doing things the way they want to and not God’s way! *(Matthew 7:21-23)*

## **Strength In Numbers (II Chr. 13:3, 8)**

1. Jeroboam’s army outnumbered Abijah’s two to one. Israel assembled 800,000 valiant warriors against Judah’s 400,000. *Jeroboam trusted in his “great multitude.”*
2. Abijah did not seem concerned because he understood that with God, strength in numbers did not count! *(Judges 7:1-25: The account of Gideon!)*
3. Psalm 118:8-9: It is better to put trust in the Lord than in men!
4. **Application:**
   1. God decimated great armies who came against those who put their trust in Him!
   2. *II Kings 6:12-23*: A great Syrian army surrounded the city of Dothan to get Elisha.
   3. *II Chr. 20:1-30*: Jehoshaphat and all Judah were besieged by an uncountable host!
   4. *II Chr. 32:7-8*: King Sennacherib of Assyria came against Jerusalem and King Hezekiah.
   5. Many people think they are right because they are in the majority!
   6. Being in the majority has never been the right test of what is right nor an obstacle for God!
   7. Many churches put their faith in their large numbers; and that somehow means they are doing what is right.

# **Serving False Gods (II Chr. 13:8)**

1. Jeroboam had made two golden calves and stationed them in Dan and in Bethel. *(I Kings 12:28-29)*
2. Abijah makes claim that they not only trust in their strength of numbers, but also rely on their golden calves (their false gods) – Committing Idolatry!
3. **Application:**
4. *II Kings 19:14-20:* Hezekiah recognized Sennacherib destroyed the gods of other lands because they weren’t gods at all, but the works of men. *(Is. 44:9-19)*
5. *Rom. 1:22-25:* The foolish worship the created rather than the Creator.
6. Col. 3:5; I John 5:21: Saints need to be careful that our greed and desires don’t become idolatry! Guard our hearts from idolatry!
7. Phil. 3:18-19: There are those whose gods become their desires because they fail to make God first in their lives and they make themselves enemies of the cross of Christ!

# **False Priests (II Chr. 13:9)**

1. Jeroboam set up his religion of the golden calves where priesthood could be bought. Here Abijah sets him straight as to who the rightful priests of the Lord are: The Levites!
2. He accuses Jeroboam of running the Lord’s priests out of the country, and making his worship like that of the lands around them. He also points out that his priests are priests of no real gods.
3. Jeroboam appointed unqualified men to be his nation’s Spiritual Leaders!
4. **Application:**
   1. Does this sound familiar? It happens today with most religions!
   2. Men called “pastors” who are nothing more than preachers, and preachers of false teaching at that.
   3. “Pastors” are “elders,” *(Acts 20:17, 28; I Pet. 5:1-2)* yet anyone who goes through Seminary is called “Pastor” or “Reverend.” *Jeroboam’s priests paid their way into the title too!*
   4. Young 18-year-old men called “Elders” are sent to spread error.
   5. Even churches of Christ who appoint unqualified men to be elders for the sake of having elders fall under this category.
   6. There are those today who call themselves “Christians” but haven’t taken the steps to be one God’s way. A good heart and a prayer is not obedience to the gospel *(Acts 22:16).*
   7. Mt. 7:21-23: There will be those who think they have served God, and will even think they knew Jesus, but Jesus will respond to them, “Depart from Me, I never knew you!”
   8. Eph. 4:4-6: “One body, One faith, One baptism”…not many, not the thousands in denominations who profess to be Christians!
5. Being religious doesn’t make one right – Must do it God’s way!

### II. Faithful Obedience Of Abijah

1. **True God (II Chr. 13:10)**
2. Abijah points out several times that he and all Judah serve the True God, the God of their fathers.
3. Abijah reminds them who is in charge:
   1. Hos. 11:9: God says, “I am God and not man!”
   2. Is. 43:10-13, 15: God reminds His people that He is God and there is none other besides Him. He also reminds them that He is their King.
   3. *But they wanted to look like other nations! (I Sam. 8:5)*
4. **Application:** 
   1. Mt. 22:37: We are to love God with everything we are!
   2. Jn. 14:15: Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments!”
   3. Saints are to rely on the One, True God, the Creator and Righteous Judge! *(Col. 1:16; II Tim. 4:8)*

## **True Priests (II Chr. 13:10)**

1. He points out that Judah still has the rightful priests of the Lord, the line of Aaron, the Levites, ministering to the nation.
2. Contrast this statement of qualified servants with Jeroboam’s unqualified men!
3. **Application:**
   1. I Pet. 2:9-10: Peter quotes what was said to Israel, and applies it to Christians. We are a Royal Priesthood, a Holy nation. *(Mk. 16:16: The right way to become God’s servant!)*
   2. Saints are priests of God – Saints are the qualified servants of the Lord today*.*
   3. We are to be separate and do things God’s way, not look like the world around us! *(Rom. 12:2)*

# **True Service (II Chr. 13:11)**

1. Is the way we serve God important? Abijah knew it was!
2. Here he finds it important to tell Israel that the rightful priests were worshipping God the rightful way. Their worship to God defined who they were in contrast to Israel (N. Tribes).
3. In his speech, he lists their proper details of service to God:
4. Rightful King on throne
5. Rightful Priests
6. Rightful way of Worship
7. Right faith in the One, True God
8. **Application:**
9. Jn. 14:15: Jesus said, “If you love Me you will keep My commandments.”
10. We are told to serve God the right way!
11. When qualified men are selected, the leadership over the Lord’s church is to be elders with deacons serving under them (Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-16)
    1. *Col. 3:17*: “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”
    2. *Gal. 1:10:* Paul contrasted serving to please men with serving to please God.
    3. Mt. 7:21; I Jn. 2:17: The one who does the will of God will live forever!
    4. There is a right way and a wrong way to serving God!

# **True Faith (II Chr. 13:12)**

1. God set up the nation of Israel with the intent that He would be their Head, their King.
2. Because of their grumbling during the days of Samuel, He relented and let them have physical kings *(I Sam. 8:7).*
3. God was still their King, and the physical king over them was supposed to be His servant.
4. Many kings forgot this, and let their power corrupt them.
5. Abijah tells them Judah is doing it right, “God is with us at our head…”
6. True faith in God gave Abijah courage to rebuke the errant king of Israel, and try to bring his brothers back to God. But he would not compromise with them!
7. **Application:**
   1. If only more Christians realized that Christ is our Head, not a preacher, not an elder or deacon, not any man!
   2. Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23: Christ is the Head of the Church.
   3. Col. 1:18: Christ is the Head of the church and is over all things! *(Mt. 28:18)*
   4. I Jn. 5:4-5: Our faith is the victory that overcomes the world!
   5. Rev. 2:10: True faith, that faith we have until death is a saving faith in that God will reward such faith with the Crown of Life. God saves His people with true faith!
8. Victory only comes to those who have truly placed God at their Head!

## Conclusion

1. Though he was outnumbered, King Abijah and his men trusted in the Lord. When the ambush took place and they were attacked from the front and rear, they did not scatter, but cried out to the Lord!
   1. II Chronicles 13:13-18: Notice that it was after the men of Judah raised their war cry that God routed Jeroboam’s forces.
   2. They cried out to Him but acted on it. They didn’t just pray and wait. They took to action, they charged into the overwhelming forces, demonstrating their true faith in God!
   3. It was when they took a stand and then took action that God saved.
2. This is a lesson so many people need today!
3. This account shows us the futility of Resisting the Kingdom of God. It shows us the power of obedience to His will! *(Living with God at our Head!)*
4. Abijah warned Israel, “Do not fight against the Lord your God!”
5. He told them why, “You will not be successful!” God saves His people!
6. Do not rebel against Him and resist the Kingdom of God, but be found obedient to His word!
   1. II Thessalonians 1:7-10: When Christ comes again, retribution will be dealt out to those who do not know God, and to those who have not obeyed the gospel.
7. Be obedient to the gospel and live your life with God at your Head to win the eternal victory!
8. If not a Christian, you are in rebellion and subject to His Judgment. You need to Repent and be baptized, become a qualified servant by obeying Him in His way:
   1. *Rom. 10:17*: Hear the word.
   2. *Jn. 3:16*: Believe.
   3. *Lk. 13:3*; *Acts 3:19:* Repent
   4. *Acts 8:37*: Confess.
   5. *Acts 22:16*: Be Baptized.
   6. *Jn. 8:31*: Live in Obedience.
9. If a Christian with unrepented sin, you too are in rebellion. Repent and be renewed.
10. Whatever your requests, let them be known by coming forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing.