

2 Chronicles 13– Abijah Cries to the LORD and He Delivers!

1/26/19 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

He is Able to Deliver Thee – William Ogden – Worship Resources

1 'Tis the grandest theme through the ages rung; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue;

'Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung, "Our God is able to deliver thee."

Refrain: He is able to deliver thee, He is able to deliver thee; Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest;

"Our God is able to deliver thee."

2 'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;

'Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)

3 'Tis the grandest theme, let the tidings roll, To the guilty heart, to the sinful soul;

Look to God in faith, He will make thee whole, "Our God is able to deliver thee." (Refrain)

King Abijah, son of Rehoboam

While the kings of Israel were for the most part apostates, several kings in Judah were men of God who sought to bring the people back to the Lord. However, the infection of sin had already gotten into both kingdoms and it was only a matter of time before they would collapse.

Abijah Cries to the LORD and He Delivers!

2Ch 13:1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah.

2Ch 13:2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Michaiiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah.

And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

2Ch 13:3 Abijah set the battle in order with an army of valiant warriors, four hundred thousand choice men.

Jeroboam also drew up in battle formation against him with eight hundred thousand choice men, mighty men of valor.

2Ch 13:4 Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, and said, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel:

2Ch 13:5 Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?

- True, as long as the kings of Israel were obedient to the LORD! Solomon and Rehoboam were not! We see some revision of history here. Jeroboam is reigning in the ten northern tribes because of the disobedience of the kings of Judah, not because of Jeroboam's rebellion.

2Ch 13:6 Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord.

- Jeroboam was actually asked by the people of the northern ten tribes to reign over them when Rehoboam, out of his pride, indicated that he would be much harsher on them than King Solomon and increase their taxes! This was in accordance in what God had promised, if Israel's kings were disobedient.

2Ch 13:7 Then worthless rogues gathered to him, and strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and inexperienced (Rehoboam was 41 years old at the time!) and could not withstand them.

2Ch 13:8 And now you think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hand of the sons of David; and you are a great multitude, and with you are the gold calves which Jeroboam made for you as gods.

2Ch 13:9 Have you not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests, like the peoples of other lands, so that whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of things that are not gods?

- Now Abijah makes a legitimate charge against Jeroboam that will stick!

2Ch 13:10 But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the priests who minister to the LORD are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties.

2Ch 13:11 And they burn to the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense; they also set the showbread in order on the pure gold table, and the lampstand of gold with its lamps to burn every evening; for we keep the command of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken Him.

2Ch 13:12 Now look, God Himself is with us as our head, and His priests with sounding trumpets to sound the alarm against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you shall not prosper!!

- The southern kingdom of Judah wasn't a deeply spiritual group at that time, but they were a lot better than the northern tribes who were worshipping golden calves!

- Abijah is viewing the battle as a religious battle. There is faith in God, even if not the purest faith and apparently a desire by Abijah that his southern kingdom not be swallowed up by the idolatrous northern tribes.

2Ch 13:13 *But Jeroboam (who didn't like speeches) caused an ambush to go around behind them; so they were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.*

2Ch 13:14 *And when Judah looked around, to their surprise the battle line was at both front and rear; and they cried out to the LORD, and the priests sounded the trumpets.*

2Ch 13:15 *Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.*

2Ch 13:16 *And the children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand.*

2Ch 13:17 *Then Abijah and his people struck them with a great slaughter; so five hundred thousand choice men of Israel fell slain.*

- Wow! What a slaughter. These 500,000 likely were young men, who has just joined the army, but their army was on the wrong side of God! We need to think about this. Is there anything in our lives that we have joined that is on the wrong side of God, putting ourselves in the judgement of God?

2Ch 13:18 *Thus the children of Israel were subdued at that time; and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD God of their fathers.*

- How complete is your reliance on our God?

2Ch 13:19 *And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him: Bethel (one of the two principle cities where there was a golden calf!) with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephraim (Ephron) with its villages.*

2Ch 13:20 *So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck him (probably a violent death), and he died.*

- Jeroboam had been given one of the great opportunities to lead as a king of Israel, but he so caused the ten northern tribes to go into pure idolatry. A terrible ending to a terrible king!

2Ch 13:21 *But Abijah grew mighty, married fourteen wives, and begot twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.*

2Ch 13:22 *Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways, and his sayings are written in the annals of the prophet Iddo.*

2Ch 14:1 *So Abijah rested with his fathers (had reigned 3 years), and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.*

SUMMARY:

- Obedience! God's promise to David's descendants to reign after him was conditioned on their obedience to Him!
- Abijah rewrites history somewhat to his benefit with respect to the northern ten tribes.
- Abijah's faith, although shallow, was much better when compared to the idolatry of Jeroboam.
- Judah cried out to the LORD and He delivered them against overwhelming odds.
- King Jeroboam – we see a terrible ending to a terrible king!
- 500,000 of the ten northern tribes were slain, whose soldiers were on the wrong side of God!
- Are there any areas in our life on the wrong side of God? How complete is our reliance on Him?

The Battle Belongs to the Lord - The Maranatha! Singers

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land. The battle belongs to the Lord.

No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand The battle belongs to the Lord

We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood, The battle belongs to the Lord

He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood, The battle belongs to the Lord

And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

When your enemy presses in hard do not fear. The battle belongs to the Lord

Take courage my friend, your redemption is near. The battle belongs to the Lord

And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

And We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord. We sing glory, honor, Power and strength to the Lord

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