

**2 CHRONICLES 15:2 -- IF YOU SEEK HIM.... – 2 CHRONICLES 16:9 –
THE EYES OF THE LORD RUN TO AND FRO....**

3/12/15 Sat Morn Prayer

2Ch 15:2 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.

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."

- **Biblical Background:** Last week we studied King Asa's beautiful prayer when Judah was under immanent attack by Zerah the Ethiopian with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots
- **It was a wonderful example of Asa crying to the Lord,** in the face of an impossible and dangerous situation.
- **Asa prayed LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many of with those who have no power! It is equally easy for Him to defeat a million or 5 million. There's nothing too difficult for the LORD!**
- **The LORD heard the cry, struck the Ethiopians** before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled, leaving much spoil.

Following the victory, the Spirit of God came upon Azariah, who went out to meet Asa. His greeting is a great verse and truth! –

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- Asa was told that for a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest and without law!
- But when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel and sought Him, He was found by them.
- Asa was reminded to be strong and do not let your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded!
- Asa responded by removing the abominable idols for all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had taken
- He gathered the nation together in the 15th year of his reign and they offered a tremendous offering of many sacrifices of the spoil which has been taken in the victory over the Ethiopians.
- Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD their God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul. And whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death.
- All Judah rejoiced at the oath and sought the LORD with all their soul. He was found by them and He gave them rest all around.
- Asa removed Maachah, the grandmother of Asa because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. Asa cut down the image, crushed it and burned it by the Brook Kidron.
- We read the heart of Asa was loyal all his days.
- God granted peace to Israel until the 35th year of Asa's reign.
- Then King Baasha, king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might prevent any from the Northern Kingdom of Israel from coming or going to Judah.
- **This time in the face of trouble, King Asa did not seek God but took matters into his own hand.** He took silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house and sent them to Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, making a treaty with him, to protect Judah by attacking King Baasha. His strategy seemed to work as Baasha was threatened and withdrew from Ramah.

- At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa 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.
- Hanani reminded Asa of his relying on the LORD with the huge army from Ethiopian, which had been a greater threat, and how the LORD, because Asa’s reliance on Him, had delivered them into Asa’ hand.
- Because Asa had countered the actions of Baasha by entering into an alliance with Syria and by this action had demonstrated a lack of trust in the LORD by Asa, Hanani then said:

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- Notice how **the rebuke of Hanani contrasts with Azariah’s previous exhortation!**
- God is much displeased when He is not trusted and when an arm of flesh is relied on more than His power and goodness. By putting our confidence in God we give honor to Him, and therefore He thinks Himself affronted if we give that honor to another. Hanani plainly tells the king that he had done foolishly,
- **Asa responded very angrily and had Hanani put into prison.** This is **the first act of persecution of a prophet by a king recorded** in the OT. Also Asa oppressed some of the people at that time!
- About four years later, Asa became diseased in the feet and his sickness was severe
- **Once again, instead of wholly trusting in the LORD,** we read that **Asa did not seek the LORD, but the physicians!** The problem was not in seeking help from the physicians, but for his doing so apart from the LORD!

SUMMARY:

- Whenever we face an opponent or a situation where the opponent that has more powerful weapons, and that outnumbers you, **the wisest thing you can do is what Asa did, pray! He did when endangered by the Ethiopian army. Asa didn’t when threatened by King Baasha!!**
- **God gave Judah and King Asa 20years of peace and prosperity.** There’s always a danger of success-developing military strength and trusting in a strong economy. –Trusting in the arm of the flesh. **If God helps us, if God helps me, that’s all that’s needed!!!**
- **But note how often – almost every king of Judah did not finish well because they trusted in the arm of the flesh; their own might and position.** What a strong tendency to do this develops!
- **WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL!!** Not—Lord, I can do it! I’ll take care of it!
- **But NO!!!** I can’t do it! Relying on the arm of the flesh will ultimately fail.
- **We must surrender to Him; Pray for His help, guidance and His victory-the only way!**
- **Also realizing we can’t do it ourselves, helps us in not judging others who are in trouble!**
- **How is your “trust only in the Lord” record? How is mine?**

- **MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS:**

1. *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain:

*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. *When Darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)*

3. *His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)*

4. *When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)*