

SO THEY BUILT AND PROSPERED

2 CHRONICLES 14

Text: 2 Chronicles 14:7

(2 Chronicles 14:7) "Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered."

Introduction:

What a testimony! "They built and prospered." I hope someday that not only could that be said of me personally, but also as a pastor, and for this church.

The word prosper means to be or become profitable. I would like to become profitable to the Lord and His work. I would like to become a Pastor profitable to the Lord and His work. I would like for Mid-America Baptist Church to build and become profitable to the Lord and His work.

I believe that we can see in this passage of scripture and through the life of Asa how this can be accomplished in the life of every Christian.

Notice:

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS (VSS. 1-2)

(2 Chronicles 14:1-2) "So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years. {2} And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:"

- A. Desired to please the Lord.
- B. Determined to please the Lord.
- C. Did that which pleased the Lord.

2. REMOVAL (VSS. 3-5, 15:8, 16)

(2 Chronicles 14:3-5) "For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: {4} And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. {5} Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him."

(2 Chronicles 15:8) "And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all

the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD."

(2 Chronicles 15:16) "And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron."

- A. Removal was done rigorously
- B. Removal was done rapidly
- C. Removal was done without respect

3. RENEWAL (15:8)

(2 Chronicles 15:8) "And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD."

- A. Dedication to the Lord.
- B. Desire to please the Lord.

C. Determination to serve the Lord.

4. REMINDER (VSS 4)

(2 Chronicles 14:4) "And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment."

A. Set the example in his Direction (vss. 2)

(2 Chronicles 14:2) "And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:"

B. Gave illustration in his Demonstration (vss. 3)

(2 Chronicles 14:3) "For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves:"

C. Guided his people through a Declaration (vss. 4)

(2 Chronicles 14:4) "And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment."

In other words, Asa practiced what he preached.

5. READINESS (VSS. 6-8)

(2 Chronicles 14:6-8) "And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. {7} Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. {8} And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour."

- A. Took Precautions against the enemy.
- B. Prepared for the battle.
- C. Persistently on guard.

6. RELIANCE (VSS. 9-11)

(2 Chronicles 14:9-11) "And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. {10} Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. {11} And Asa cried unto the LORD his God,

and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee."

- A. Confronted the enemy
- B. Cried unto the Lord
- C. Confidence in the Saviour

7. RESULTS (VSS. 12-15)

(2 Chronicles 14:12-15) "So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. {13} And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. {14} And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. {15} They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem."

- A. God gave the victory.

Close:

Notice the victory came only after they removed the wickedness, and renewed the altar. Notice the victory only came after they became ready and prepared through building and prospering. Notice the victory only came after they began to rely on the Lord.