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The Rest of the Story

You may remember the radio segments by Paul Harvey entitled *The Rest of the Story*. That phrase reflects well on how Christians should read their bibles. Don't just read a small portion and then come to some premature conclusions.

This morning I was reading through a section on Judah's King Abijah (a.k.a. Abijam), the son of Rehoboam. In his very active and short three-year rule, he was clearly a Yahwehist (a formal follower of the religion of YHWH). In 2 Chronicles 13:4-12, Abijah really preaches up a storm from his hilltop *pulpit* against Israel's having forsaken the true God and how Judah had stayed faithful and how God was therefore with him and Judah, but against Israel. He really lays them out in his exuberant *sermon*. From that text you might think that Abijah was well favored by God because he was righteous. It may appear that he was wining wars because he was a godly ruler.

However, when you read 'the rest of the story' in the companion verses in I Kings, you realize that he only had a surface coating of the true religion (I Kg. 15:3-4). He was a half-baked Yahwehist.

This story is pertinent and applicable for Christians today. How well preacher King Abijah would fit in our modern all-too-typical half-hearted so-called Christian society, I fear is only too evident. That is why all the sections of Scripture are profitable to read (2 Ti. 3:16), though of course you may have your favorite sections.

Christians are primarily responsible to preach Christianity by imaging Christ, rather than by yelling at others to be 'more like themselves.' Let's term this the anti-Abijah preaching method. And let's do this sincerely, often, enthusiastically and humbly.

Direct your questions or comments regarding *Call to Prayer* series to john@sojourn-cny.com