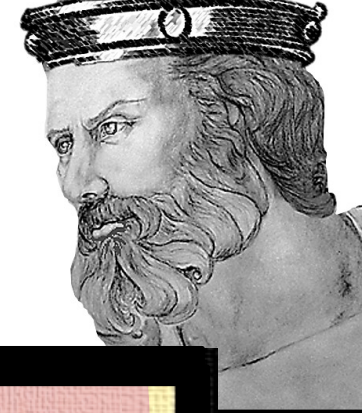


## **Lesson 5**

# **The Stories of Ahijah and Abijah**



This story takes place when Rehoboam was reigning from Judah and Jeroboam from Israel.



Both of these kings were idolaters but Jeroboam was called

**“Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”**

This criticism of Jeroboam is repeated nineteen times in the Bible because he was so wicked and Israel was so full of idolatry.





## THE PREVIOUS LESSON

ended with Jeroboam continuing in idolatry despite the prophecy of the man of God from Judah.





That account in I Kings 13 told of Jeroboam's hand withering when he attempted to respond to the prophet's warning, and even though God extended his mercy by restoring Jeroboam's hand the king never repented.





## I Kings 13

“<sup>33</sup>After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.”



## I Kings 13

“<sup>34</sup>And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.”



This last verse of chapter 13 is the prophecy of the end of Jeroboam's royal dynasty. Chapter 14 tells of the fulfillment of the prophecy. His dynasty will literally die.



## I Kings 14

“<sup>1</sup>At that time **Abijah the son of Jeroboam** fell sick.

<sup>2</sup>And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is **Ahijah the prophet**, which told me that I should be king over this people.”



# NAMES

## KINGS OF ISRAEL

**Jeroboam 975-954**

Nadab 954-953

Baasha 953-930

Elah 930-910

Zimri 910-909

Tibni 909-908

Omnri 908-907

Zedekiah 907-907

Shallum 907-906

Mnshem 906-906

Adad 906-906

Tahash 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

Phallathai 906-906

## KINGS OF JUDAH

**Rehoboam 975-958**

Abijah 958-955

Asa 955-914

Joshaphat 914-892

Jehoram 892-884

Jehozabab 885

Jehoshaphat 885-878

Jehoshaphat 878-839

Jehoshaphat 839-810

Jehoshaphat 810-758

Jehoshaphat 758-742

Jehoshaphat 742-726

Jehoshaphat 726-698

Jehoshaphat 698-643

Jehoshaphat 643-641

Jehoshaphat 641-610

Jehoshaphat 610

Jehoshaphat 610-599

Jehoshaphat 599

Jehoshaphat 599-588

**Jeroboam** and **Rehoboam** were the first kings of the divided kingdom. Their **NAMES** sound alike which occasionally causes confusion when first learning about them. To add to the confusion they both had sons named **Abijah**. Also, in the mix is the prophet **Ahijah** which is a name that not only rhymes with **Abijah** but is shared by several men in the historical books of the Bible.



# NAME REVIEW:

Jeroboam— King of Israel

Jeroboam's son Abijah dies in this story.

Ahijah— God's prophet who prophesied mainly to King Jeroboam.

Rehoboam— King of Judah

Rehoboam's son Abijah reigned after him.



**Back to I Kings 14 . . .**



## I Kings 14

“<sup>1</sup>At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick.”

**King Jeroboam was so evil it is hard to have pity for him when his heart is broken over his sick child.**





King Jeroboam was so desperate to save his child that he sought out Ahijah, God's prophet.



Ahijah was the prophet who had told Jeroboam that he would be king over ten tribes. Many years had passed since that prophecy had been fulfilled, and now Ahijah was old, blind, and living in obscurity at Shiloh.





Jeroboam had not turned to Ahijah for anything during his reign, for Ahijah was a faithful prophet and Jeroboam was an idolater.

But now his son was ill, so he told his wife, to disguise herself and go to see Ahijah in Shiloh.





## I Kings 14

“<sup>2</sup>And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, which told me that I should be king over this people.

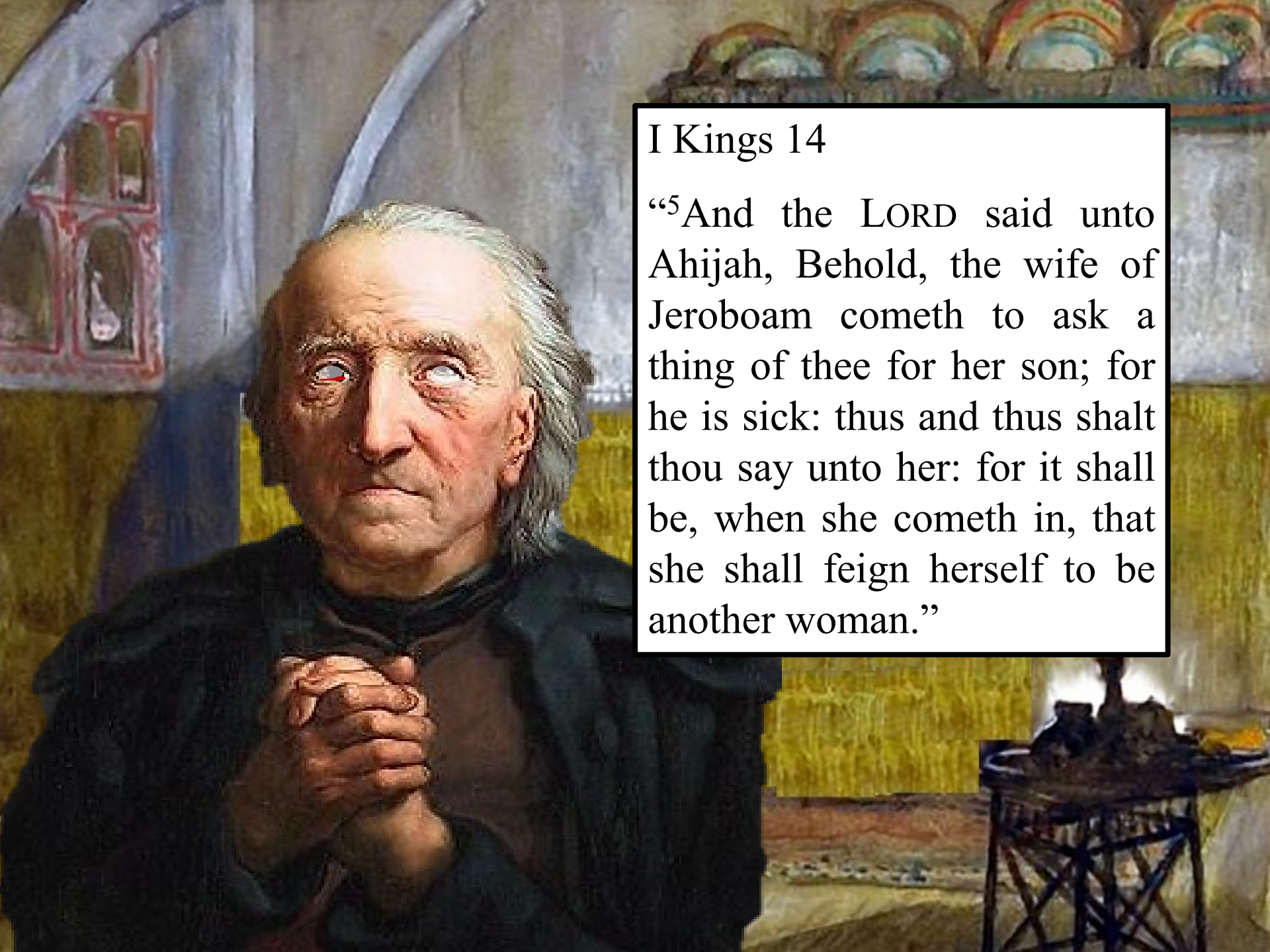
<sup>3</sup>And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child.”



## I Kings 14

“<sup>4</sup>And Jeroboam’s wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.”





## I Kings 14

“<sup>5</sup>And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman.”

## I Kings 14

“<sup>6</sup>And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings.”







## I Kings 14

“<sup>7</sup>Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

<sup>8</sup>And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

<sup>9</sup>But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:”



## I Kings 14

“<sup>10</sup>Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every manchild, him that is shut up and him that is left in Israel, and will utterly sweep away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone” (ASV).





## I Kings 14

“<sup>11</sup>Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken it.”



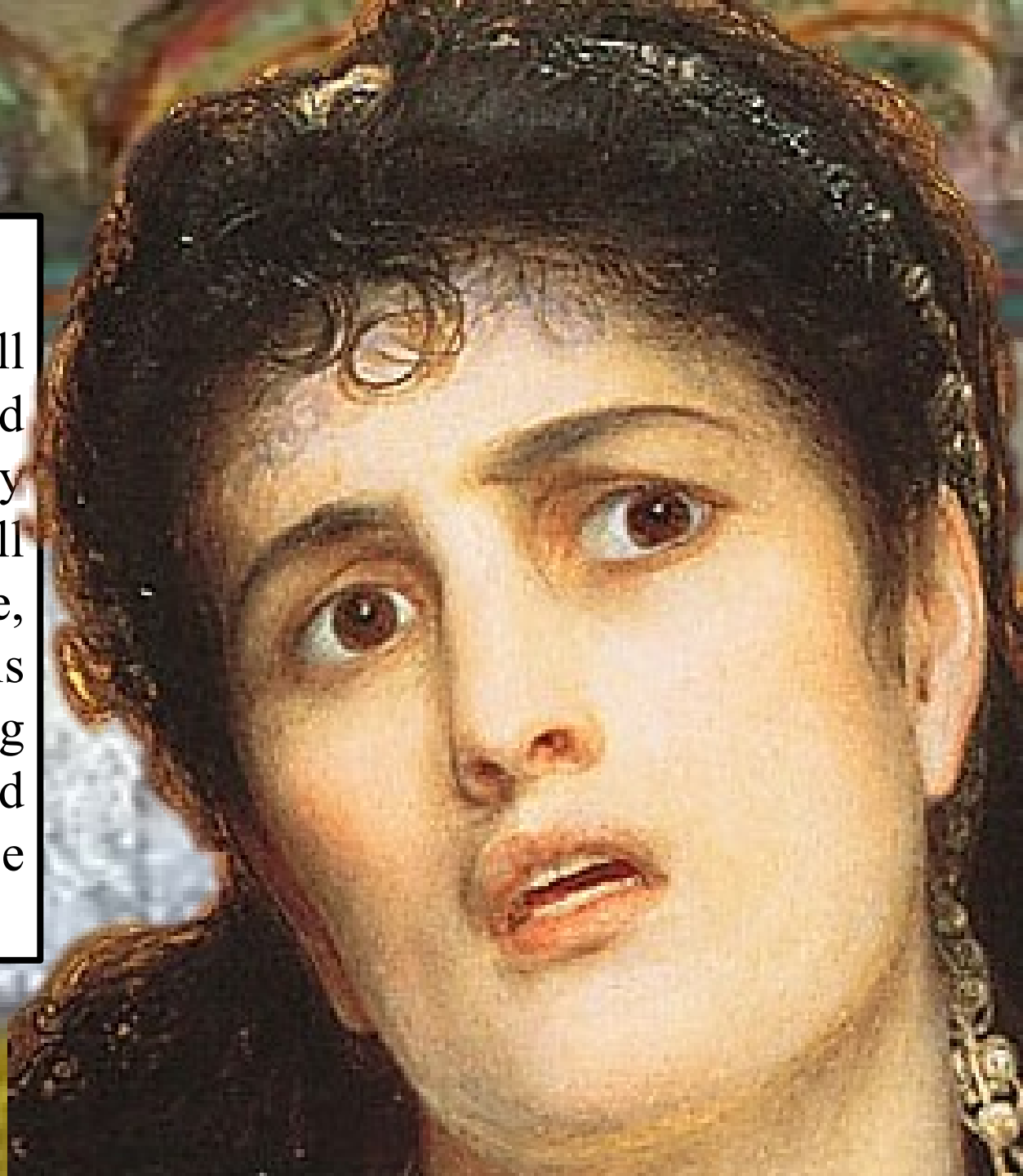
I Kings 14

“<sup>12</sup>Arise thou therefore,  
get thee to thine own  
house: and when thy  
feet enter into the city,  
the child shall die.”



## I Kings 14

“<sup>13</sup>And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.”





## I Kings 14

“<sup>14</sup>Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now.”

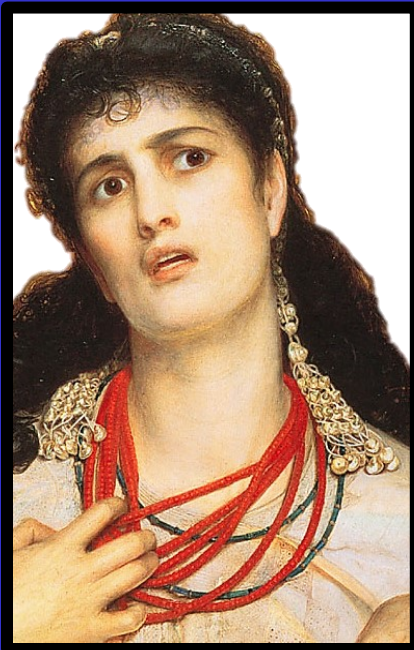




## I Kings 14

“<sup>15</sup>For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.

<sup>16</sup>And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.”



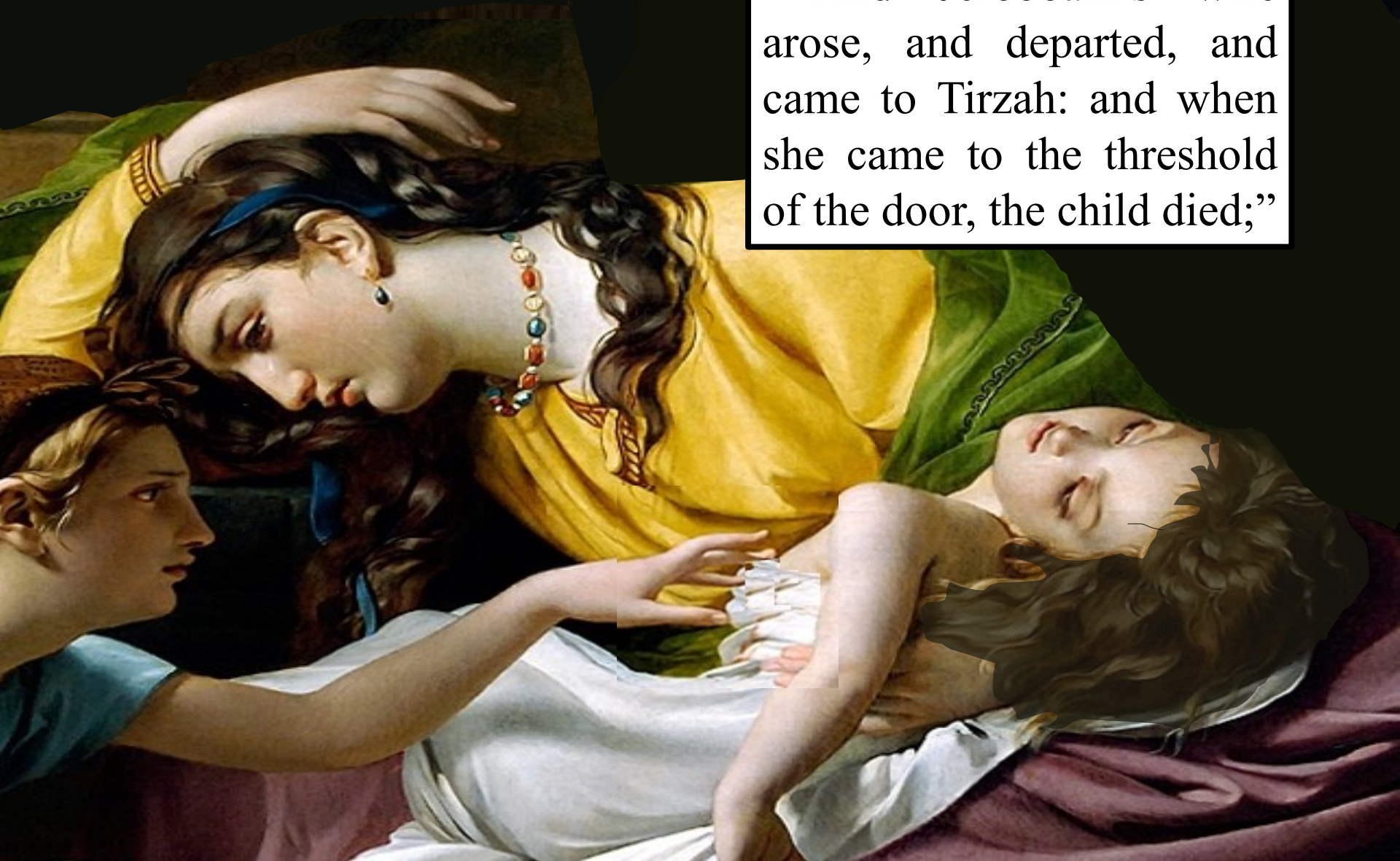
The queen's response to the words of God's prophet Ahijah is not elaborated upon.

I Kings 14:17 says simply that she left and went home to Tirzah (the capital of Israel during the latter part of Jeroboam's reign.)



## I Kings 14

“<sup>17</sup>And Jeroboam’s wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;”



## I Kings 14

“<sup>18</sup>And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.”





## I Kings 14

“<sup>19</sup>And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

<sup>20</sup>And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.”

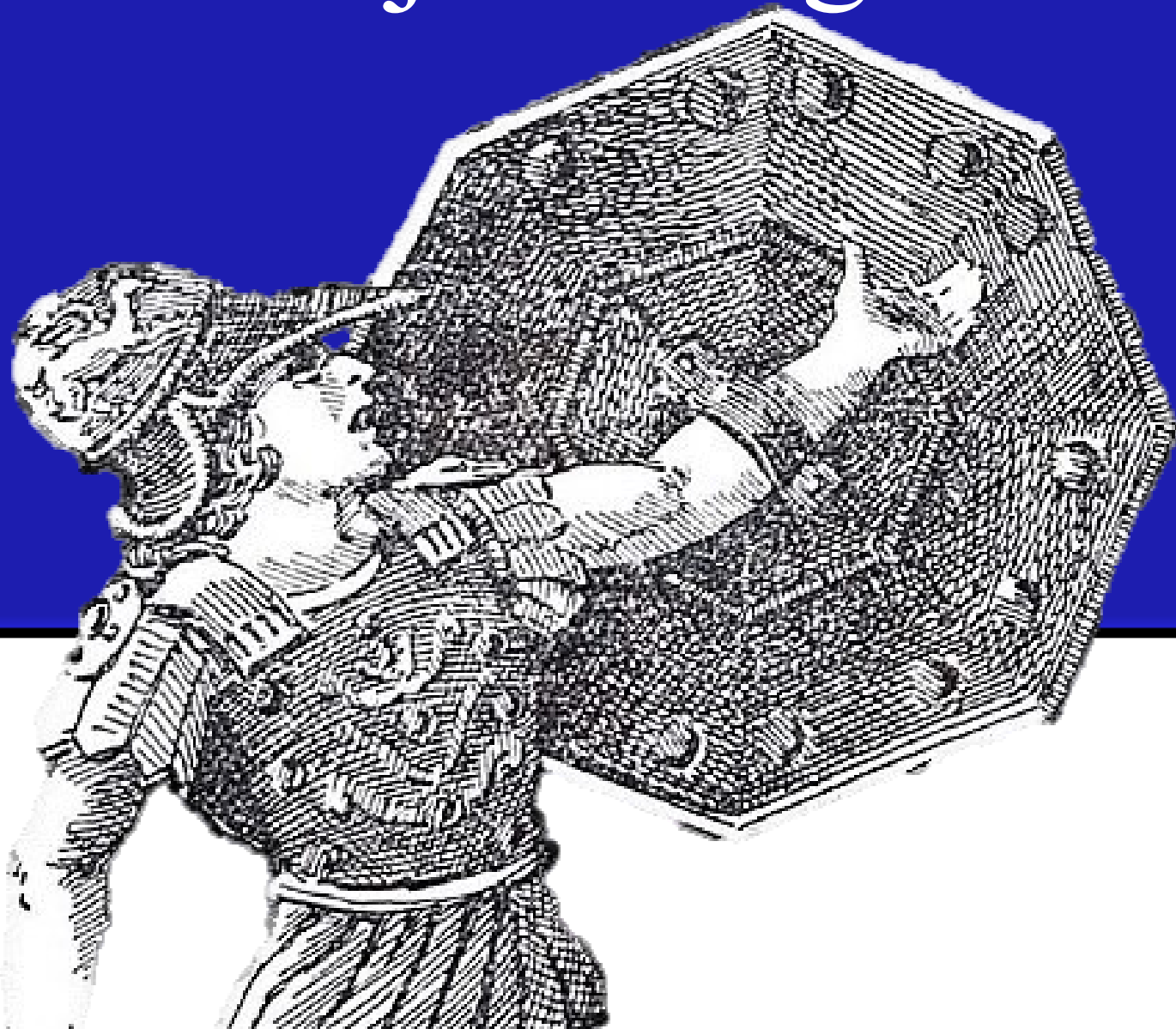


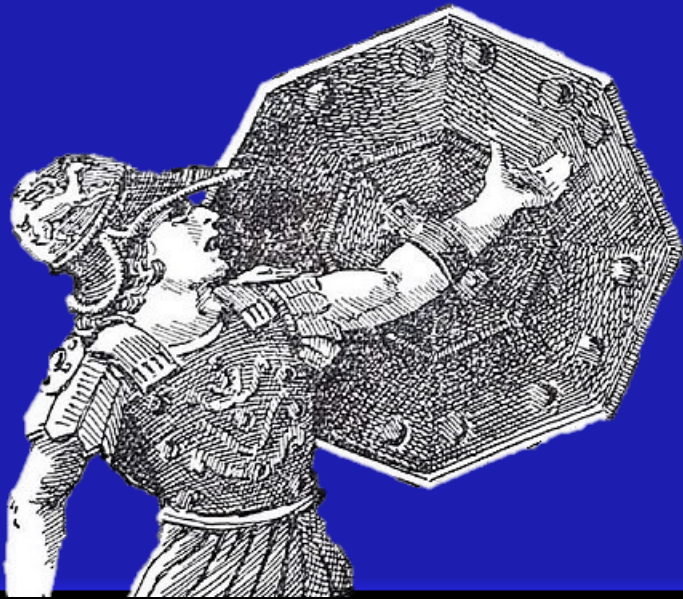
The rest of Ahijah's prophecy would occur over time and not all of it in Jeroboam's lifetime. He continued his reign over Israel, and his worship of idols, and constant wars with Judah (I Kings 14:30).





# Abijah King of Judah





In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of **Jeroboam's** reign **Rehoboam** King of Judah died and his son **Abijah** became king (II Chronicles 13:1).

### KINGS OF ISRAEL

<b>Jeroboam</b>	<b>975-954</b>
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897
Joram	896
Jehu	884
Jehoahaz	856
Joash	841
Jeroboam II	825
Zechariah	773
Shallum	772
Menahem	772
Pekahiah	762-760
Pekah	760-740
Hoshea	730-721

### KINGS OF JUDAH

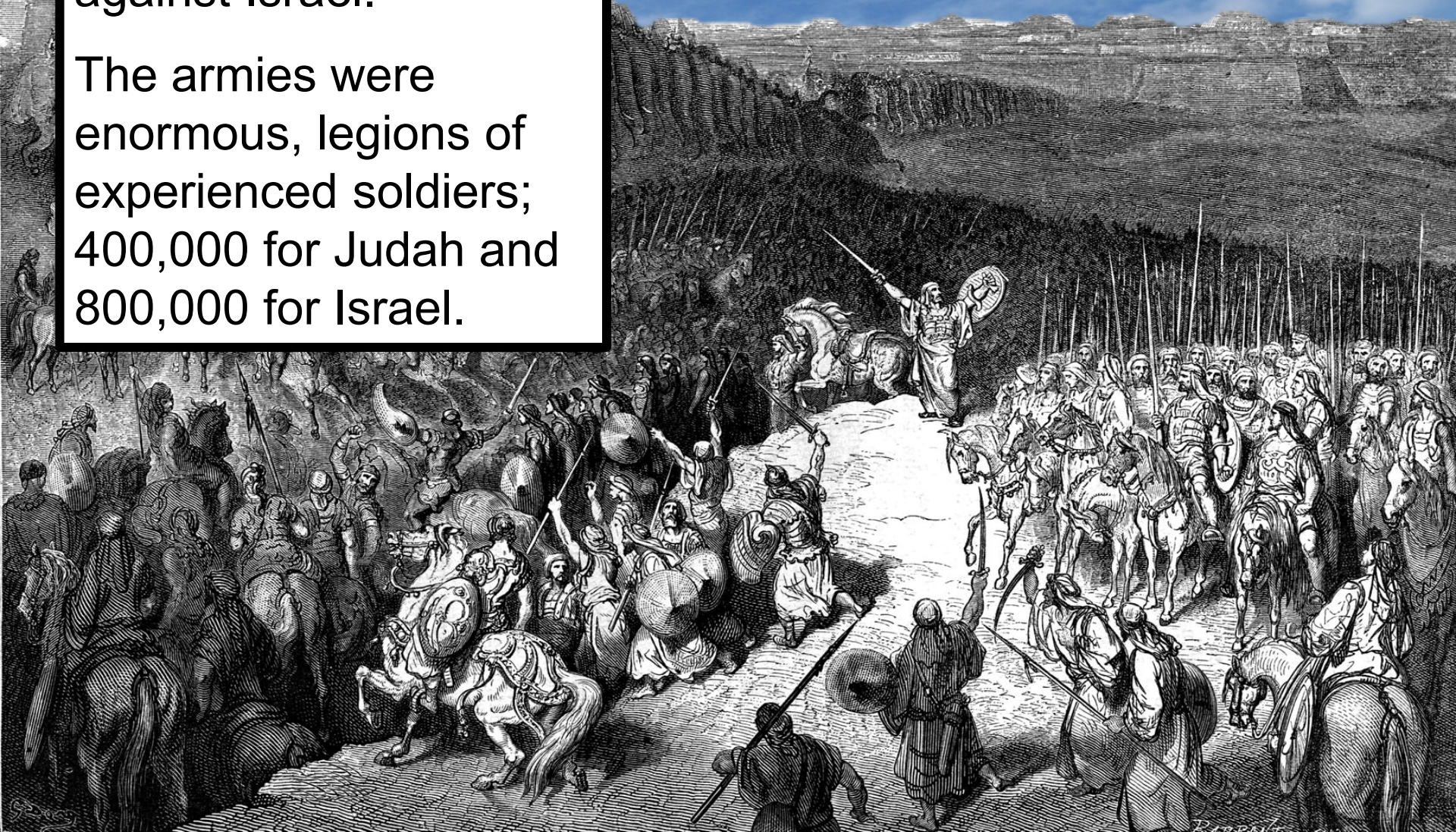
<b>Rehoboam</b>	<b>975-958</b>
<b>Abijah</b>	<b>958-955</b>
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Jehoiachaz	885
Jehoiakim	885-878
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-588

**Abijah** is sometimes referred to as **Abijam** in the Scriptures. This lesson will refer to him as **Abijah**.

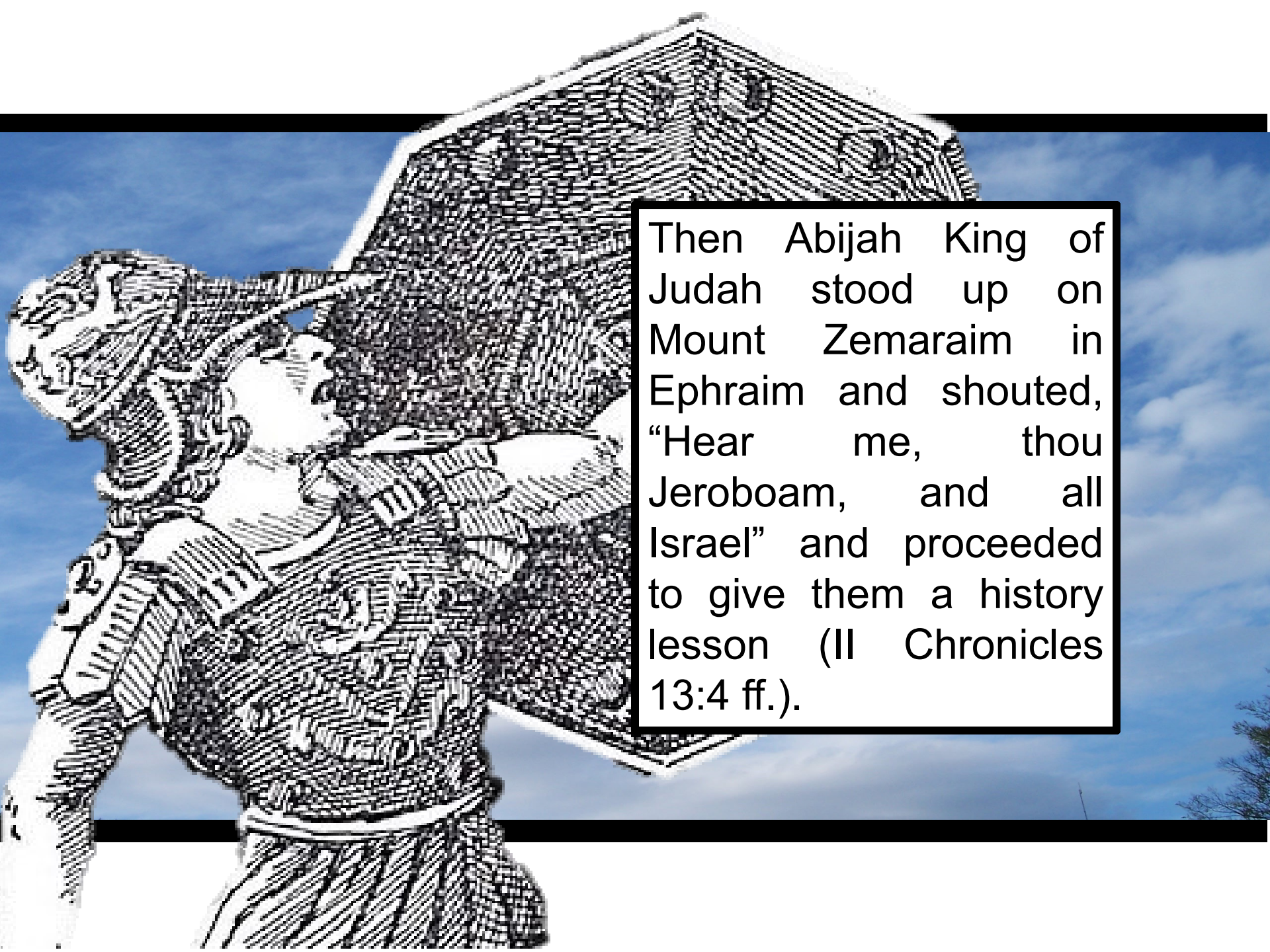


Abijah began his reign by assembling for battle against Israel.

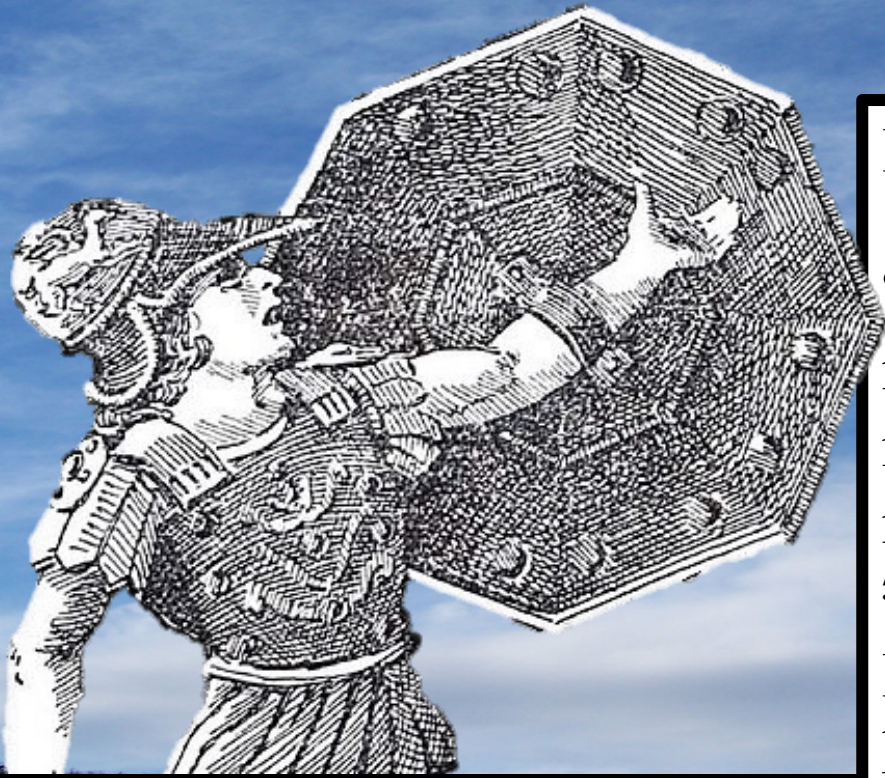
The armies were enormous, legions of experienced soldiers; 400,000 for Judah and 800,000 for Israel.







Then Abijah King of Judah stood up on Mount Zemaraim in Ephraim and shouted, “Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel” and proceeded to give them a history lesson (II Chronicles 13:4 ff.).



## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>4</sup>And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel;  
<sup>5</sup> Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?”

<sup>6</sup>Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord.”

### “A covenant of salt”

A lasting covenant . . . a covenant made by sacrifice, which was always salted.



**Abijah omitted a lot between these two verses!** Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was forbidden to reign over a united kingdom. God gave ten tribes to Jeroboam as retribution "from the Lord" (I Kings 12:15).





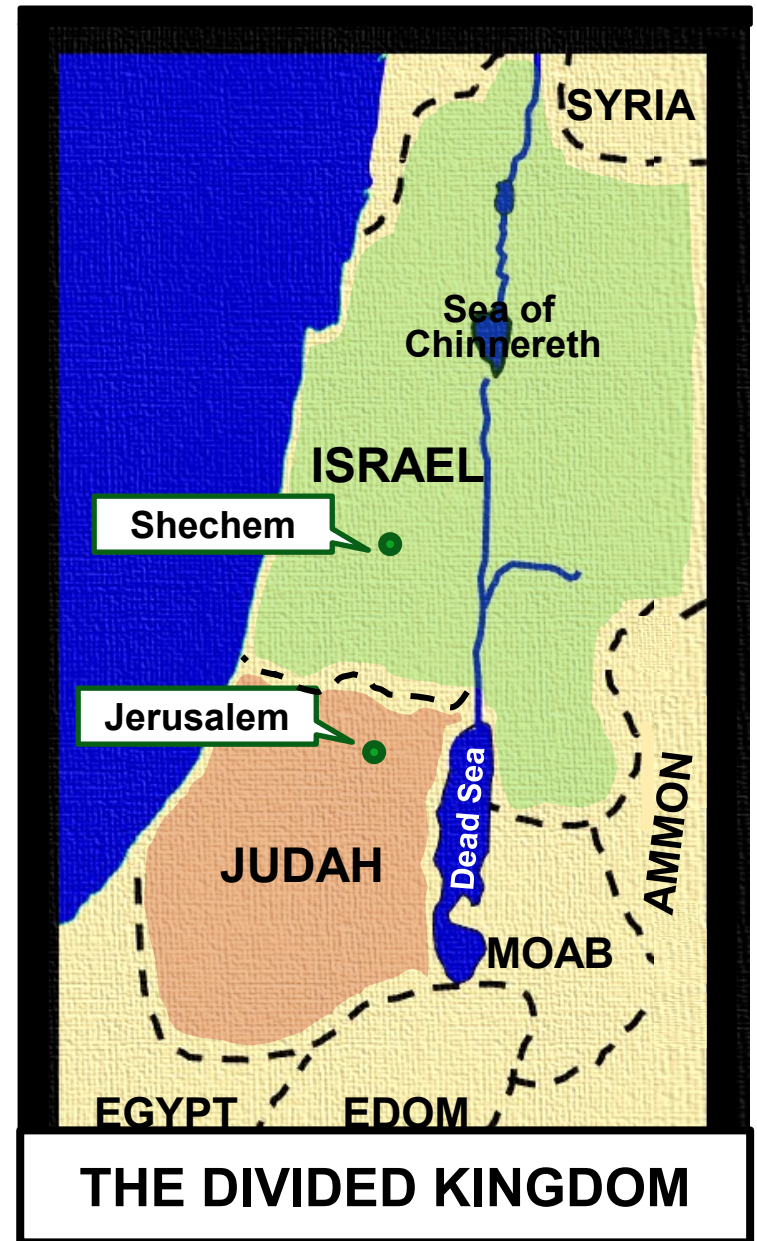


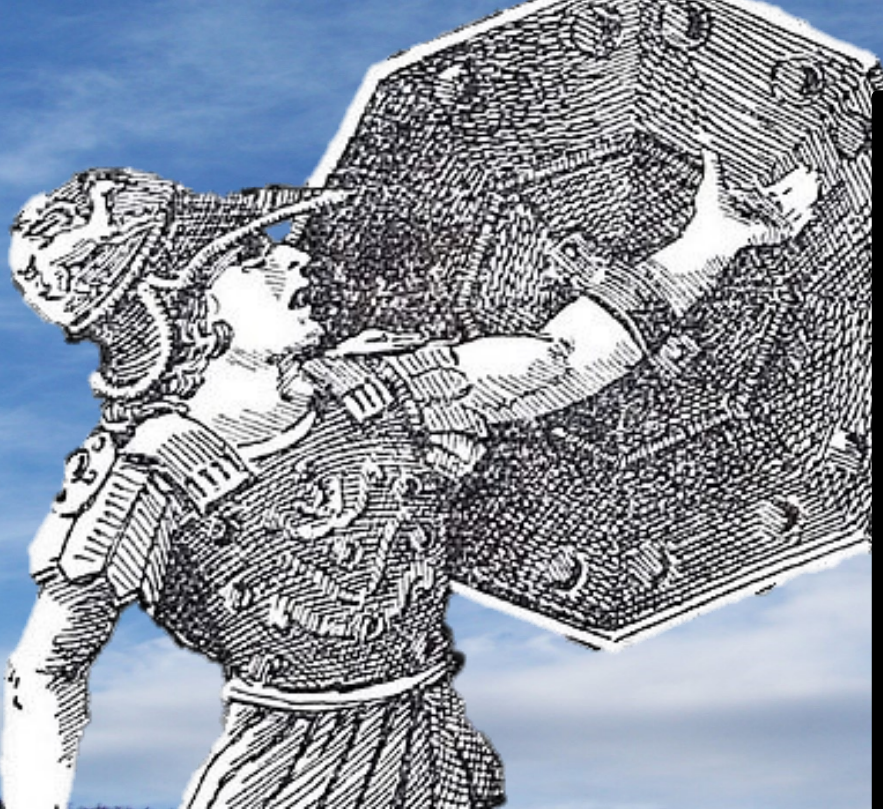
Jeroboam  
Solomon's servant



Rehoboam  
Solomon's son

The consequence of Solomon's sin of idolatry was that Rehoboam and Jeroboam would rule over a divided kingdom much to the dismay of Rehoboam and his descendants.





## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>7</sup>And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial [a name for the devil], and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them.

<sup>8</sup>And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with your golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.”

Abijah is hypocritical in pointing out Jeroboam's idolatry for his father, Rehoboam, had been equally devoted to idols.





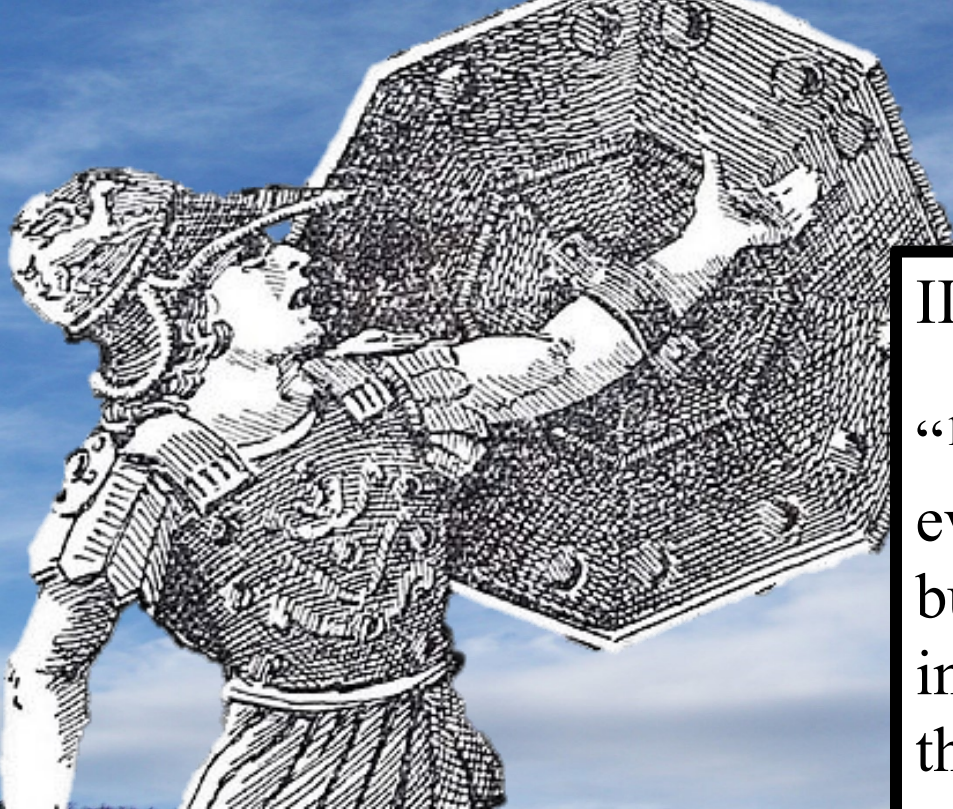
## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>9</sup>Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.

<sup>10</sup>But as for us, the LORD is our God, and **we have not forsaken him**; and the priests, which minister unto the Lord, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business:”

Abijah is correct in his recall of history in verse 9, but verse 10 is an outright lie.

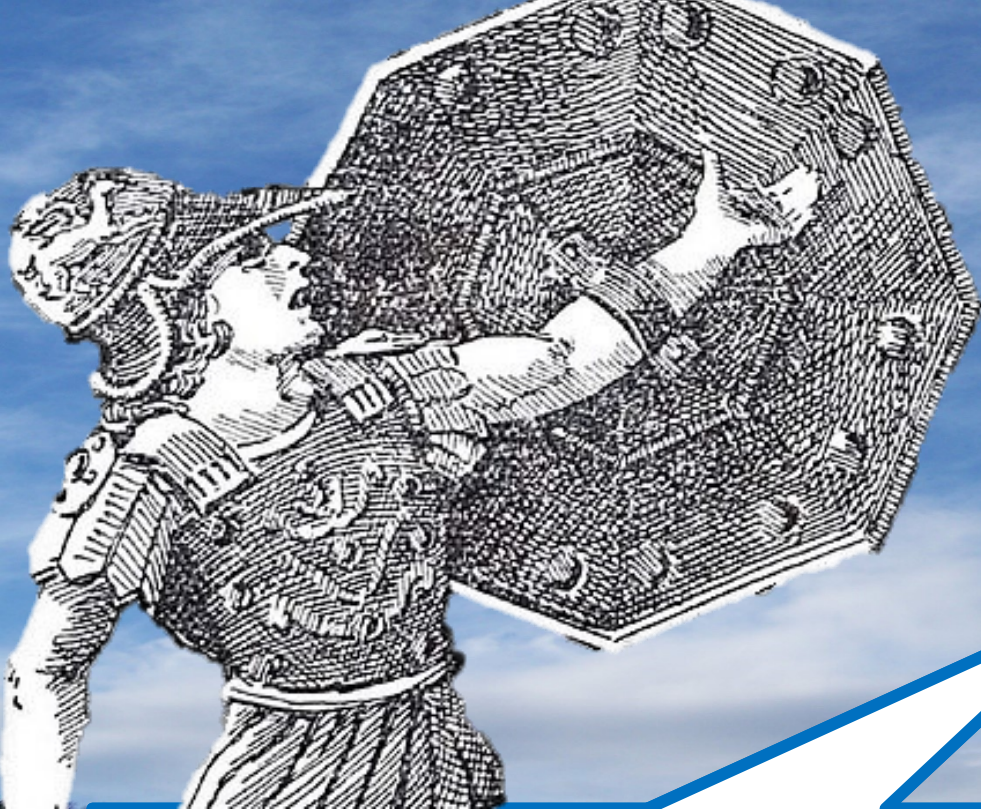




## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>11</sup>And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the Lord our God; but ye have forsaken him.”

Yes, Levitical priests still offered sacrifices in the temple, BUT the land of Judah also condoned idol worship.



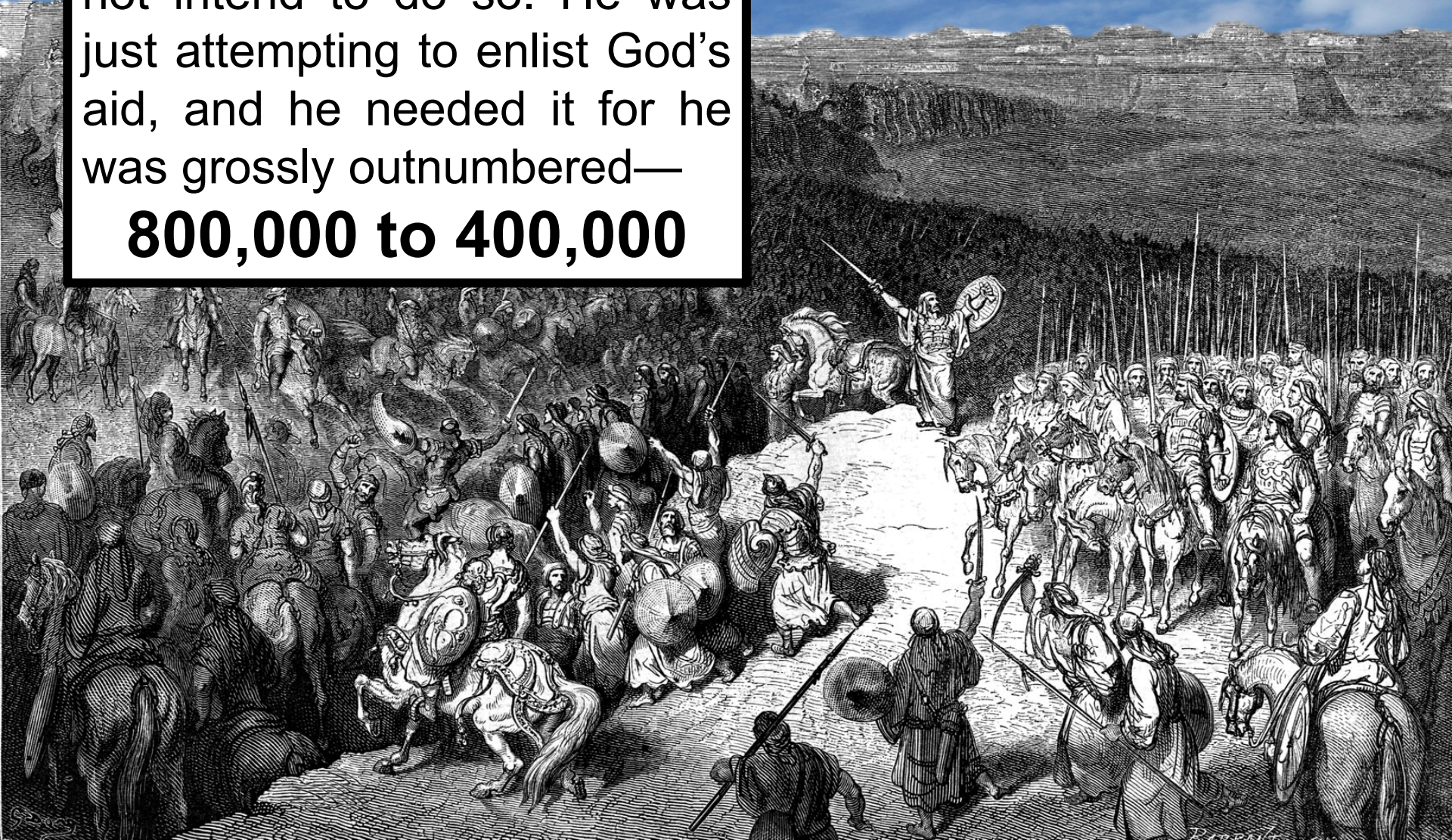
## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>12</sup>And, behold, God himself is with us for **our captain**, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.”

King Abijah made the claim that God was with him and that God was his “**captain**” though the text does not indicate God had communicated with Abijah by a prophet, an angel, in a dream, or in any other way.

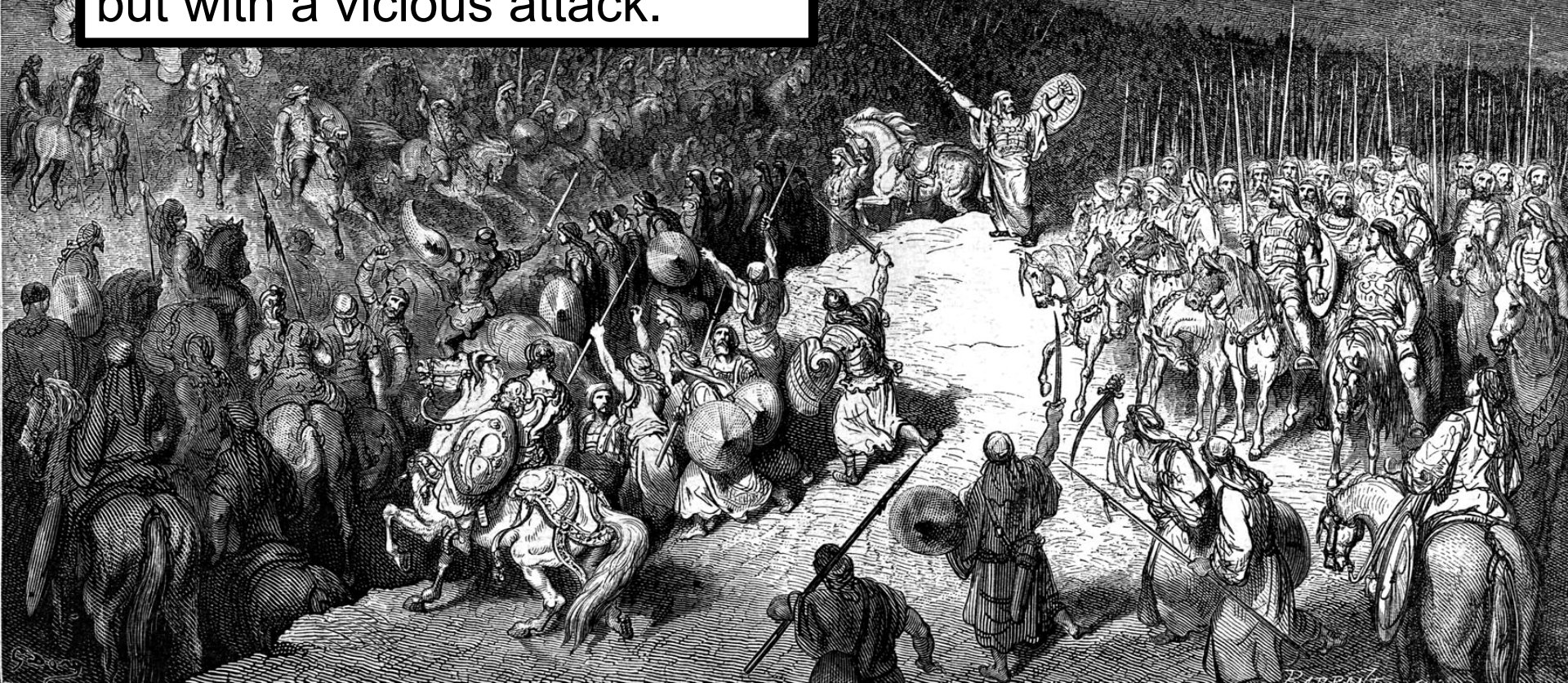


Abijah had not cleansed the land of idol worship and did not intend to do so. He was just attempting to enlist God's aid, and he needed it for he was grossly outnumbered—  
**800,000 to 400,000**





King Jeroboam answered Abijah's railing not with words but with a vicious attack.







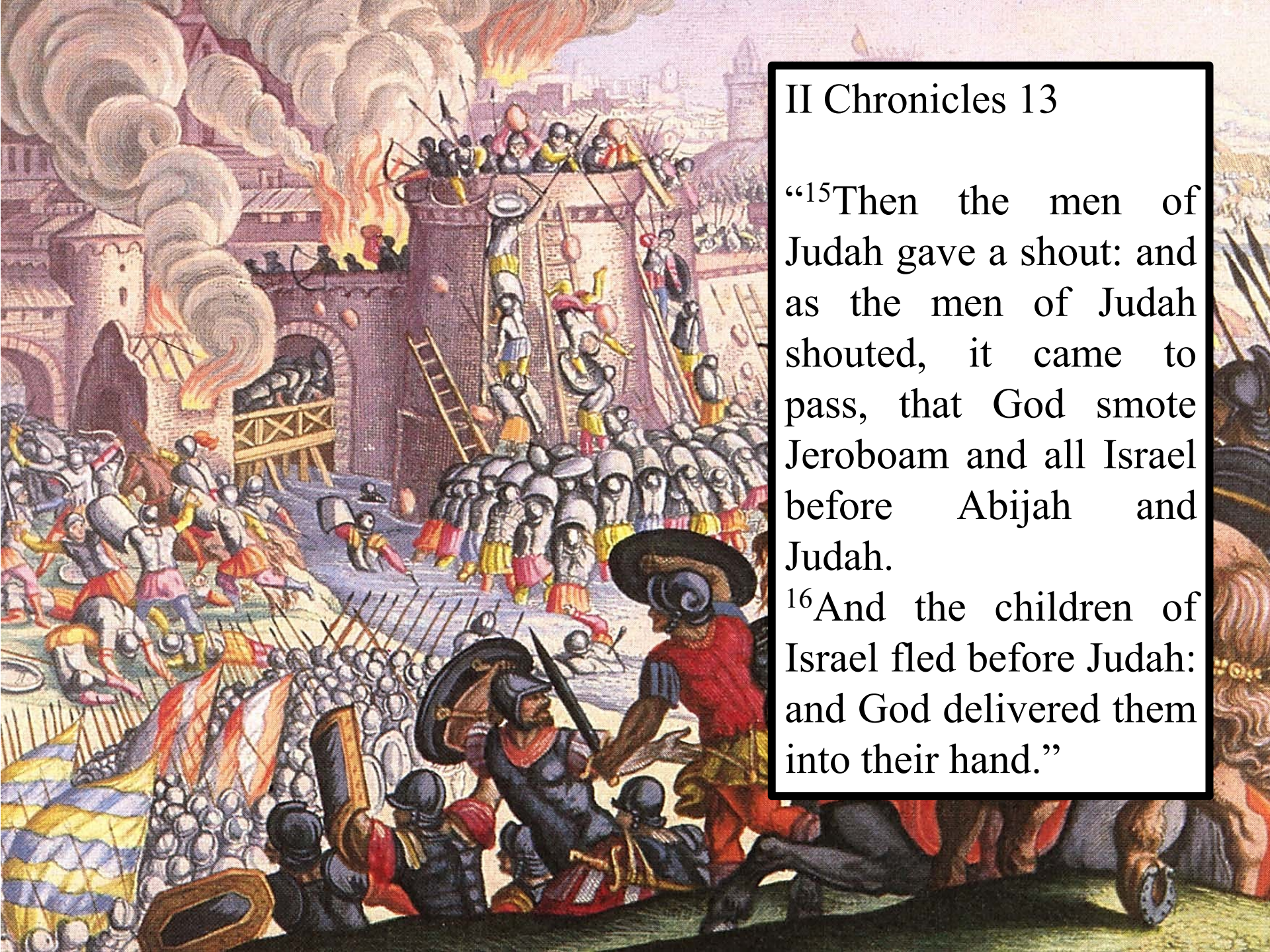
## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>13</sup>But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them.

<sup>14</sup>And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the Lord, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.”

If a treaty with Israel was what Abijah King of Judah had in mind by his chastising speech he had judged wrongly.



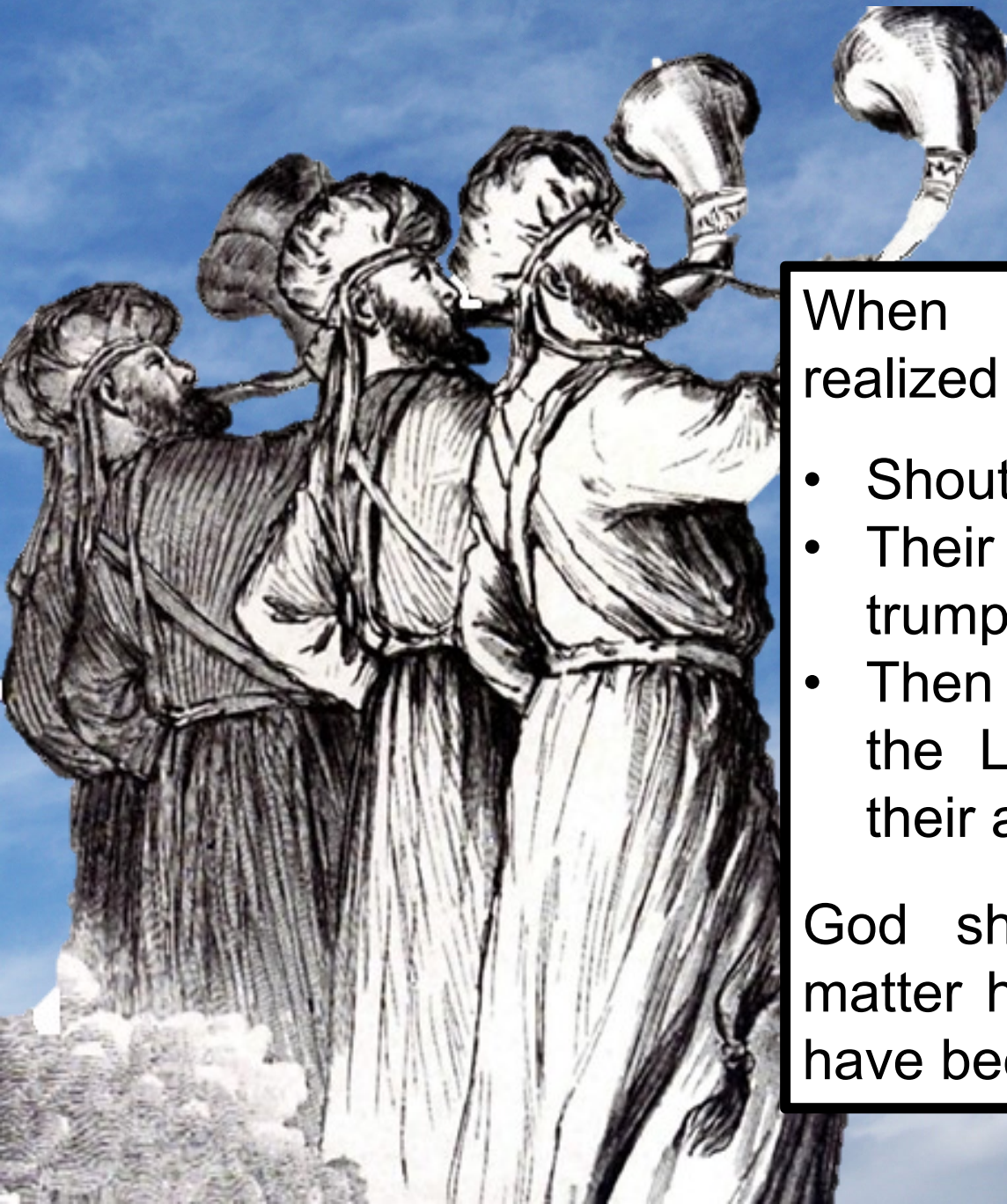


## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>15</sup>Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

<sup>16</sup>And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.”



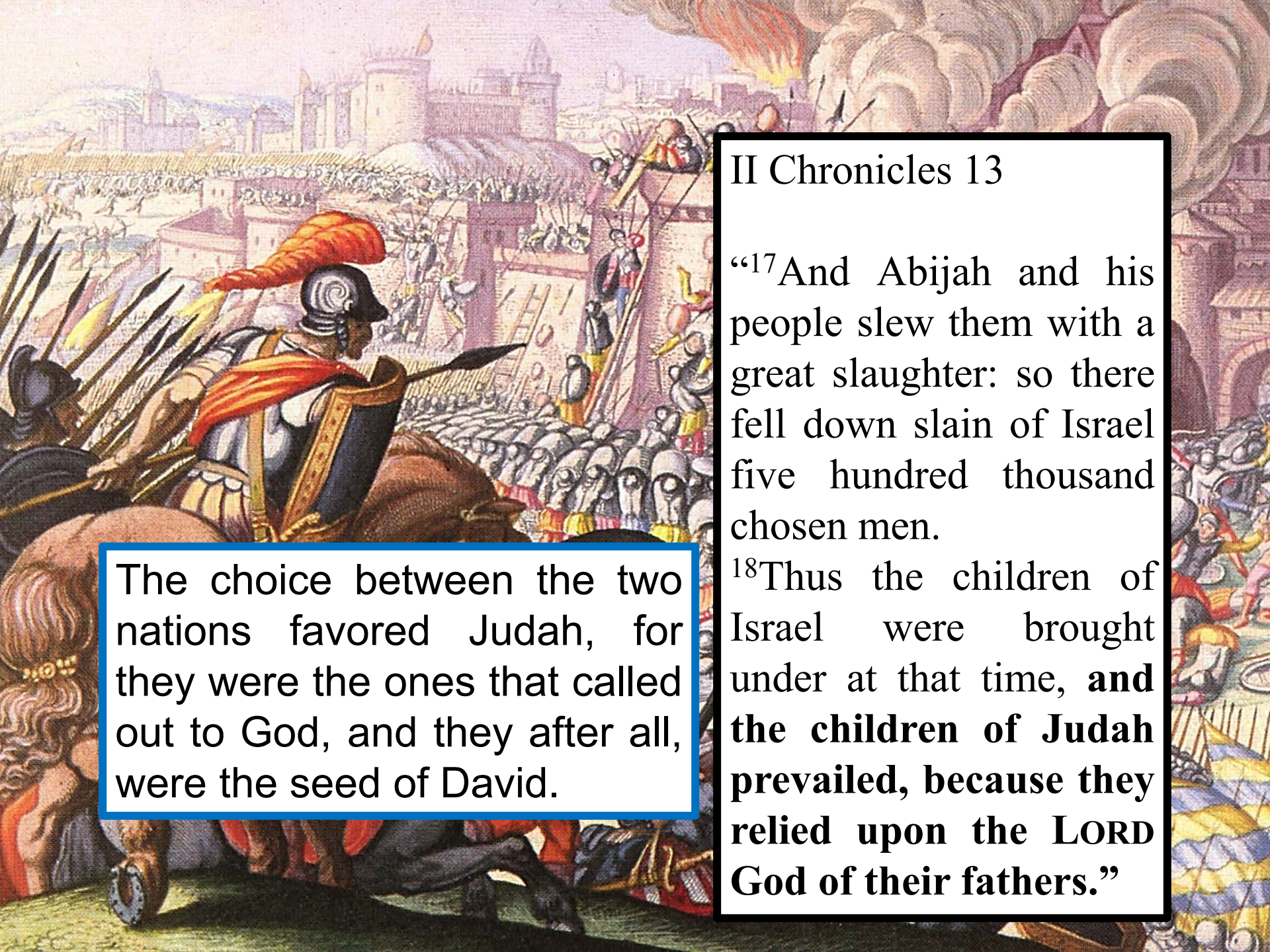


When the army of Judah realized it was surrounded they

- Shouted to the Lord
- Their priests blew their trumpets
- Then they shouted again to the Lord, and he came to their aid.

God showed His mercy no matter how undeserved it may have been.





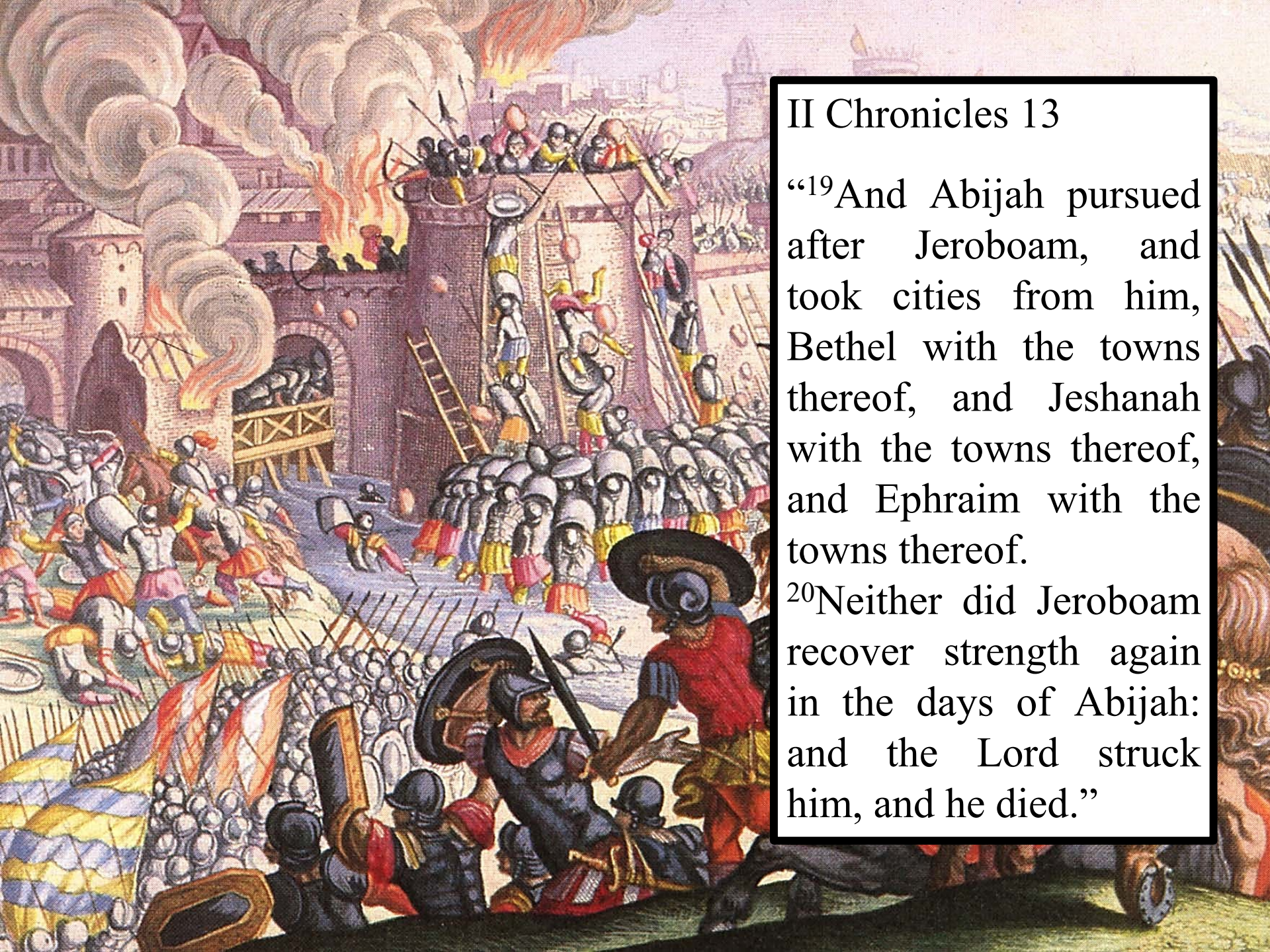
The choice between the two nations favored Judah, for they were the ones that called out to God, and they after all, were the seed of David.

## II Chronicles 13

“<sup>17</sup>And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.

<sup>18</sup>Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, **and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.”**





## II Chronicles 13

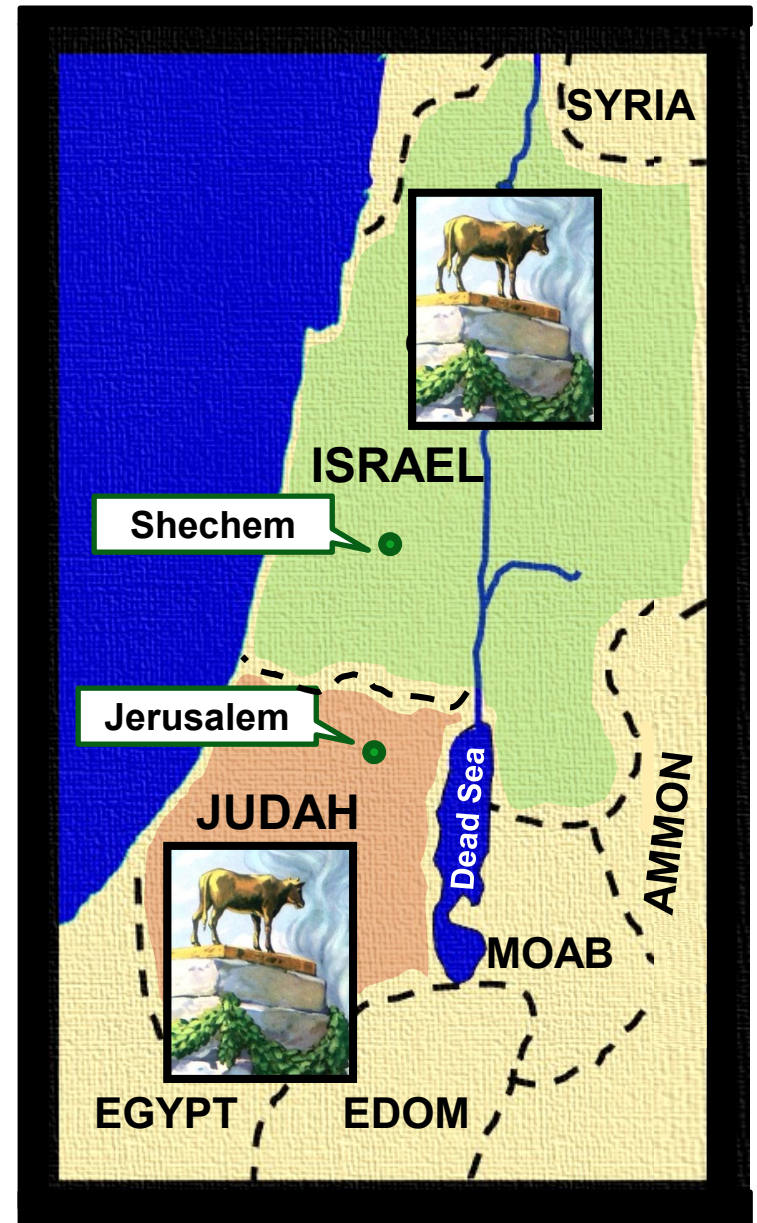
“<sup>19</sup>And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

<sup>20</sup>Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the Lord struck him, and he died.”



II Chronicles does not mention Abijah ridding the land of false gods and immorality before this event or after.

In fact, when his son, Asa, took the throne there were idols, groves, high places, and sodomites that Abijah had been content to allow in the land of Judah.







## II Chronicles 13

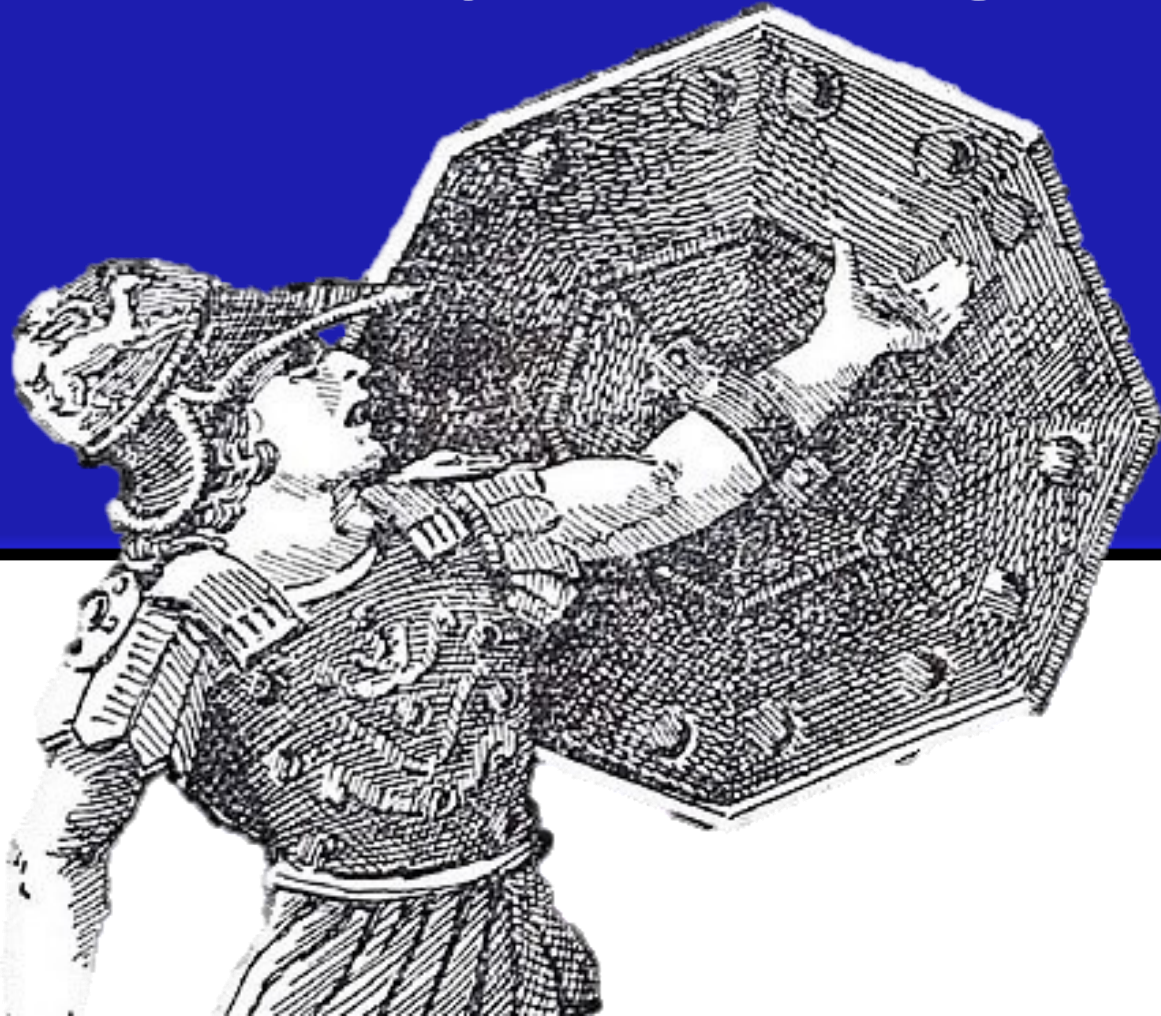
“<sup>21</sup>But Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives, and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters.

<sup>22</sup>And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo.”

*NOTE: The prophet Iddo wrote a book of history. The existence of his book is known only by the Bible referring to it (II Chronicles 12:15).*



# The End of the Story of Abijah King of Judah



**THE END**