

SEEKING HELP

The Story of Asa

Saul→David→Solomon→

Israel: Jeroboam I → Nadab→ Baasha

Judah: Rehoboam → Abijah/Abijam → Asa

2 Chronicles 14:7 “Let us build up these towns,” [Asa] said to Judah, “and put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the Lord our God; we sought him and he has given us rest on every side.” So they built and prospered. NIV

2 Chronicles 14:11-12 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.”

¹² The Lord struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled. NIV

2 Chronicles 15:1-7 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. ³ For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. ⁴ But in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them. ⁵ In those days it was not safe to travel about, for all the inhabitants of the lands were in great turmoil. ⁶ One nation was being crushed by another and one city by another, because God was troubling them with every kind of distress. ⁷ But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.” NIV

2 Chronicles 15:8a When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage. NIV

Then Asa followed the LORD courageously.

15:11 – Sacrificed plunder

15:12 – Made a vow to seek God

15:16 – Removed Maacah his grandmother as queen mother

15:19 – Peace until his 35th year.

2 Chronicles 16:1-3 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa’s reign Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.

² Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasures 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.” NIV

2 Chronicles 16:7-13 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: “Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. ⁸ Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you relied on the LORD, he delivered them into your hand. ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the

earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.”

¹⁰ Asa was angry with the seer because of this; he was so enraged that he put him in prison. At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.

¹¹ The events of Asa’s reign, from beginning to end, are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ¹² 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. NIV

What lessons can we learn?

Seek the Lord.

2 Chronicles 15:2b “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.” NIV

Rely on the Lord his leading.

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

Follow the Lord courageously.

2 Chronicles 15:8a When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage. NIV

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

Show grace to others.