

June 23 Answers

- 1) The reign of Rehoboam and his son Abijah. Rehoboam remained faithful to God for **three** years after Solomon's death, but when his rule "was established and he was **strong**, he abandoned the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him" (2 Chr 12:1). This teaches us that strength and prosperity can often lead to **pride**. It also shows us how **quickly** a peaceful and wealthy kingdom can be undone by sin. Just **five** years after Solomon died, the temple and palace were ransacked by **Shishak** of Egypt. God told Rehoboam, "You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you to the hand of Shishak" (2 Chr 12:5). But Rehoboam did something his own father would not do—he **humbled** himself and confessed his sin. When he did, God had mercy on him and did not destroy Judah. This teaches us the importance of **repentance**, for there is always grace for those who humble themselves under God's mighty hand (1 Pet 5:6). Rehoboam's son **Abijah** repeated his father's mistake. He started well, and God gave him victory over his rival Jeroboam, but after he became powerful (2 Chr 13:21), he forsook God and "walked in all the sins that his father did before him" (1 Kgs 15:3). How tragic that we so often put our trust in what we have been **given** rather than in God, the great Giver.