

FOR WE REST ON THEE

1 KINGS 15; 2 CHRONICLES 14-16

Text: 2 Chronicles 14:11

(2 Chronicles 14:11) "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."

Introduction:

We have a man who God said did right.

(1 Kings 15:11) "And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father."

Asa is a marvel. In spite of the fact that his father was a sinful man and his mother a heathen woman, he yet shines forth as one of Judah's most godly kings.

He is praised for his godly zeal which led him to reform the worship of the people.

Asa's heart toward God was like David's and such was the secret of his godliness in a godless environment.

He is remembered as a man who was good and right in the eyes of the Lord.

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

Many today are presumptuous enough to settle what is good and right in their own eyes. Asa however, did not invent a goodness or righteousness he could adapt to his own convenience and ambition. He only wanted what was good and right in God's sight.

(Proverbs 30:12) "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness."

(Isaiah 5:21) "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"

What are the things that caused it to be said of Asa he did good and right?

1. PRAYED BEFORE THE BATTLE

"Before meeting the foe he met with God"

(2 Chronicles 14:10-11) "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. We too need to be a people of prayer.

1. Homes

- Spouse
- Children
- Grandchildren

2. Church

- Pastor
- Leaders (deacons, teachers)
- Missionaries

3. Lost

2. PUT AWAY THE ABOMINABLE IDOLS, THINGS, AND PEOPLE

(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:"

(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."

(1 Kings 15:11-12) "And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father. {12} And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."

"Took Courage"

A. He put away the things of the world and wickedness.

- Altars
- Images and Idols
- Sodomites

B. Many of the idols today are

- Fortune
- Fashion
- Popularity
- Self-indulgence

C. We can only be right with God when we are right with our little idols.

3. PREPARED THE ALTAR OF THE LORD

(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. God help us to lay our all on the altar.

4. PRESENTED A GODLY TESTIMONY

(2 Chronicles 15:9-16) "And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. {10} So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. {11} And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. {12} And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; {13} That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. {14} And they sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets. {15} And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about. {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."

- Was faithful
- Was fair

5. PASSED AWAY AND WAS SORELY MISSED.

(2 Chronicles 16:13-14) "And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. {14} And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him."

Close:

God help us as men to do good and right in the eyes of God.

God help us to have courage.