

**The Kings of Judah**  
**Asa: Defeats Ethiopia**  
**2 Chronicles 14:9-15**  
**Lesson II**  
*Written: April 6, 1986*

1. ASA LED THE FIRST REVIVAL IN JUDAH.

Some years ago I heard someone say that revival's are like taking a bath. They are needed again, and again, and again. Revivals, primarily, do not have to do with the world. Although the world will be touched because of a revival, revivals are for believers and for we backslidden believers. The world is dead in sin. The world needs resurrection, not revival. Believers are asleep in their sins, and they need an awakening, a revival. All the gimmicks in the world, most of them invented by the world, will not help bring true revival. If we seek to use fleshly means we will only produce fleshly results. A true revival is a work of the Spirit of God. With revival comes a new or renewed sense of sin. That is always first. Then a revival brings a renewed desire for holiness.

To quote another:

"A sense of mission and a desire for service . Then a hunger for the Word of God and a new experience of power in prayer. Activity without spirituality, human manipulation without Divine manifestation. Shallowness without holiness, is not revival." We need to sing a prayer again: "Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love...."

2. ASA HAD A GOOD BEGINNING.

1. 1 Kings 15:9-10 he reigned 41 years.

And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah. And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.  
1 kings 15:9-10

2. 2 Chronicles 14:1 the first 10 years, years of peace. As we have been saying, we are following the lives of these men to help us learn lessons for life. So many began well. But it is not the one who begins the race who receives the prize! The prize is reserved for the finisher of the race. Few of these Kings could say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight I have kept the faith. I have finished my course", not ended, finished. Hebrews 12:1-2 exhorts us "To run the race that is set before us...looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. God has placed us where we are. God has made us what we are. We are not to covet another's race track. We are not to covet another's path. We are not requires to run another's race. We are required to run the race SET BEFORE US. And whatever that is, whatever that may be, we are to LOOK unto Jesus. If we look at ourselves, if we look at others, we will be discouraged. If we keep our eyes on ourselves and our self-worth or self-esteem, we will become disheartened. But if we look to Jesus, if we keep our eyes on Him, we will always be encouraged! We used to sing : "When the road is rough and steep; fix your eyes upon Jesus.

He alone has power to keep, Fix your eyes upon Him. Jesus is a gracious friend. One on whom you can depend. He is faithful to the end. Fix your eyes upon Him.”

So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.

2 Chronicles 14:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

### 3. IN ASA'S ELEVENTH YEAR, HE ENTERED CONFLICT BUT HAD VICTORY.

1. 2 Chronicles 14:8 his army.
2. 2 Chronicles 14:9 the enemies army.
3. 2 Chronicles 14:10-11 Asa calls on the Lord.
4. 2 Chronicles 4:12 the Lord smote the enemy.
5. 2 Chronicles 4:13-15 Asa took home the spoil.

And Asa had an army *of men* that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these *were* mighty men of valour.

2 Chronicles 14:8

And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.

2 Chronicles 14:9

Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. 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.

2 Chronicles 14:10-11

So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians *fled*.

2 Chronicles 4:12

And Asa and the people that *were* with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 4:13-15

There is a parallel between this story and the life of the believer. In the first years of his reign, Asa built and prospered but eventually war, conflict came. Often a new-born babe in Christ grows by leaps and bounds; everything is joyful and right, but the trials, troubles, conflicts then enter the experience.

According to 2 Chronicles 14:8 Asa had an army of 580,000 men. But his enemy in 2 Chronicles 14:9, had an army of one million men! According to Joseph Parker; "This army was the largest ever heard of in Scripture. And its defeat one of the most remarkable events in Jewish history."

And Asa had an army *of men* that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these *were* mighty men of valour.

2 Chronicles 14:8

And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.

2 Chronicles 14:9

Learn this lesson: The enemies are always greater than we are. The Lord talks about His "little flock". In this world we do not belong to the majority. But in 2 Chronicles 14:11, "Asa cried unto the Lord." He knew what to do. His prayer is simple yet sublime. "Lord, to you it matters not that they be more. We have no power-Help us Oh Lord. We rest on Thee."

Asa acknowledges first of all. "We have NO might..."

The world says: look to your "self-reliance", "self- trust." But the Lord says "self-distrust."

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.

2 Chronicles 14:11

Writes McLaren: "This is the proper attitude to all conflicts in life.

1. Wholesome consciousness of our own impotence. Asa said, outnumbered two to one, we have no might against them. We are worse than Asa. Outnumbered 20 to one. We are not only outnumbered numerically, we are outnumbered because we have so many "nominal" Christians.

2. Summoning God into the field should follow wholesome self-distrust.

"In God we trust", should ever be our motto. God is displeased when we say "in self do we trust." We are to have no confidence in the flesh. Philippians 3:3. Our flesh or any other flesh. "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help." Isaiah 30:1. Going down to Egypt is a type of going to the world and the flesh for help.

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Philippians 3:3

Page 3 of 8

McLaren

"Never mind the numbers. Don't look to the flesh. Bring God onto the field. Faith calls on God. I am weak, thou art strong". Our confidence must be in God and not in self. We need to face the battle, not in the power of OUR authority, not in the strength of OUR resources, but saying with confidence, we are but men but Thou art our God. Proverbs. 3:5 comes to mind. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not on thine own understanding." And until we take the first step, we will be doing the second. Faith is confidence in God. So we are not surprised to read in 2 Chronicles 14:12, "So the Lord smote the Ethiopians..." And they have never fully recovered from that smiting! Asa called on God for help and the Word declares, "God fought for Israel."

This is a great Bible subject: Zechariah 14:3 is a prophecy, but look at it in the light of the following history. Exodus 14:14,15. 24-25. Joshua.6:1-27, Joshua 23:10, Judges. 7:16-22, 1 Samuel 17:37-50.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
Proverbs. 3:5

So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.  
2 Chronicles 14:12

Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.  
Zechariah 14:3

**Verse 14** The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. **Verse 15** And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: **Verse 24** And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, **Verse 25** And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.  
Exodus 14:14,15, 24-25

Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.

Page 4 of 8

And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword. But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it. So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

Joshua.6:1-27

One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he *it is* that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

Joshua 23:10

And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall ye do. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that *are* with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *The sword* of the LORD, and of Gideon. So Gideon, and the hundred men that *were* with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that *were* in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, *and* to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

Judges. 7:16-22

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

1 Samuel 17:37-50

It sounds very much like Israel in 1982 . "Israel hauled tons of captured P.L.O. weapons and ammunition across their borders" (Enough to arm a million men)

Most of it was made in Russia. 1000 men with 150 trucks worked around the clock for several weeks taking home the spoil". (The Vancouver Province)

The U.S. keeps on good terms with Israel to keep informed of Russia's advanced weapons of war! Will we learn that the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is still Israel's God? And more, when will we learn that Israel's God is our God. And that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God ( not us now) but through God to the pulling down of our enemies strongholds?

#### 4. 2 CHRONICLES 15:1-7. THE INSPIRED PROPHET COMES TO ASA.

And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 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. Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. 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. And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity. Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

2 CHRONICLES 15:1-7

1. 2 Chronicles 15:1-2 The first words of the sermon introduction. "The Spirit came upon Azariah." Here is an inspired man, inspired by the Holy Ghost. Now there is a sense in which men are not inspired today as they were when they wrote Holy Scripture. However, there is today a perverted inspiration. Those who profess to speak with authority often above and beyond the Authority of Scripture. We reject such so-called inspiration. NO VOICE today is above Scripture. However there is another lesser sense, in which inspiration has not ceased.

And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 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 2 Chronicles 15:1-2

Writes Parker: "Some men are only qualified by education-the poorest of all qualifications." I confess it does bother me when I find so many Christians who think that the education of this world is "higher education." What kind of education is it that robs young people of their faith in God? Today, in the name of higher education, young men and women have their faith destroyed. And then leaning on that form of education, they go out to preach. We could give many examples of this. On this kind of preacher there will be no anointing. There will be no personal inspiration. "It is the inspired man who has, not a sermon, but a message. A message to declare. That's what happened in this story. The prophet came with a message.

2 Chronicles 15:2 "The Lord is with you while ye be with Him. If ye seek Him, He will be found of you." That is likewise the message of Hebrews 11:6. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." That is Paul's message in Colossians 3:1 (Since) ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above."

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.

2 Chronicles 15:2

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1