

# Asa

Asa was the third king of Judah after the disruption of the kingdom of David being divided into two nations ruled by Rehoboam, Asa's grandfather, and Jeroboam, who ruled over ten of the tribes.

**Asa reigned for forty-one years, [1 Kings 15:9-10], and began his rule with a partial reformation, abolishing cult prostitution and courageously deposing the queen-mother Maacah, whose image of the pagan goddess Asherah he destroyed, [1 Kings 15:11-13].**

**Certain "high places," probably those of entirely pagan origin, he removed [2 Chronicles 14:2-5], others were allowed to remain, [1 Kings 15:14; 2 Chronicles 15:17].**

Asa had a great victory over Zerah when the Creator God struck and overcame the vast army of Zerah, [2 Chronicles 14:9-15].

**In view of this great victory by God it seems inexcusable that Asa should not look to the Creator God again for His intervention when Baasha, king of Israel, came against him a siege, [2 Chronicles 16:1].**

**2 Chronicles 16:2-6** [New King James] *"Then Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, 'Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you silver and gold; come, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me.' So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. They attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali. Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah and ceased his work. Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them he built Geba and Mizpah."*

**Asa even used the silver and gold from God's house to bribe Ben-Hadad, king of Syria. Was it any wonder that the Creator God was angry at Asa's foolishness?**

**Still more out of character of former years, Asa was angry with servant of God who brought this corrective message to him, [2 Chronicles 16:10].**

**Asa rejected the correction that he received from the Creator God and refused to admit his error to God.**

His greatest failure was missing what God could have done with his life if he was willing to remain humble.

**Asa's pride ruined the last years of his reign and his personal health, [2 Chronicles 16:12-14].**

As a result of Asa **not** relying on God when confronted with a hostile Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, the hostility between Asa and Baasha, king of Israel, was not resolved in his lifetime, [1 Kings 15:32].

**What can we learn from the recorded life of Asa?**

**Asa failed to abolish all idolatry in Judah, we must not follow this half-hearted attitude towards sin in our lives.**

**When God corrects us we must humbly accept that it is for our benefit in the end and not become angry or bitter, [Hebrews 12:5-13].**

How well a plan we make works is no measure of its rightness or approval by God.

We should follow Asa's example that when God gave him a time of peace, [2 Chronicles 14:6-7] he prepared for any future conflict that came his way later.

**Ephesians 6:10-13** [New King James] *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

Every spiritual “soldier” of Jesus Christ puts on the spiritual armour every day before they face this world that is ruled and influenced by our enemy Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19].

The Ten Commandments tells us to honour our parents yet Asa removed his grandmother from the royal household.

While honouring our parents, maintaining loyalty to God is an even higher priority.

**Jesus Christ warned that respect for our parents should never keep us from following Him, [Luke 14:24].**

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15** [New King James] *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”*

**We should not make any agreements or partnerships with unbelievers as Asa did with Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria.**