

ASA, A RIGHTEOUS KING. 1 KN. 15:9-24. 01/08/23. #41.

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¶ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah. ¶ And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom. ¶ Asa did *what was* right in the eyes of the Lord, as *did* his father David. ¶ And he banished the *perverted* persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. ¶ Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from *being* queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned *it* by the Brook Kidron. ¶ But the *high places* were not removed. Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the Lord all his days. ¶ He also brought into the house of the Lord the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils. ¶ Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. ¶ And 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. ¶ Then Asa took all the silver and gold *that was* left in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, 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 a present of silver and gold. Come and 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. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali. ¶ Now it happened, when Baasha heard *it*, that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah. ¶ Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none *was* exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah. ¶ The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet. ¶ So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

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1. A new king

- a. Asa took over from Abijam
 - a1. Unlike Rehoboam & Abijam, Asa was holy
 - a2. Asa chose a different course than father
- b. Asa reigns for 41 years
- c. God states that Asa did what is right in his eyes
- d. Asa took major steps to remove evil
 - a1. He banished homosexuals from the land
 - a2. He removed all idols from the land
 - a3. Removed his grandmother, Maccah, from being queen-mother since she made an Asherah pole (fertility goddess, consort of the god, Baal)
 - a4. The idols were burned at the Brook Kidron
- e. Whatever influences were in Asa's life, he chose a godly path

2. Not a perfect king

- a. For some reason Asa did not remove the High Places where idol worship took place

- b. We don't know why Asa kept the High Places
 - a1. This is a mixed message
 - a2. Rm. 13:14 we are to make no provision for the flesh (by keeping the High Places, idol worship was kept alive)
- c. He stayed loyal to God
 - a1. Just as David sinned, Asa failed to finish cleansing the land
 - a2. Even though God used Asa as far as Asa allowed himself to be used
- d. None of the kings after him removed the High Places until Josiah sat on the throne

3. Maneuverings & not Spirit led

- a. Asa and Baasha of Israel warred against each other, and Baasha moved into northern & built Ramah as a fortress
- b. Baasha was allied with Ben-Hadad of Syria
 - a1. Asa paid all the gold & silver that was left in the treasury to Ben-Hadad to bribe him to break this alliance & leave Judah
 - a2. No indication that Asa asked God about this plan (see Is. 7)
 - a3. The only gold & silver left from Solomon were the utensils for the temple
- c. Ben-Hadad left Judah
 - a1. Asa dismantled Ramah & then built Geba & Mizpah in Benjamin
 - a2. 2 Chn. 14-16 Asa had over 500,000 men who could be called to arms
- d. In his old age, Asa became diseased in his feet (some kind of infection which probably led to blood poisoning or sepsis, taking Asa's life)
- e. Asa was considered a righteous king, loyal to God, even though he kept the High Places in tact
 - a1. Often, believers serve God, but keep vices in their lives that hinder their walk
 - a2. God wants a total commitment to him
 - a3. God will show us our shortcomings if we seek his guidance, but it is up to us to remove all impediments to our walk with him