

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
OBSERVATIONS FROM ASA'S REIGN
1 KINGS 15:8-24, 2 CHRONICLES 14-16

Introduction

Last time we were in *1 Kings 15* looking at **the reign of the righteous King Asa of Judah!**

We said his name means "*physician*" or "*Who will heal?*" We saw how that for the next 41 years, Asa began to bring healing to the nation of Judah that had been ravaged by **idolatry** and **sin** and **division** and **poor leadership!**

Asa is **the first of four kings of Judah** that we will see in our studies of the kings of Judah **that led the nation in a great revival!**

In fact, Asa was the first to do "*good and right in the eyes of the Lord*" since the time that Solomon had strayed from the LORD through his idolatry! (*1 Kings 15:11; 2 Chronicles 14:2*)

In Asa's reign, the land "*was quiet*" for the first ten years of his reign. The word "*was quiet*" means there was no war in their homeland. (*2 Chronicles 14:1, 5*)

We saw how that even though he was reared in a wicked home, Asa did not follow the evil ways of his father. (He chose to serve the LORD!)

We also saw last time how that Asa **removed the stumbling blocks of Judah. (1 Kings 15:12-14)** Those **stumbling blocks** being both **the sodomites and the idols of Abijam, Rehoboam, and all the way back to the ones erected by Solomon!**

(1 Kings 15:12)...and he even removed his own grandmother from the royal court because she had made an idol in a grove. (*Vs 13*)

The things he removed were all factors that had led to the corruption of the nation of Judah! Asa's reform began with his own family. Asa knew if the royal court was corrupt, then that is where he had to begin to make changes!

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Asa knew that **to have the blessing of the LORD, he had to remove that which was offensive to God**—So he did!

Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days. (1 Kings 15:14)

I. WE SEE ASA'S COMMAND TO SEEK THE LORD GOD! (2 Chronicles 14:4)

Not only did Asa remove the stumbling blocks, **he called on the nation of Judah to seek the LORD God once again and to do the law and the commandments of the LORD!**

It is not enough alone to rid ourselves of the things that are wrong in our lives, but we must replace those things with that which is right!

A failure to do so can lead to a relapse into the things of old because of the void that is left in one's soul!

(e.g. Matthew 12:43-45)

Jesus was describing here the attitude of the nation of Israel in His day and particularly the attitude of the religious leaders! An effort to clean up one's life outwardly apart from filling that void with God leaves plenty of room for Satan to continue to work and make things worse than they were before!

Yes, the LORD wants His people to rid themselves of the stumbling blocks that bring forth sin and disobedience! There's no question about that! But understand that those **stumbling blocks need to be replaced with a right relationship with the LORD!**

There needs to be a seeking of the LORD anew as well as a desire and effort to be obedient to the things the LORD would have us to do!

Now understand that **the King ordered the nation to seek the LORD once again, but that is something that must take place in the heart!**

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**An outward obedience is good, but it is not adequate alone!
There must be MORE than an outward show of right...the LORD
wants us to do right from the heart!**

**II. WE SEE THE RESULTS OF SEEKING THE LORD GOD WAS
PEACE! (2 Chronicles 14:5-7)**

A. The Kingdom Was Quiet Before Him! (Vs 5)
There was no inner strife or division within the kingdom from those he ruled!

B. The Land Had Rest For A Period Of Time! (Vs 1, 6)
There was invasion or breach of the borders of Judah from enemies outside the kingdom without!

C. The LORD Allowed Them To Prepare! (Vs 7-8)
Times of peace aren't for us to get lazy and do nothing!

**No, times of peace and rest are times when we must
diligently prepare for the future attacks of the enemy that
we know will come!**

Our enemy is relentless!

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Ephesians 6:10-12 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

D. The LORD Allowed Them To Prosper! (Vs 7c)

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*WE SEE ASA'S COMMAND TO SEEK THE LORD...
WE SEE THE RESULTS OF SEEKING THE LORD WAS PEACE...*

**III. WE SEE A TIME OF TESTING ALLOWED BY THE LORD!
(2 Chronicles 14:8-15)**

**A. We See A Mighty Invading Force Was Approaching!
(Vs 9-10)**

Here we see a force of 1,000,000 was approaching Jerusalem. Mareshah was about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Asa and his *mighty men of valor* from both Judah and Benjamin were outnumbered!

B. We See Asa's Wise Move! (Vs 11)
Asa and Judah's only hope was in the LORD their God!

1. We See The Direction Of His Cry! (11a)
"Asa cried unto the LORD his God..."

2. We See The Confidence Of His Cry! (11b)
"LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power..."

3. We See The Plea Of His Cry! (11c)
"...help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee."

Could I tell you that our enemy is a mighty force also!

We are no match for Satan and his demons! **Our only hope as believers when we are under attack is also the LORD!**

C. We See The LORD's Mighty Victory For Judah! (Vs 12-15)

The LORD answered Asa's prayer unto Him!

The victory was primarily the LORD's victory!

The victory was also Judah's victory! (The spoils of war!)

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IV. WE SEE THE WARNING AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE MAN OF GOD TO KING ASA AND JUDAH!

(2 Chronicles 15:1-7)

A. "The LORD Is With You While Ye Be With Him..." (Vs 2b)

It just makes sense that if one's life has a Godward focus, then the blessings and direction from the LORD will abound!

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

B. "...If Ye Seek Him, He Will Be Found Of You..." (Vs 2c)

Matthew 7:7-8 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

C. "...But if Ye Forsake Him, He Will Forsake You." (Vs 2d)

When one forsake's the LORD, he can expect to have no help from the LORD when it comes to the attacks of the enemy!

Asa only needed to look back to his grandpa to see that:
2 Chronicles 12:5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

D. The Example Of Israel. (Vs 3-6)

E. The Encouragement To Judah. (Vs 7)

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V. WE SEE ASA AND THE PEOPLE'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO MESSAGE OF THE MAN OF GOD! (Vs 8-19)

A. Asa Doubled Down On Stamping Out Idolatry And He Renewed The Altar Of The LORD! (Vs 8)

Which leads one to believe that the altar of the LORD had fallen into disrepair during the time it wasn't being used!

B. The People Saw That The LORD His God Was With Him! (Vs 9)

C. The People Offered Sacrifices Of The Spoil Of The Enemy The LORD Had Blessed Them With! (Vs 10-11)

D. They Entered Into A Covenant To Seek The LORD God With All Of Their Heart And Soul! (Vs 12-15)

E. He Removed His Grandmother From Being Queen! (Vs 16)

F. The Nation Did Not Return To Idolatry In Asa's Days! (Vs 17)

G. Asa Restored Old Dedicated Things In The House Of God! (Vs 18a)

That which had been neglected.

H. Asa Dedicated Some New Things In The House Of God! (Vs 18b)

That which had been lost or stolen.

I. There Was Peace For About 20 More Years Of Asa's Reign! (Vs 19; Cf. Vs 10)

VI. WE SEE THAT ASA FORGOT THE ADMONITION OF THE MAN OF GOD! (2 CHRONICLES 16:1-6)

A. Baasha, The King Of Israel Laid Siege To And Closed Their Border With Judah! (Vs 1)

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- B. Asa Did Not Seek The LORD With This Problem! (Vs 2-6)**
Rather than seek the LORD in this problem with Baasha king of Israel, Asa formed a league with Benhadad, the heathen king of Syria. (Vs 3)

On top of that Asa paid for the help of Syria with silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD. (Vs 2)

- C. Benhadad Did What Asa Asked Him To Do, And All Appeared To Be OK To Asa! (Vs 3-6)**

It all appeared OK that is, until another man of God showed up!

VII. WE SEE ANOTHER MAN OF GOD CALL ASA OUT FOR NOT RELYING ON THE LORD! (2 Chronicles 16:7-9)

- A. This Man Of God Told Him How He Had Erred! (Vs 7)**
Relying on Syria rather than relying on the LORD!
- B. This Man Of God Reminded Him Of The Time He Had Relied On The LORD! (Vs 8)**
- C. This Man Of God Declared The Judgment From The LORD! (Vs 9)**
Wars for the rest of his reign!

VIII. WE SEE ASA'S ANGER TAKEN OUT ON THE MAN OF GOD AND OTHERS! (Vs 10)

- A. He Put The Man Of God In Prison! (Vs 10a)**
Sometimes when the man of God brings forth the Word of God and folks don't like it they will take it out on the man of God! They think their problem is with the man of God, but it is with God Himself!
- B. He Oppressed Some Of The People! (Vs 10b)**
A bad attitude toward God and/or the man of God can sometimes cause us to hurt other innocent people!

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IX. WE SEE ASA'S ATTITUDE WITH THE LORD STAYED WITH HIM TILL HIS DEATH! (Vs 11-14)

In the last two years of Asa's reign, he became greatly diseased in his feet, but he refused to seek the LORD about it!

Understand that the medicine practiced at this time was a mixture of superstition and folk remedies, not medicine as it is practiced today.

Rather than seek the LORD in his disease, he just decided to go with these so-called physicians. It appears that Asa wasn't on speaking terms with the LORD! He didn't turn to idolatry, but that previous seeking of the LORD just wasn't with him toward the end!

Reading this, one can get the idea that Asa died with some unresolved bitterness toward the LORD because of how the LORD dealt with him!

Sadly, some people do get bitter at the LORD when things don't go their way! And even sadder is that they die in that condition!

To be bitter against THE ONE Who alone could truly help him was not real bright on Asa's part! And when we do the same in our life it is not real bright on our part!

Don't go to your grave with bitterness...especially bitterness against the LORD!