

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Chronicles Chapters 13-16 8/10-11/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221

NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile: +16699006833,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).
TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**
MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile; +16699006833,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,85309150746# US

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

OPENING PRAYER

LAST WEEK: *2 Chronicles Chapter 10* – The Revolt Against Rehoboam. *Chapter 11* – Rehoboam Fortifies the Cities; Priests and Levites Move to Judah; Family of Rehoboam. *Chapter 12* – Egypt Attacks Judah; End of Rehoboam's Reign.
THIS WEEK: 2 Chronicles Chapter 13 – Abijah Reigns in Judah– (vs. 1-22). *Chapter 14* – Asa Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-15). *Chapter 15* – The Reforms of Asa – (vs. 1-14). *Chapter 16* – Asa's Treaty with Syria – (vs. 1-14).

2Ch 13:1-2 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam (ten northern tribes), Abijah (Rehoboam's son, called Abijam in 1Kg 15) became king over Judah. [2] He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

- *Abijah is not really as solid with the LORD as he could be. (1Ki 15:3) And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.*
- *There was this war between the northern and southern kingdoms.* Now Rehoboam was forbidden from going to war. Jeroboam figured that it was a time of weakness, the change of kings, and a good time to attack.

2Ch 13:3-4 Abijah set the battle in order with an army of valiant warriors, four hundred thousand choice men. Jeroboam also drew up in battle formation against him with eight hundred thousand choice men, mighty men of valor. [4] Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, and said, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel:

- *Abijah gives a slanted view of history in his favor, but he does have other things going for him that God favors, so this is going to work out for him.*

2Ch 13:5-7 Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt (a long-lasting covenant)? [6] Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord. [7] Then worthless rogues gathered to him, and strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and inexperienced and could not withstand them.

- **Abijah's representation does not agree with 2Ch 10.** Rehoboam did not appear soft-hearted and compliant in the negotiation with the rebellious tribes at Shechem. He was hard and defiant, disregarding the wise advice of the older men. But Abijah wishes to justify his father as much as possible in his speech, and shifts all the guilt of the rebellion.
- 2Ch 13:8-9** *And now you think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hand of the sons of David; and you are a great multitude, and with you are the gold calves which Jeroboam made for you as gods. [9] Have you not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests, like the peoples of other lands, so that whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of things that are not gods?*
- **The kingdom of the LORD.** Abijah reminds all that the Davidic covenant is God's will concerning who would rule on His behalf in the earthly kingdom. Therefore, Judah is God's nation, since the king is in the line of David.
 - **The gold calves.** The ten northern tribes were full of idols and false priests, having driven out all the Levitical priests and with them the true worship of God.
 - **Now Abijah makes a charge against Jeroboam the northern kingdom that can stick!** Jeroboam did introduce an entirely new religious system of his own imagination into the northern kingdom that was purely idol worship!
- 2Ch 13:10** *But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the priests who minister to the LORD are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties.*
- **Abijah acknowledges a continual allegiance and a reliance upon the LORD.** We are following after the covenant that the LORD made with our fathers.
- 2Ch 13:11** *And they burn to the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense; they also set the showbread in order on the pure gold table, and the lampstand of gold with its lamps to burn every evening; for we keep the command of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken Him.*
- **Abijah is declaring, Look, you have us outnumbered, but the LORD is on our side.** You have forsaken Him! You have cast out the priests of the LORD, and following after Him at all! We have continued faithfully to Him. We still have the covenant of the priesthood with the house of Aaron. You have forsaken Him. We still serve Him!
- 2Ch 13:12** *Now look, God Himself is with us as our head, and His priests with sounding trumpets to sound the alarm against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you shall not prosper!*
- **Now he is really laying some heavy truths on them!** "We are serving the LORD! He is the Captain of our Host. Do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers!"
- 2Ch 13:13** *But Jeroboam caused an ambush to go around behind them; so they were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.*
- **But Jeroboam, during this whole thing, was using this opportunity for treachery.** While Abijah was up there talking, trying to come to some kind of an appeasement so that the war would not be fought, Jeroboam secretly sent some troops around behind the armies of Judah, planning to just encircle them, attacking them from all sides.
- 2Ch 13:14-15** *And when Judah looked around, to their surprise the battle line was at both front and rear; and they cried out to the LORD, and the priests sounded the trumpets. [15] Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.*
- (Jos 6:16b) that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!"
- 2Ch 13:16-17** *And the children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand. [17] Then Abijah and his people struck them with a great slaughter; so five hundred thousand choice men of Israel fell slain.*
- **Never in the history of a battle in the Bible, where so many men slain in a battle.** Five hundred thousand of the men of Israel! It just decimated their troops.
 - **Thus they obtained a complete victory!** *As the men of Judah shouted for joy in God's salvation, God smote Jeroboam and his army with such terror and amazement, that they could not strike a stroke, but fled in total panic.* The victors gave them no quarter, but proceeded to a great slaughter. *Five hundred thousand choice men of Israel fell slain!*
 - **We do see however, see the sad effect of division.** Consider how the enemies of Israel would benefit from this. Such a significant number slaughtered from within, without their enemies doing anything..
- 2Ch 13:18** *Thus the children of Israel were subdued at that time; and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD God of their fathers.*
- **The reason for the victory is clearly given!** They relied on the LORD God of their fathers!
 - **Consider the complete difference between Judah and Israel in their obedience and disobedience in following the LORD!** Notice the grace and mercy of God! What grace! **Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD in this battle; whereas for eighteen years Jeroboam had been leading the northern**

ten tribes in total idolatry, worshipping gold calf idols; completely rejecting the LORD! How obedient am I?

2Ch 13:19 And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him: Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephraim with its villages.

- **Bethel was taken.** Note that the golden calves could not even defend their own city!

2Ch 13:20 So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck (smote) him, and he died.

- **So it actually brought the end of the reign of Jeroboam** in the northern kingdom. Jeroboam was just a terrible human being. God had given an opportunity to be one of the greatest kings in Israel. But he chose to just lead ten of the twelve tribes of Israel into just pure idolatry. Here was his end, He never recovered from this blow that God had smitten him related to this defeat.

2Ch 13:21-22 But Abijah grew mighty, married fourteen wives (down from Solomon's 700 and a bit restrained from Rehoboam's 18), and begot twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. [22] Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways, and his sayings are written in the annals of the prophet Iddo.

Asa Reigns in Judah

2Ch 14:1-2 So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years. [2] Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,

- **How wonderfully refreshing it is to see – He did what was good and right in the sight of God!** Out of the twenty total kings who ruled the southern Kingdom of Judah, the Bible identifies eight kings who did what was right in the sight of the LORD: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah.

2Ch 14:3 for he removed (strong word) the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down (strong word) the sacred pillars and cut down (strong word) the wooden images.

- **Asa had a love for God. He faltered somewhat later in his life, but he has a love for God here.** He reverses the actions of two and a half generations of wickedness in the land of Abijah, his father; Rehoboam his grandfather; and the wickedness of his great-grandfather Solomon. Here is a man who understands that he is going to be accountable to God for that which he has **authority**. He says, "I want all of it completely cleansed." This is what he did out of his own personal relationship with the LORD. Notice he knew how to burn bridges to sin for his own life and those that were under his oversight.

2Ch 14:4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.

- **Although Asa initiated this reform, it was not yet a complete reform.** The second reform will be in chapter fifteen.

2Ch 14:5 He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.

- **They did what was good and right in the sight of the LORD** and the land had peace because of these things.
- **The removal of sin and idolatry from a person's life always results in a life of peace, a life of rest.** Note the stark contrast to that of the wicked! (*Isa 57:20-21*) *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.* [21] *"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."* **I need to remember that!**

2Ch 14:6-7 And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest. [7] Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, 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 has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

- **In seeking God, they had peace, they had prosperity.** That is always true. (*Pro 14:34*) *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.* As the nation seeks God, the nation will experience prosperity, it will experience peace. But surely as a nation forgets God, there is going to be turmoil and crisis.

2Ch 14:8 And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.

- **It is interesting to see that the smaller tribe of Benjamin had almost as many men as Judah.** Also we see the number had grown over a ten-fifteen period from four hundred thousand at the time of Abijah to five hundred and eighty thousand, indicating a high population growth rate during this time of peace.

- **Is it right to build up an army, a defense? Is not trusting in God enough to take care of everything in life?** Is it okay for a Christian to own a gun and have it in their house for self-defense? We still live in a **fallen world**. Asa has his priorities right. It is important to rid the nation of idolatry, turning it back to God. He got the nation right spiritually. Then he addressed the military. What he is modeling before the people is that our single great defense as a nation, is not our military, it is our faith in God and our relationship with God.

2Ch 14:9 Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

- **One million men!** Then if it could not be any worse, they also have three hundred chariots and they have come to Mareshah, twenty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem! This is a historical account but putting ourselves in the place of Judah. You have just been invaded with an army of one million men, fabulously equipped for warfare. What would you do?
- **What is the lesson here? They are in the middle of an impossible situation! LORD, if You do not come through, I am going to surely die, kind of a trial! That is the situation! What do you do? We have a great illustration here in what Asa did!**

2Ch 14:10-11 So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. [11] And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

- **He prayed!** Facing an opponent that has more powerful weapons, and that outnumbers you, the wisest thing you can do is what Asa did! That is to pray!
- **And Asa cried out to the LORD his God.** He prayed, crying out to the LORD his God! His God! That is everything to be able to cry to You, my God, my LORD! First of all, in his prayer, he recognizes that, **"If God helps us, that is all we need.** It does not make any difference to God whether we are weak, or whether we are strong. Difficulty must always be measured by the capacity of the agent that is doing the work It is interesting how that we automatically carry over unto God, our own limitations.
- **and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help.** My LORD there is nothing that can hinder You from helping. Your power is superior, far above all others and anything else! There is none or nothing besides You that could possibly help!
- **whether with many or with those who have no power;** The number helping You does not matter. Whether with many or with few, because we have no power apart from You!
- **help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You,** Help us! We rest on You; We lean on You! We trust in you! We rely totally upon You for help!
- **and in Your name we go against this multitude. (Joh 14:13-14) And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (Pro 18:10) The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.**
- **O LORD, You are our God;** O God, only You we know! Only You, we serve! We are Your people! We call on You by Your name
- **do not let man prevail against You!"** Let no man. Let no enemy prevail against You! You and You alone! We trust in You!

2Ch 14:12-13 So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. [13] And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the LORD and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.

- The retreat of the Ethiopians covered a territory of about twenty-five more miles southwest of Jerusalem. It was like a 25-mile race in terms of the battle and overcoming the retreating forces.

2Ch 14:14 Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.

- **God did a real number on the enemy. Israel gathered so much spoil!** How great were the spoils war that they took back to Jerusalem!

2Ch 14:15 They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

- The great lesson of this chapter in Asa's life, although later on he will forget it, is that God gave him a supernatural, amazing victory over the million-man army, in response to his simple faith in God! That is what happened here on this particular scene. Asa must have been thinking to himself, Man, after what God did here, I may have other crises in my life, but the one crisis I will not have is a crisis of faith! There will never be any situation that I

will not respond to in faith and absolute confidence that God can take care of it. This is something I will not forget! And yet He is going to forget it. And He will later on, near the end of his reign, fall in this very area.

- **God's victory over a million-man army. How well do I relate to Asa with respect to his confidence and thankfulness to God for what He has done. That I will never fail to trust Him no matter what! Have I experienced this? How faithful have I been?**

Asa's Religious Reforms - 2Ch 15:1-2 Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. [2] And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

- A basic, basic truth! Underline it, take it to heart. What was said to Asa, Judah, and Benjamin, is true of us today. "The LORD is with you, if you will be with Him; and if you will seek Him, you will find Him; and if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." This message should be carried to the nation! Giving them the warning, "You are blessed with victory. You are coming back with spoils of war. You have prospered, you have defeated the enemy, and the LORD did it for you! He will be with you as long as you are with Him! When you seek Him, He will be found of you! But if you turn and forsake Him, the LORD will forsake you."

2Ch 15:3 For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law;

- Probably speaking of the northern kingdom because they had expelled all of the priests of the north.

2Ch 15:4 but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.

- God is always gracious, you turn to God, and you will find Him!

2Ch 15:5 And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands.

- Like in the days of the judges. (Jdg 5:6) "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, the highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways.

2Ch 15:6 So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity.

- Or tribes destroying one another, as the Ephraimites by the Gileadites, and the tribe of Benjamin by the other tribes; and Shechem by Abimelech, (Jdg 9:45) So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who were in it; and he demolished the city and sowed it with salt.

2Ch 15:7 But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

- The LORD encourages him here in giving him the warning, but then also encourages him in his faith.
- Azariah is saying, you come from this victory. God is warning! I want you to be careful now. As long as you are with Me, I will be with you. When you seek Me, you will find Me. If you forsake Me, I will forsake you. Think of Israel. They had no teaching priests, and yet in all of their trouble and rebellion, when they did cry out and call unto Me and seek Me, I was revealed to them. They found Me. But look at the trouble up there now, nation against nation, city against city. But you, Asa, in contrast "and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"
- **That is a great exhortation for us today! At times, I need to be told this, your work shall be rewarded. The Lord just says this to us so clearly. He says, (1Co 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

2Ch 15:8 And when Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had taken in the mountains of Ephraim; and he restored the altar of the LORD that was before the vestibule of the LORD.

- When Asa heard these words and the prophecy, he took courage. He responded! When he hears the word of God, he obeys. It caused him to act. He wanted to bring his life into alignment with it, so he took courage. He put away the abominable idols out of all of the land of Judah and Benjamin and out of the Ephraim cities which he had taken. He destroys every vestige of idolatry there. He renewed the altar of the LORD that was before the vestibule of the LORD.

2Ch 15:9 Then he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those who dwelt with them from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon, for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

- In the prosperity now of Judah, many from the tribes of Simeon, Ephraim, and Manasseh, moved south. Many saw God blessing the nation. "Look, they are honoring the Lord. God is working, God is blessing! Let us go down and let us move down there, and live under that kind of environment, rather than all the godlessness here.

2Ch 15:10-11 So they gathered together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. [11] And they offered to the LORD at that time seven hundred bulls and seven thousand sheep from the spoil they had brought.

- That would have been the Feast of Pentecost. So at the Feast of Pentecost, a great multitude of people from the north came down to join in with this happy celebration.

2Ch 15:12 Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

- This is glorious! They said, “We are going to make a covenant to seek the LORD. We are going to covenant with ourselves. We are going to seek the LORD.” Oh what a covenant that we should be making. We ought to just covenant together, “We are going to seek the LORD! We are going to pray! “As for me and my house, we’re going to serve the LORD, we are going to seek the LORD!” If fathers would stand up, and clean house.
- **God help us! Let us get serious with God! Let us get involved in the prayer meetings! Let us seek the LORD with all of our heart, and with all of our soul!**

2Ch 15:13 and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

- They committed to seek the LORD with all that they had under the penalty of death. Those that were refusing renew the covenant were to be put to death because their refusal could mean only one of two things, their acceptance of other gods or their involvement in idolatry or some kind of an enmity or a hatred toward the LORD.

2Ch 15:14 Then they took an oath before the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns.

- It was really a moving kind of a gathering as they made this covenant, as they realized the importance of keeping the LORD at the heart of the nation. Thus this covenant to seek Him with all of their hearts. Then the *oath before the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns.*

2Ch 15:15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

- It was a glorious time of spiritual reformation, and revival! Now there have been periods of great revival in the United States. It is encouraging to read of the meetings that Finney held in the United States, in the earlier years, and the tremendous revival that came during Finney's time. It is nothing for God to send revival, but it takes a commitment of God's people. For us to resolve to serve the LORD, to seek Him with all of our heart and soul; to get serious.

2Ch 15:16 Also he removed Maachah, the mother (grandmother) of Asa the king, from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah; and Asa cut down her obscene image, then crushed and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

- This woman was still there with a wicked influence, and he removed her. For Asa to assert himself like this on behalf of the LORD spoke volumes to the nation. If he was going to lead the nation, they needed to see there was no compromise in his own house. Indeed, there was no compromise in his own house. Asa is on fire for the LORD at this point.

- **Is there compromising in my house?**

2Ch 15:17 But the high places were not removed from Israel. Nevertheless the heart of Asa was loyal (perfect) all his days.

- The heart of Asa was loyal. The idea is complete or perfect here. Asa's heart was, complete all of his days. Remember it had said back in the battle, he cried unto the LORD (2Ch 14:11b) *for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!* For we rest on You. We lean on You. He was leaning on the LORD for help. His heart is loyal, perfect, or complete toward God. This is good!

2Ch 15:18 He also brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated and that he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

- Asa brought this spoil and refilled the treasuries of the temple that had been looted by the king of Egypt.

2Ch 15:19 And there was no war until the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa.

- Asa has over 20 years of peace at this point in time and evidently incredible prosperity.

Asa's Last Years - 2Ch 16:1 In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

- In the northern kingdom of Israel, King Baasha built this fortified city on the main trade route, to stop all supplies from coming into Israel from the north. This was a huge threat to the nation of Judah.

2Ch 16:2-3 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, [3] "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."

- This is a great illustration for us, in not what to do! We see how Asa does not respond the same way he did earlier when he faced the million-man army. Then he had less authority; less prosperity; less of an army but then he cried out unto the LORD, who gave him this tremendous victory!
- Here we see no prayer but turning to managing the situation rather than responding to it by totally trusting in the LORD. He now has money in the treasury. Asa will take that money attempting to solve the problem that Judah has with Baasha!
- We see this pattern over and over again with the kings. How that in the beginning of their reign they had nothing but the LORD. They trusted in Him and He delivered them over and over.
- ***As I look at myself in my older years, how strong is my tendency to rely on myself, my discernment, and strategies, managing the problem, rather than putting my trust totally in the LORD? Am I doing the same things that Asa is doing here? Relying on self and the blessings that I have received rather than, with much prayer, totally leaning on and trusting in the LORD?***

2Ch 16:4-5 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. [5] Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah and ceased his work.

- In order that Baasha might send his troops to the north to defend themselves from this invasion of Syria.
- 2Ch 16:6 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.*
- It seemed that the strategy worked! Baasha's threat of war by building the fortified city was removed.. Judah were able to move into this city of Ramah, take the timbers and stones, and build a couple of cities for Judah. Asa is probably feeling very smug, very proud, able to take care of himself, and to save Judah from this threat

2Ch 16:7-8 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. [8] Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

- At the beginning of his career, Asa recognized that he was not sufficient, to face the huge host of the Ethiopians. He called to the LORD, putting himself on the LORD's side! He received the help of the LORD! God brought him victory!
- Now, strong, rich, powerful, the threat comes from the northern kingdom of Israel, and he uses strategies, military alliances, his wealth to buy him out of the problem.
- The prophet of God rebukes him, for having begun in the Spirit, he is now going to try to be made perfect in the flesh. He is going to resort to the flesh, and this is always a dangerous trend. **How important this is for me!**

2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

- *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth.* The eyes of His mercy and goodness, of His care and providence, are here and there; in every place throughout the whole world at once. *(Zec 4:10c) They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."*
- *To show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him;* "strongly to hold;" to be on their side; take their part; to strengthen them; support, supply, protect and defend them who are sincere and upright in heart.
- *In this you have done foolishly;* King Asa, you have done foolishly, trusting in man and not in the LORD, parting with His mercy and losing the opportunity to have the whole Syrian army fall into your hands!
- *Therefore from now on you shall have wars.* Hanani does not announce to Asa definite wars but only expresses the general idea that Asa by his godless policy would bring only wars, not peace, to the kingdom.

2Ch 16:10 Then Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.

- Now Asa's response is not a good one. This was a tremendous message to Asa. But he was not ready to receive it. He thought his fleshly strategy had worked. He was proud of what he had done and was not ready for the rebuke of God. Thus, he was in a rage, because he had been told that he had done a very foolish thing.
- Here is the lesson of Asa's life, and it is an important lesson! Asa showed less faith toward God in his old age than when he was younger. That should not be the case, but it is common even today among God's people. Where again, as

we grow older, instead of our “go to God,” concerning everything, faith growing greater; it can wane compared to earlier part in our life. We figure things out on our own instead of praying or depending upon the LORD.

- **Later in life, our relationship with God, is not what it once was.** The LORD wants us to depend on Him all the way to our dying breath in this life. So there is that necessity of being spiritual and actively engaged in faith with God, relying on Him, not only early in our walk, but also all the way through to the end!
- **It is easier to “manage” problems now than it was years ago. I can make two phone calls and have this thing fixed. I think I am more spiritual now than then, but I wonder if I really am. Am I trusting in my support system more than I am in prayer and trusting in my Lord? I think it is a good lesson, a good warning.**

2Ch 16:11-12 Note that the acts of Asa, first and last, are indeed written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. [12] And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

- The inference of the text is that had he sought the LORD; it is quite possible that the LORD would have healed him. But he continued to rely upon the arm of the flesh, rather than to rely upon the LORD. He had established a pattern of looking to the flesh, and fleshly means for help, rather than looking to God, which is always sad!

2Ch 16:13-14 So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign. [14] They buried him in his own tomb, which he had made for himself in the City of David; and they laid him in the bed which was filled with spices and various ingredients prepared in a mixture of ointments. They made a very great burning for him.

- Asa was a good king. He had a loyal heart for the LORD! He did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord! But in his old age, he did not finish well, trusting in the physicians rather than the LORD! My we learn from this!

SUMMARY:

- **2Ch 13:18 Consider the complete difference between Judah and Israel is their obedience and disobedience** in following the LORD! Although not perfect but notice the grace and mercy of God! What grace! Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD” in this battle; whereas for eighteen years Jeroboam had been leading the northern ten tribes in total idolatry, worshipping gold calf idol; completely rejecting the LORD! How obedient am I?
- **2Ch 14:15 God’s victory over a million-man army.** How well do I relate to Asa with respect to his confidence and thankfulness to God for what He had done. That I will never fail to trust Him no matter what comes! Have I experienced this? How faithful have I been?
- **2Ch 15:7 That is a great exhortation for us today! At times**, I need to be told this, your work shall be rewarded. The Lord just says this to us so clearly. *(1Co 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
- **2Ch 15:12 God help us! Let us get serious with God!** Let us get involved in the prayer meetings! Let us seek the LORD with all of our heart, and with all of our soul!
- **2Ch 16:3 As I look at myself in my older years, how strong is my tendency to rely on myself**, my discernment, and strategies, managing the problem, rather than putting my trust totally in the LORD? Am I doing the same things that Asa is doing here? Relying on self and the blessings that I have received rather than, with much prayer, totally leaning on and trusting in the LORD?
- **2Ch 16:10 It is easier to “manage” problems now than it was years ago.** I can make two phone calls and have this thing fixed. I think I am more spiritual than I was then, but I wonder if I really am. Am I trusting in my support system more than I am in prayer and trusting in my Lord? I think it is a good lesson, a good warning.
- **Lord help me to totally trust You and not to rely on my own strength! Help me to finish well! Help me to keep my eyes on You! Open my eyes, Lord!**

OPEN OUR EYES, LORD - Maranatha Music (1:54/1:57)

*Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him And say that we love Him
Open our ears, Lord And help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord We want to see Jesus*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Chronicles, Chapters 17-19