

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Asa's Folly

(by: Jerry Fite)

After Israel was divided into two kingdoms; Asa became the third king of Judah. He was the grandson of Rehoboam, and son of Abijah. While Rehoboam reigned 17 years, and Abijah 3 years, Asa was King over Judah for 41 years (*1 Kings 14:21, 15:2, 15:10*). Unlike his father, whose heart was “not perfect with Jehovah as the heart of David... (I Kings 15:3), Asa “did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah like David...” (15:11). The land was quiet for ten years.

Asa's beginning reign was filled with reforms. He “took away the foreign altars, and the high places, and break down the pillars, and hewed down the wooden Asherim” which were structures near the altars. (*2 Chronicles 14:3*). He even removed His mother from being queen, and cut down the image she had of the Asherah, burning it at the brook Kidron (*2 Chronicles 15:16*). Asa's heart was perfect, or wholly dedicated unto God all his days in taking away the idolatrous high places, but apparently the high places were not all taken away among the people in their own practices (*2 Chronicles 15:1*).

Because of Asa's dedication unto God, “there was no more

war unto the five and thirtieth year” of his reign (*2 Chronicles 16:19*). But something changed in Asa's thirty sixth year. We do not know why, but we do know what Asa did that characterized a sad ending in his reign and life.

The circumstance of war exposed Asa regarding in whom he put his trust. When Baasha, the king of Israel, came up against Asa and Judah; Asa brought out of the house of Jehovah silver and gold and sent it to Behhadad the king of Syria. Benhadad sent his armies against the cities in Israel, and Baasha refrained from building up Ramah. This allowed Asa to carry away the stones and timber from Ramah and build up Geba and Mizpah (*2 Chronicles 16:1-6*). Apparently Asa's plan worked for his benefit... or did it?

The prophet Hanani characterizes Asa's plan and action as “foolish.” The prophet, rebuking Asa, declares, “thou hast relied upon the king of Syria, and has not relied on Jehovah thy God...”. Then he adds, “therefore the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thy hand” (*2 Chronicles 16:7*). If you had relied upon God, you would have had Syria as well - How foolish!

The prophet reminds Asa of the days when the army of

Ethiopia, one million strong, came against Asa's five hundred and eighty soldiers, and God gave Asa the victory (*2 Chronicles 16:8, 2 Chronicles 14:8-9*). Those were the days when Asa cried unto Jehovah for help claiming that we “rely on thee and in thy name are we come against this multitude” (*2 Chronicles 14:11*).

When Asa's heart was perfect before God, Jehovah was there to bring victory even to those outnumbered. “For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him” (*2 Chronicles 16:9a*). The prophet Hanani declares Asa “has done foolishly; for from henceforth thou shalt have wars” (*2 Chronicles 16:9b*). Hearing this, Asa was in such a rage that he imprisoned the prophet speaking the truth, and oppressed some of the people at the same time (*2 Chronicles 16:10*).

Trusting in man and not in God is Asa's folly. Here was a man that started out good but finished badly. Pay attention as you age so you do not turn away from God's wisdom and power and turn to man and his power for your help. Do not fall into Asa's folly.