



**King Asa – Finish Well  
2 Chronicles 14-16**

**Commitment to God (2 Chronicles 14)**

Asa inherited a kingdom at peace. Therefore, he turned his attention to religious reforms and building fortified cities. He removed altars and high places. He shattered sacred pillars and chopped down Asherah poles. He told the people to seek God and obey God's commands. Asa's commitment to God was evident when he faced a test of his faith. Zerah the Cushite had a large army twice the size of Asa's. Zerah also had chariots while Asa had none. When Asa came to the battlefield, he prayed to God and declared his dependence on God. Because of Asa's faith, God routed Zerah and his army. Asa and his army were also able to plunder many cities before they returned to Jerusalem. *Have you ever trusted Christ as your Savior? Do you still have the joy, and commitment you had when you were a new Christian?*

**Renewal with God (2 Chronicles 15)**

The prophet Azariah encouraged Asa because of his faithfulness to God. He said, "But as for you, be strong; don't give up, for your work has a reward." With this encouragement, Asa reformed Judah even more. He removed more idols, restored the altar in front of the temple, removed his grandmother from being queen mother because she had made an idol, and brought his and his father's consecrated gifts of silver, gold, and utensils into the temple. He also gathered the people in Jerusalem to make a commitment to "seek the LORD God of their ancestors with all their heart and all their soul." *Even though the nation had already been doing well spiritually, it needed more commitment and reform. Is your spiritual life similar? Will you renew your commitment to seek God with all your heart and soul?*

**Turning from God (2 Chronicles 16)**

For 35 years Asa had been a King who did what was good and right in the sight of God. Yet, he didn't finish well. When he faced another international crisis, instead of trusting God as he had years before, he trusted in a military alliance. Baasha the King of Israel provoked Asa by fortifying Ramah which was only six miles north of Jerusalem. Asa went to the King of Aram and offered him money if he would break his treaty with Baasha and attack Israel. The King of Aram successfully attacked, and Asa used the timber and stones from Ramah to build two other fortresses. Everyone was pleased with the results except God. The prophet Hanani came to Asa and told him if he had trusted God, God would have not only defeated Baasha but also Aram. Since he didn't trust God, the rest of his reign would be plagued with war. Asa imprisoned Hanani and persecuted others and refused to repent. Even when Asa had a foot disease he refused to return to God. It seems his life ended in rebellion against God, in misery, and without peace. *Living for God is a daily commitment. We are commanded to endure and finish well. What do you need to do today to continue running the race well?*