

Lessons from King Asa of Judah – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Asa was the Great Great Grandson of King David. He was the third king of Judah (after the nation of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah)). We can see the story of King Asa in 2 Chronicles Chapters 14 – 16 and 1 Kings 15:9-24. The Books of Kings is a recounting of the Kings of both Judah and Israel from a historical perspective while the Books of Chronicles focuses mostly on Judah with restoration of the nation in mind.

Read 1 Kings 15:9-14 The Good

Lesson #1 Seek God with All Your Heart Read 2 Chron 14:2 -6 Asa began his reign by seeking God and implementing reforms, leading to a spiritual renewal and divine blessings. He was in his early 20s when he became king. He removed idols, commanded people to seek God and led national reforms. This highlights the importance of wholehearted devotion to God and the positive outcomes that can result from such dedication. Notice a powerful walk with God begins with personal devotion and Godly priorities. From there you can lead others. Deu 4:29, Jeremiah 29:13. Don't lose your "first love" (love like you did at first) Rev 2:4

Lesson #2 Courage to Obey God's Word Asa demonstrated courage by removing idols and male shrine prostitutes, showing the importance of standing firm in obedience to God's commands despite opposition. Rom 12:2, James 4:4 2 Chronicles 15:16 Asa removed his grandmother Maacah from her royal position because she made an idol. Faithfulness to God sometimes requires difficult, unpopular decisions—even within family.

Lesson #3 God is Faithful and Well Able to Deliver 2 Chron 14:9-13 When Asa cried out to the Lord, the Lord delivered him. Jude 1:24-25 You can depend on God in times of crisis. Jeremiah 1:12 Isa 55:11

Lesson #4 Encourage One Another 2 Chron 15:1-2, 7 The prophet Azariah encouraged King Asa after the defeat of the Ethiopians. We should encourage one another in good times and bad. 1 Thes 5:11, Heb 10:23-25

That was the Good from King Asa. Now for the bad...

Paraphrase 2 Chron 16:1-13

Lesson # 1 Consequences of Alliance with Unbelievers 2 Chron 16:7 Asa's alliance with Ben-Hadad illustrates the potential dangers of forming treaties or partnerships with those who do not follow God, as it can lead to unforeseen consequences and weaken one's faith. 2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Cor 15:33

Lesson # 2 Don't Replace Trust in God with Human Schemes When Asa relied on an alliance with Bed-Hedad instead of trusting God to help him against Israel, the prophet rebuked him, reminding him of God's past faithfulness. Jeremiah 17:5 Always rely on God and seek Him first. Prov 3:5-6

Lesson # 3 Respond Humbly to Correction 2 Chron 16:9-10 Asa became angry with the prophet Hanani, imprisoned him and oppressed some of the people. Pride after success can lead to downfall. Prov 29:23 Stay teachable and open to correction.

The Ugly

Lesson #4 How You Finish Your Race Matters 2 Chron 16:12. Asa sought help from physicians instead of the Lord. Medicine is good and helpful when done under the direction of the Lord. You want to finish well. 2 Tim 4:7

✦ Summary of Lessons:

Positive

Seek God earnestly
Lead others toward God
Have courage to stand for truth
Trust God in crisis

Negative

Don't rely first & solely on human solutions
Spiritual drift is possible after success
Don't let pride block correction
Don't stop trusting God in later years