

THE GOD GAP

FINISHING STRONG



What would you like your epitaph to be?



What would you like your faith epitaph to be?



they started well but finished badly



1. Starting Well

2 Chronicles 14-15



Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. 3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. 4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his laws and commands. 5 He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him.

2 Chronicles 14:2–5

**Can you remember the last time you were
passionate about God?**

**A time where you were prepared to deal
with anything in the way of him?**



**Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said,
“LORD, there is no one like you to help the
powerless against the mighty. Help us, LORD our
God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have
come against this vast army. LORD, you are our
God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you.”
2 Chronicles 14:11**

The Spirit of God came on Azariah son of Oded. 2 He went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you ... 7 But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”

2 Chronicles 15:1–2,7

You're doing well son. Keep at it.



When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage. He removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the towns he had captured in the hills of Ephraim.

2 Chronicles 15:8

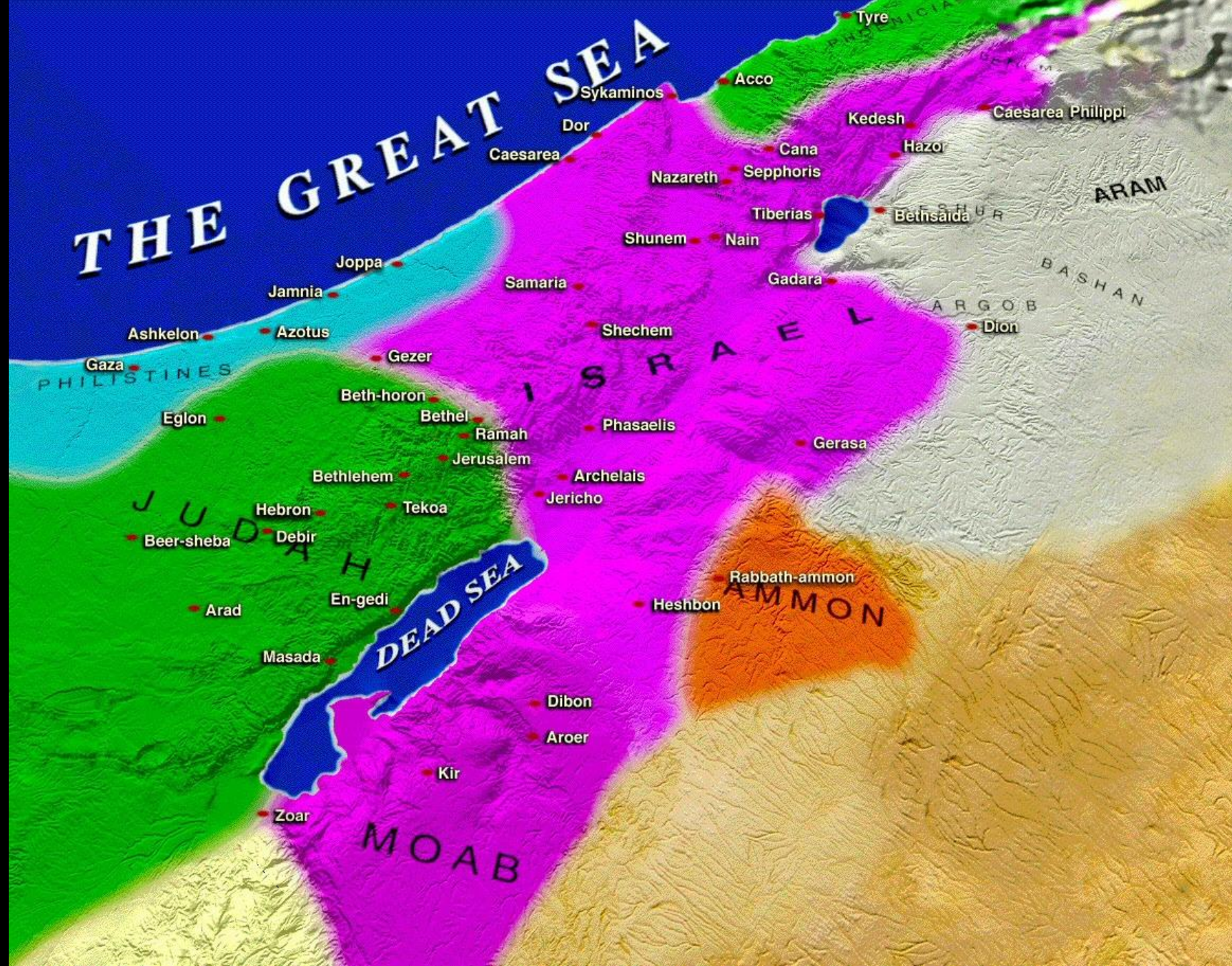
**They entered into a covenant to seek the LORD,
the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and
soul. 2 Chronicles 15:12**

They took an oath to the LORD with loud acclamation, with shouting and with trumpets and horns. 15 All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. So the LORD gave them rest on every side. 2 Chronicles 15:14–15

2. Ending Badly

2 Chronicles 16





Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the LORD's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus. 3 "Let there be a treaty between me and you," he said, "as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so he will withdraw from me."

2 Chronicles 16:2–3

Are you Asa?



**We allow our circumstances to get
between God and us, instead of putting
God between us and our circumstances.**

Mark Batterson



In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the physicians.

2 Chronicles 16:12

3. Finishing Strong

v14-15



For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. 2 Chronicles 16:9



Look here!



Come with me.

