

The Life of Asa II Chr. 14:2-16:14

Introduction:

Asa was the third king of Judah following the split of the kingdom. He followed Rehoboam and Abijam. He began his reign in the 20th year of Jeroboam, king of Israel. He lived during the time of the first seven kings of Israel. He reigned a total of 41 years.

In the life of Asa, we see basically 2 periods in his life. During the first 35 years of his reign, he was faithful to God. In the following 6 years, he turned from God. We can learn from his life the need that we have to be faithful to God until the end.

- I. Asa began his life by being strong for the Lord.
 - A. "Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God" (14:2).
 1. Removed alters of foreign gods and high places.
 2. He commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers.
 - B. Asa turned to God when Zerah the Ethiopian came against him (14:9-15).
 1. Asa had 580,000 soldiers.
 2. Zerah had one million men and 300 chariots.
 3. If Asa had not trusted in God, there is no way that he could have defeated their armies.
 - C. God promised Asa that He would be with him as long as he was faithful (15:1-7).
 - D. Today, we need to understand that if we seek God, we will find Him.
 1. God always promised to be there for His people when they searched for Him.
 - a. God is commanding Solomon to build the temple.
 - b. I Chr 28:9 - As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.
 2. The letter that Jeremiah sent to the captives.
 - a. Jer 29:12-14
 - b. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. { 13 } And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. { 14 } I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.
 3. God promises to be there for us today.
 - a. Heb 13:5 - For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

- II. Asa turned from the Lord in the last years of his life.
 - A. Asa made a treaty with Ben-Hadad, king of Syria (16:1-6).
 - 1. Ben-Hadad saved Asa from the hand of Baasha, king of Israel.
 - 2. He did not turn to the Lord for help (16:7-10).
 - B. Asa turned from God in his death.
 - 1. Asa became diseased in his feet.
 - 2. Asa turned to the physicians instead of the Lord (16:11-14).

- III. The main lesson to learn from the life of Asa is that we need to be faithful to the end.
 - A. It is important to seek God and to live for Him from the beginning; but it is more important how we end our lives.
 - 1. We must be faithful to the end.
 - a. Rev 2:10 - Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
 - b. II Tim. 4:6-8
 - 2. It is important how we finish our lives.
 - a. We must run the race to the end.
 - b. I Cor. 9:24-27
 - B. We are told in the Bible that if we know God and do not obey Him, it is worse than if we had never known Him.
 - 1. II Pet 2:20-21 - 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. {21} For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.
 - 2. Matt 26:24 - The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.

Conclusion:

Asa began his life by being faithful to God. However, at the end of his life he fell away from God. We need to make sure that we live everyday for God. We never know when our last day will come. We need to be faithful to God all the days of our lives.