

KING ASA OF JUDAH

Old Testament Lesson #104

Asa was the great-grandson of Solomon. For 41 years, Asa was king of Judah.

“Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God” (2 Chronicles 14:2). He was commended because he removed the places of idolatrous worship. Asa told his people to seek the LORD and to obey God’s commandments. Asa’s reign began with 10 years of peace, a time Asa used to carry out his reforms.

But the peace didn’t last. Judah was invaded by a huge army from Cush (Ethiopia). Judah’s army was only half as large, but Asa asked God for help. Then Judah soundly defeated Cush.

The prophet Azariah went out to meet Asa after the victory. Azariah said that God would be with Asa if he remained faithful to God. However, if Asa abandoned God, then God would abandon him. This prophecy so encouraged Asa that he expanded his reforms by removing every idol from Judah and all the lands he had won in battle. Because the people sought God eagerly, the LORD gave them peace and rest from all their enemies.

For many years, Asa’s kingdom flourished under his faithful rule. But then, in a failure to rely on God, he allied Judah with Ben-Hadad, king of Aram, to help turn back an attack from the northern kingdom. From then on, Asa’s kingdom was at war.

At the very end of his reign, he was afflicted with a disease in his feet, but still he looked only to physicians and not to God for relief. After he died, he was buried in honor in Jerusalem.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- During the reign of Asa, a total of seven different kings ruled in the northern kingdom of Israel. Such instability in leadership further aggravated the strained relationship between the northern and southern tribes and contributed to the frequency of the wars that plagued Asa during the latter part of his reign.
- Asa’s reign is also described in 1 Kings 15:8-24.

King Asa of Judah

- I. Asa ruled Judah for 41 years and pleased God.
 - A. He removed places of idol worship.
 - B. He told the people to obey commandments.
 - C. He ruled in peace for 10 years.
- II. An army from Cush invaded Judah.
 - A. Judah’s army was half the size.
 - B. Asa asked for God’s help, and Judah won.
- III. The prophet Azariah met Asa after the victory.
 - A. He told Asa that God would be with him as long as he was faithful.
 - B. Asa removed every idol from every land he conquered.
 - C. God gave the people peace, and the kingdom flourished.
- IV. Asa allied Judah with Ben-Hadad to turn back an attack from the northern kingdom.
 - A. Because Asa did not put faith in God, Judah was at war.
 - B. Asa developed a foot disease and sought help from doctors but not from God.
- V. Asa died and was buried in honor in Jerusalem.

ANSWER KEY:

would, be, with, him, faithful, kingdom, flourished

A	S	A	W	A	S	T	H	E
K	I	N	G	O	F			
J	U	D	A	H	F	O	R	
F	O	R	T	Y-	O	N	E	
Y	E	A	R	S.	H	E		
T	O	L	D	P	E	O	P	L
T	O	S	E	E	K	T	H	E
L	O	R	D	A	N	D	T	O
O	B	E	Y	G	O	D’	S	
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E
H	E	A	S	K	E	D	G	O
F	O	R	H	E	L	P.		
T	H	E	R	E	W	A	S	
P	E	A	C	E	F	O	R	
T	E	N	Y	E	A	R	S.	