

Success Comes to Those Who Rely on the Lord

Learning from the Old

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 14:1-15

Introduction

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1. **The setting is the Divided Kingdom in the year 911 BC. Asa becomes the 3rd King of Judah, the grandson of Rehoboam and reigns for 41 years.**
2. **Asa was a man that did “what was good and right in the eyes of the lord his God.” (V2). Asa relied on the Lord to fight his battle against the Ethiopians (V11).**
3. **(Chapter 15): Azariah, filled with the Spirit of God, told Asa that “The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.” (V2)**
4. **RECAP CHAPTERS 15-16:**
 - A. **V3 - “has been without a true God, a teaching priest, without law”**
 - B. **Asa took courage with Azariah’s words, he reformed Judah**
 - C. **Those not seeking God were put to death, small or great!**
 - common man to the King himself
 - Here is a vow from man to God (v14-15)
 - Note: V17 - places not destroyed in Israel. Built by the ancient people, then later even God’s people.
 - Off limits to God’s people
 - Hezekiah and Josiah removed these – Asa did not.

- D. **35 years of peace - Just enough time to possibly forget how he got himself and the people to where they were.**
 - E. **Israel's King Baasha begins to build a city called **Ramah** next to Judah so no one could go out or come in from King Asa's land.**
 - F. **Asa seeks the help of Ben-Hadad, King of Syria**
 - G. **Israel is defeated, BUT so is Judah in a sense (V7 - Prophet Hanani) > **Will have wars (V9)****
 - H. **KEY VERSES 8-9**
 - I. **Becomes Angry with **Hanani** - throws him into prison. Enraged at his prophecy but also mad at himself (inwardly), takes it out on the people (his own fault).**
 - **He knows he acted foolishly**
 - **He did not abide in the oath made in 15:12-13**
 - J. **When he becomes diseased, he seeks physicians council and help, not the Lord's.**
 - **Stubbornness and pride sets in!**
5. **35 years of faithful service to God, 6 years of unfaithful service. Result, end to his reign, end to his life, a missed opportunity to be **faithful to the end.****

Lessons Learned from the Old

1. **We are told to seek God** (Matthew 6:33).
 - A. **We will find rest for our souls when we do (Matt 11:28-30).**
 - B. **When we trust in God and are content with what we have, we are promised: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb 13:5).**
 - C. **Seek God wholly - not partly. We must be prepared to tear down even the high places - being 100% devoted to His service!**

2. **Don't forget God**

A. **When we encounter trials in life (James 1:3).**

B. **When He has made a promise.**

2 Peter 3:4-5 "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water

C. **When we encounter temptations.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Autobiography of Life

3. **A child of God Can fall from His grace and be cut off.**

Whether 35 years or 60 years;

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2 Peter 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them** and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

Romans 11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.**

4. Pride leads to destruction.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.

5. In our work for the Lord, remain loyal to the end.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Revelation 2:10 (Smyrna)

A. May we never be guilty of quitting God and fall short of our eternal home with Him!

Matthew 7:13-14

Invitation

Place _____

Date: _____

