

Asa
Lesson 30

INTRO:

- A. Asa was the 3rd king of Judah following the three year reign of his father, Abijah.
 - 1. As king of Judah, Asa for the most part was a good king. (**2 Chronicles 14:2** “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God,”)
 - 2. However, even though his reign started off good, it didn’t end up so well.
- B. He reigned in Judah for 41 years - **2 Chronicles 16:13**

(Unless otherwise stated the passages with no mention made of the book are found in 2 Chronicles.)

I. The Life Of Asa:

- A. As already mentioned, Abijah was his father (**14:2**) making David his great great grandfather: Asa - Abijah - Rehoboam - Solomon - David.
 - 1. His mother (more rightly his grandmother was Maachah - (**15:16; 1 Kings 15:2,10,13**))
- B. His reign over Judah...
 - 1. Started with ten years of peace - (**14:1**)
 - 2. It was during this time Asa went throughout the southern kingdom. destroying idols, altars, and high places of idolatrous worship. (**14:2-8**)
- C. When Judah was attacked by Zera the Ethiopian, Asa put his trust in the Lord to gave Judah the victory. (**14:9-15**)
- D. The changes which were brought about by Asa:(**15:1-19**)
 - 1. Removed idols from Judah and Benjamin.
 - 2. Entered into a covenant with the people to serve the Lord.
 - 3. Removed the queen mother, Maachah.
 - 4. Which all resulted in 25 years of peace.
- E. Then war takes place with Israel because the king of Israel, Baasha, closed the borders between Israel and Judah; instead of Asa putting his trust in the Lord, he made a treaty with Syria. (**16:1-6**)
- F. This results in Asa being rebuked by Hanani for trusting in Syria rather than the Lord as Asa had previously done when Judah was attacked by the Ethiopians. (**16:7-10**)
 - 1. In return for Hanani’s rebuke, Asa “*was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.*” (**16:10**)
- G. Asa suffered from a disease in his feet the last two years of his reign. (**16:11-12**)
 - 1. He died after reigning 41 years and was greatly mourned by the people. (**16:13-14**)

II. Lessons From Asa:

- A. **We Must Learn The Value Of Putting God First!**
 - 1. Asa began his reign by doing good and destroying the idols and their places of worship. (**14:2-5**)
 - 2. The Lord gave him and the nation rest and strength. (**14:6**)
 - 3. This is the lesson that is repeated over and over throughout the kings of Judah: **THOSE WHO SERVE THE LORD ARE BLESSED!**
- B. **What A Blessing It Is To Have Help From The Lord!**
 - 1. Faced with a much larger army, Asa sought help from God. (**14:11**)

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2. And the Lord responded by answering his plea for help. (14:12-13)
3. Once again, God helps those who trust in Him! (13:14-16; 1 Peter 5:6-7)

C. We Can Learn From Asa The Key To God's Care In Our Lives!

1. It was proclaimed by the prophet Azariah. (15:1-2)
2. The Lord is with us while we are with Him! (James 4:8)
3. Seek God and He will be found! (Matthew 7:7-8)
4. Forsake Him and He will forsake us! (Hebrews 10:38-39)

D. We Must Not Put Family Before God!

1. The example of Asa's commitment to the Lord. (15:16)
2. Jesus had the same commitment. (Matthew 12:46-50)
3. He expects no less from us today. (Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26)
4. Faith is more important than family!

E. Leaders Can Only Do So Much!

1. Asa did what he could do in Judah. (14:2-4; 15:16)
2. But the people in Israel held on to their high places - (15:17)
3. Unless the people follow, no good leader can be completely successful!

F. God Helps Those Who Trust In Him!

1. Asa began trusting more in human sources! (16:2-3,12)
2. This had an adverse effect in Asa's life! (16:7-8)
3. The Lord seeks to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are loyal to Him! (16:9)

G. We Must Ever Be Cautious Of The Pride Of Life!

1. When he was younger, Asa heeded the counsel of Azariah! (15:8)
2. When he was older, Asa reacted angrily at the rebuke of Hanani and took it out on the people! (16:10)
3. Just as the lust of the flesh can strongly affect the youth and the lust of the eyes can strongly affect the middle-aged, so the pride of life can strongly affect the aged!

CONCLUSION:

- A. Asa reigned longer than any king of Israel and Judah before him...
 1. Longer than Saul, David, and Solomon, who all reigned 40 years.
 2. Asa was blessed to reign 41 years.
- B. But like a long-distance runner who falls short of the finish line...
 1. Asa failed toward the end of his life.
 2. He tarnished what would have been an otherwise outstanding reign!
- C. **2 Chronicles 16:13-14**
 1. Asa was evidently loved by his people.
- D. May the example of Asa, together with counsel of the prophets Azariah and Hanani, encourage us never to lose our trust and dependence upon the Lord, but persevere to the end! (Hebrews 10:35-39)

LESSON 31

Ahab

1 Kings 16:29 - 22:40;
2 Chronicles 18:1-34