

MONDAY

God tells the king that He will raise up an enemy which will smite Israel. Hearing that, Jeroboam's wife left for home. As she entered her home, her child died. He was buried and mourned for. Jeroboam died after ruling 22 years and his son took over the throne of Israel.

READ: I Kings 14:14-20

Here we read of the captivity which is still generations in the future. The people will be scattered beyond the Jordan River. Why? Because they have made their groves of idols. God takes his glory seriously, doesn't He! No messing around with idols allowed. That's true for us. In our lives today, idols are those things we set up in place of God. It might be car, or boat, or house, or hobby; a position, reputation, or person - anything which we treat with the passion and attention which belongs to God alone. Lord God, take my idols from me, and give me a fresh look at your glory!

TUESDAY

Meanwhile, in Judah, Rehoboam, whose father was Solomon and mother was Naamah, an Ammonite, ruled the southern kingdom for 17 years. Under his leadership, the people sinned greatly & Sodomites did their abominations.

READ: I Kings 14:21-24

Did you notice how God describes Jerusalem in this passage? It's the city which God has chosen, out of all the cities in Israel, to put his name on. (*to make his own*, that means) We're reminded that God choosing a place or a person is all that's required to sanctify it - to set it apart as belonging to the Lord. Isn't it marvelous that you and I have been set apart to be His! He chose us to be His own! He put His name on us! And now we belong to Him.

WEDNESDAY

The king of Egypt attacked Judah and captured a lot of gold and treasure. Rehoboam replaced the shields of gold which were stolen with bronze ones. These shields were not used as decoration as the golden ones had been. All the years of his reign, Rehoboam continued to war against Jeroboam.

READ: I Kings 14:25-31

We read a second time that Rehoboam's mother was Naamah and that she was an Ammonite. With relatively few verses about Rehoboam, why do you think his mother gets double the attention? Is it because her name has a nice ring to it? Or is it to remind us that Solomon sinned in marrying Naamah, and that sin always has consequences, and that often, those consequences are hard to bear? Is it to warn us from sin and push us to the Cross of Mercy?

THURSDAY

Rehoboam's son, Abijam, follows his father to the throne, and reigns for three years. He walks in the footsteps of his father rather than in David's.

READ: I Kings 15:1-8

Did you notice that Abijam is responsible not only for what he does, but also for what he allows. That's a Bible principle: God holds us accountable for what we allow to go on around us without speaking out. Silence is consent. Apathy is as well. God's plan for overcoming includes you and me as those who speak out God's Word. The spoken Word of God has power to accomplish God's purposes in the lives of those who hear it! They need to hear it!

FRIDAY

After Abijam dies, Asa follows him to the throne in Judah, and he ends up ruling for 41 years. Asa did what was right in God's eyes and did much to restore the southern kingdom to the worship of the living God.

READ: I Kings 15:9-15

Did you notice that Asa removed the idols his father had built, and removed his mother from being the queen-mother because she made an idol as well. And then he burned the idol. This is a neat picture of a man who leaves his Father and mother (spiritually and emotional) to follow Jesus. Asa put obedience to God over all his other relationships! That's God's plan for us. Lord, help me love my wife (or husband) and kids and everybody else with all the love humanly possible, and then help me to love you more than that.

SATURDAY

Basha, the king of Israel, was always fighting against Asa down south in Judah. One time, he started building a fort in the border town of Ramah. Asa sent money to the king of Syria so that he would attack Israel. He did, and the construction of the fort stopped. After Basha's work force left the area, Asa had his own men take all the supplies for building the fort. and he used them to build two forts of his own in the south.

READ: I Kings 15:16-24

The end of vs.23 tells us that Asa had diseased feet in his old age. Why do we read about that? Because there's more to the story: please read carefully 2 Chron.16:12. (read it now!) Do you get it? *In his disease, he sought not the Lord.* God is saying to us: learn this lesson. Following the Lord for 37 years does not guarantee the next five. Keep your relationship with God vibrant, and keep it up to date. No depending on the past. Follow Him furiously all the days of your life! And never stop seeking Him!