

# 2 Chronicles 15 - Azariah's Sermon to Asa; Asa's Reforms

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(C) Asa (2 Chr 14:1—16:14)

(a) Asa's reforms and military victories through the dependence upon God (14:1—15:19)

(iii) Reforms (15:1-19)

## 2 Chronicles 15

(iii) Reforms (15:1-19)

1 Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded,

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1 After this, the Spirit of God came to rest on Oded's son Azariah,

1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2 and 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. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you abandon Him, He will abandon you.

2 and 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. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

2 so he went out to meet Asa and rebuked him:

"Listen to me, Asa, Judah, and Benjamin! The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will allow you to find him, but if you abandon him, he will abandon you.

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

- A basic spiritual truth: God is present and powerful in defense of His obedient people (Deut 20:1; 1 Chr 28:9; Is 55:6-7; Jer 29:12-14; James 4:8)

— The prophet Azariah's message was the spark that ignited revival in Asa's day

3 For many days Israel was without the true God and without a **teaching priest** and without *the* Law.

3 For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law.

3 Israel lived for years without the true God, priests to teach them, and the Law,

3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

- "...teaching priest" - not just preachers, Bible teaching pastors

4 But in their distress they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.

4 But in their distress they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.

4 but they turned to the LORD God of Israel in their distress. When they sought him, he let them become reacquainted with him.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

5 In those times there was no peace for him who went out or him who came in, because many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.

5 In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.

5 "During those days, it wasn't safe for anyone to come and go, because many civil disturbances afflicted everyone who lived in the territories.

5 And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

6 Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.

6 Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.

6 Nation battled nation, and city fought city, because God was afflicting them all with every kind of distress.

6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

7 But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is a reward for your work."

7 But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work."

7 Now as for you, be strong and never be discouraged, because there will be reward for your work."

7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

8 Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the LORD which was in front of the porch of the LORD.

8 Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the LORD which was in front of the porch of the LORD.

8 Encouraged by what Oded's son Azariah the prophet had said in his prophecy, Asa removed the detestable idols from throughout the entire territories of Judah and Benjamin, and from the cities that he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He repaired the LORD's altar that stood in front of the vestibule of the LORD's Temple.

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.

9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

9 He gathered all Judah and Benjamin and those from Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

9 Then he gathered together all of Judah, Benjamin, and people from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were living among them, since many people had defected to him from Israel when they learned that the LORD his God was with him.

9 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.

- This verse is a second mention of the migration of righteous God-followers from the North to the South (Cf. 2 Chr 11:13-17; see [Myth of the "10 Lost Tribes"](#))

10 So they assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

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10 They all assembled in Jerusalem during the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

**10** So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

- The Feast of Weeks

11 They sacrificed to the LORD on that day seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep from the spoils they had brought.

11 They sacrificed to the LORD that day 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep from the spoil they had brought.

11 They sacrificed to the LORD that day 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep from the spoil that they had brought with them.

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 They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul;

12 They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul;

12 They also entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their ancestors with all their heart and soul,

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 and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

13 and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

13 and they further agreed that whoever would refuse to seek the LORD God of Israel was to be executed, whether important or unimportant, man or woman.

13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

- Those refusing to renew the covenant were to be put to death, for by their refusal they indicated their enmity to the Lord and acceptance of other gods (Cf. Ex 22:20; Deut 13:6-9)

14 Moreover, they made an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting, trumpets, and with horns.

14 Moreover, they made an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets and with horns.

14 They also made a vow to the LORD with loud voices, shouting, trumpets, and horns.

14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

15 All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.

15 All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.

15 Everybody in Judah was very glad to make their oath, because they had made their vow with all their heart and had sought him with all of their might, and they found him! The LORD also gave them rest in their surrounding lands.

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** He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the *position of* queen mother, because she had made an abominable image as an Asherah, and Asa cut down her abominable image, crushed *it*, and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.

**16** He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the *position of* queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah, and Asa cut down her horrid image, crushed *it* and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.

**16** King Asa removed his mother Maacah from her position as Queen Mother because she had made a detestable image dedicated to Asherah. He cut down his mother's idol, crushed it, and burned it at the Kidron Brook.

**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.

- His own grandmother was engaged in idolatry! Notice that she wasn't just a friend of people who were idolaters, but she herself was an idolater.

— This is the reason Asa removed her from the place of influence

— The removal of the powerful queen shows that Asa put spiritual purity above family loyalty

17 But the high places were not removed from Israel; nevertheless Asa's heart was **blameless** all his days.

17 But the high places were not removed from Israel; nevertheless Asa's heart was blameless all his days.

17 Nevertheless, the high places were not removed from Israel, even though Asa's heart was blameless all of his life.

17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

- Unfortunately, Asa's revival did not result in the removal of the high places in Israel, even though Asa destroyed them in Judah (Cf. 14:3)

- "...blameless" - Asa's heart was not sinless, but it was blameless

— God considers a person blameless when they deal with their sins appropriately rather than ignoring them

18 He brought into the house of God the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver, gold, and utensils.

18 He brought into the house of God the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils.

18 Asa brought into God's Temple the things that his father had dedicated, as well as his own dedicated gifts such as silver, gold, and temple service implements.

**18** And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels.

19 And there was no *more* war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

19 And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

19 Asa experienced no more war until the end of the thirty-fifth year of his reign.

19 And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

- He also enriched the temple with silver and gold given by Abijam and himself, presumably to help replace some of what Shishak had plundered in Asa's grandfather's day

— Finally, God gave Asa a period of peace until his 35th year