



ASA THE KING OF JUDAH AND THE PREVAILING GOD

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2Chr 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.

1) INTRODUCTION.

2) WHO WAS KING ASA?

3) WHO WAS HIS FATHER AND MOTHER?

4) WHAT WERE THE RIGHT AND THE GOOD ASA DID IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?

5) WHY DID THE WORD OF THE MOTTO WAS EFFECTIVE FOR ASA?

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1) INTRODUCTION

- ◆ The word of the motto this year has a unique quality.
- ◆ There are other people in the bible who say similar statement, but it was king Asa who said it emphatically, uniquely, courageously, and confidently.
- ◆ This was so because of the story that surrounded it.
- ◆ Madam Hannah said; **"...for by strength shall no man prevail"**. 1Sam 2:9
- ◆ King David also said similar word: **"Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight"** Ps 9:19
- ◆ BUT listen to how Asa said it: **"...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"** 2Ch 14:11

2) WHO WAS KING ASA?

- ◆ He was the first righteous king in Judah.
- ◆ He reigned between 911 and 870 B.C (41years)
- ◆ He reigned in the southern part of the kingdom which is called Judah having her headquarters in Jerusalem.

3) WHO WAS HIS FATHER AND MOTHER?

- ◆ His father was Abijam.
 - 1kings 15: 8 **"And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead"**.
 - His father ruled for three (3) years only. (Between 914 and 911 B.C) 2Chr 13:2.
 - His mother's name was Maachah - 1kings 15:13
- ◆ Abijam was the son of Rehoboam - king Solomon's son.

◆ 1Kings 14:31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

◆ So, Asa was the grandson of Rehoboam and the great grandson of Solomon.

4) WHAT WERE THE GOOD AND THE RIGHT KING ASA DID IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?

◆ He destroyed the altars of strange gods in Judah.

◆ He broke the images and statues of idols.

◆ He did not follow the footprints of his father. **1kings 15:12**

◆ He was brave and courage to stand on the truth - he dethroned his mother because of her involvement in idolatry. **1kings 15:13**

◆ He caused people of Judah to return to God.

◆ He encouraged the Judah to obey the commandment of God.

◆ He prohibited cities in Judah from idol worship.

▪ **2 Chr 14: 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.**

◆ He protected and prevented the cities from invasion.

▪ **2 Chr 14: 6 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.**

◆ He built walls round the cities - he built towers in the cities - he built bars at the gates of the cities

▪ **2 Chr14: 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.**

◆ The king was identified as the first saved king in Judah - he didn't toy with the security of the land.

◆ **There were three major reasons for his high degree of security measures:**

i) He didn't want war to come over to his people and the land

ii) He wanted to secure the economy of the land for the advantages of his people.

iii) He didn't want the people to be influenced by the idol worship of the neighboring nations.

5) WHY DID THE WORD OF THE MOTTO WAS EFFECTIVE FOR KING ASA?

◆ He put his trust in God, and not in chariots.

▪ **Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.**

◆ He had already prepared ground for God to work during his tenure.

▪ He abolished idolatry.

◆ He led people of Judah into spiritual revival.

◆ He encouraged people to live life of godliness.

◆ He balanced his faith life: i.e. **“balance of faith”** and **“balance of power”**.

▪ He did what a man should do to secure himself, and trusted in God for what God alone can do to fight for man.

▪ Before Zerah the Ethiopian brought war to Judah, Asa had done what a man could do to protect his land.

▪ When the war eventually came, Asa prepared 580 mighty men as physical soldiers for the war - human ability and capability.

▪ Meanwhile the soldiers of Ethiopians were 1,300,000.

▪ So, Asa committed the rest which was not in his capacity to God.

▪ That is why he said; **“...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.” 2 Chr 14:11

- That was the reason when God smote the Ethiopians, they fled, and the people pursued them – the role of humans in the scene.
- The principle of “**balance of victory**” is when you allow God to do what He alone can do, and then you handle that which is given to man to do.

6) THE SUCCESS OF KING ASA.

- ◆ The first ten years of his tenure, the land was rest from war. 2 Chr 14:1
- ◆ The Lord made his tenure peaceful. 2 Chr 14:6
- ◆ Himself and the people of Judah prospered. 2 Chr 14:7
- ◆ God dealt severely with Ethiopian nation that decided to alter the peace. 2 Chr 14: 11-13
- ◆ The eventuality of the Ethiopian war resulted to additional prosperity of the king and the people of Judah. 2 Chr 14: 12-15
- ◆ He reigned for forty-one year – one of the longest tenure of the kings of Judah even though the later part of his years were very bad.

7) THE BAD END OF KING ASA.

- ◆ He hired king of Syria to fight simple war of jealousy for him. 2 Chr 16: 1-5
 - When he was thirty-six years on the throne, Baasha the king of Israel the Northern kingdom decided to build a border between Israel and Judah so that the worshipers who were going from Israel to Judah would be prevented. This made king Asa to hire the king of Syria to wage war against Israel to stop the project. God was displeased with that for not allowing God to fight for him.
- ◆ He imprisoned the prophet who prophesied his fault to him. 2 Chr 16: 7-10.
 - His mind became sorrowful against God and the prophet. The sorrow in his mind last longer to the point that he did not remember the good hand of God in his life anymore – he allowed the root of bitterness to spring up in his mind. So, the subsequent years of his reign, he abandoned serving God.
- ◆ At thirty-nine years of his tenure, he was sick in his feet, he failed to seek God for healing. 2 Chr 16: 11
 - This shows that he did not ask God for forgiveness of his faults. He rather chose to consult physicians – he had bad or hardened mind, the bible even says he was a man full of rage (**verse 10**)
- **Application:** How was your relationship with God yesterday? How is it today? How will it be tomorrow? Let everybody assess his life now!