

THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY

JULY 3RD, 2022 |

• KINGS & CHRONICLES •

| GLEN BARNES

First
THURSDAY

KING ASA: HOW TO HANDLE SUCCESS

“

*Adversity has slain her thousand,
but prosperity her ten thousand.*

- Thomas Brooks

”

“

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

~ KING SOLOMON, PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NIV)

KING ASA'S FIRST THIRTY SIX YEARS

TRUSTED THE LORD AND GOD GRANTS JUDAH *Peace and Success*.

“ When Abijah died, he was buried in the City of David. Then his son Asa became the next king. There was peace in the land for ten years. ² Asa did what was pleasing and good in the sight of the Lord his God. ³ He removed the foreign altars and the pagan shrines. He smashed the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles. ⁴ He commanded the people of Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his law and his commands. ⁵ Asa also removed the pagan shrines, as well as the incense altars from every one of Judah's towns. So Asa's kingdom enjoyed a period of peace. ⁶ During those peaceful years, he was able to build up the fortified towns throughout Judah. No one tried to make war against him at this time, for the Lord was giving him rest from his enemies.”

~ 2 CHRONICLES 14:1-6 (NLT)

ASA *Destroys the Idols* AND PAGAN SHRINES
THAT COMPETE WITH THE TRUE GOD.

CHALLENGE FROM ZERAH THE CUSHITE

ASA'S ARMY: 300,000 (Judah)
280,000 (Benjamin)

ETHIOPIAN ARMY: 1,000,000 (1,000 x 1,000)
300 Chariots

“

He even deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah. Asa cut it down and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

”

1 Kings 15:13

KING ASA'S BEAUTIFUL PRAYER:

“ Then Asa cried out to the Lord his God, 'O Lord, no one but you can help the powerless against the mighty! Help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in you alone. It is in your name that we have come against this vast horde. O Lord, you are our God; do not let mere men prevail against you!'"

~ 2 CHRONICLES 14:11 (NLT)

SUMMARY OF ASA'S FIRST THIRTY SIX YEARS

“ 'Listen to me, Asa!' he shouted. 'Listen, all you people of Judah and Benjamin! The Lord will stay with you as long as you stay with him! Whenever you seek him, you will find him. But if you abandon him, he will abandon you.'"

~ 2 CHRONICLES 15:2 (NLT)

KING ASA'S NEXT FIVE YEARS

NORTHERN KINGDOM, ISRAEL, INVADES JUDAH.

INSTEAD OF TRUSTING IN GOD, ASA TAKES TREASURE FROM THE TEMPLE AND MAKES A TREATY WITH PAGAN KING OF ARAM.

ASA'S PLAN WORKS ... BUT IT *Dishonors God*.

“ Because you have put your trust in the king of Aram instead of in the Lord your God, you missed your chance to destroy the army of the king of Aram. Don't you remember what happened to the Ethiopians and Libyans and their vast army, with all of their chariots and charioteers? At that time you relied on the Lord, and he handed them over to you.

The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.”

~ 2 CHRONICLES 16:7-9 (NLT)

“ The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man. ”

- DL Moody

THE SAD ENDING TO KING ASA'S STORY

“ The rest of the events of Asa's reign, from beginning to end, are recorded in The Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. ¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a serious foot disease. Yet even with the severity of his disease, he did not seek the Lord's help but turned only to his physicians. ¹³ So he died in the forty-first year of his reign. ¹⁴ He was buried in the tomb he had carved out for himself in the City of David. He was laid on a bed perfumed with sweet spices and fragrant ointments, and the people built a huge funeral fire in his honor.”

~ 2 CHRONICLES 16:11-14 (NLT)

ASA STOPPED WALKING WITH GOD AND DIES WITH BAD FEET.

DISCUSSION Questions:

- 1- Is there a story you can think of about someone, or something, that started well but did not end well?
- 2- Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-6. Asa is set apart as a good king because of the way he gets rid of the Idols of his time. What would you say are some of the biggest Idols in 2022?
- 3- What do you think it means to destroy the idols in our life?
- 4- Read Asa's prayer before he goes into battle with the Ethiopian Army in 2 Chronicles 14:11. What do you like about this prayer?
- 5- Read 2 Chronicles 15:2. How do you interpret this promise that when you seek God he will be found and be with you? Is this always true?
- 6- Skim 2 Chronicles 16:1-10. Is it surprising to you after all that Asa has been through in his first 36 years as king that he stops trusting in God for his final 5 years? Why or why not?
- 7- Read 2 Chronicles 16:9. In what ways does this verse inspire, comfort or challenge you?

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



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