

## 2 Chronicles 14:1-15 **Asa – a good king of Judah - Ten Years of Peace**

### Asa Reigns in Judah (1 Kings 15:9-15)

<sup>1</sup> 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.**

### Purge of Idolatry

<sup>2</sup> Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of Yahweh Elohay (the Lord his God),

<sup>3</sup> for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.

<sup>4</sup> He commanded Judah to seek Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God) of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.

<sup>5</sup> He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.

### Cities Built

<sup>6</sup> And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because Yahweh (the Lord) had given him rest.

<sup>7</sup> 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 Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God); we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

### Army of Judah

<sup>8</sup> 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.

### Victory over Ethiopians

<sup>9</sup> Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

<sup>10</sup> So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

<sup>11</sup> And Asa cried out to Yahweh Elohay (the Lord his God), and said, "Yahweh (Lord), it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Yahweh Eloheynu (Lord our God), for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O Yahweh Eloheynu (Lord, You are our God); do not let man prevail against You!"

<sup>12</sup> So Yahweh (the Lord) struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

<sup>13</sup> 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 Yahweh (the Lord) and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.

<sup>14</sup> Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of Yahweh (the Lord) came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.

<sup>15</sup> They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

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Facts Revealed:

**Asa Reigns in Judah (1 Kings 15:9-15)**

- ✧ 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 Chronicles 14:1]
- ✧ The fruit of righteousness is Peace

**Purge of Idolatry** [2 Chronicles 14:2-5]

- ✧ Asa removed all the places used for idol worship and destroyed the images and altars associated with idolatry.
- ✧ Asa also commanded all of Judah to seek Yahweh and obey His commandments.

**Cities Built** [2 Chronicles 14:5-7]

- ✧ Asa built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because Yahweh (the Lord) had given him rest.
- ✧ When rulers of nations do what is right in the eyes of Yahweh and command the people to seek and obey Yahweh, He will give them peace and rest.
- ✧ Trusting in Yahweh, Asa used the time of peace to build fortified cities in Judah.

**Army of Judah** [2 Chronicles 14:8]

- ✧ Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah and 280,000 from Benjamin, 580,000 total.

**Victory over invading Ethiopians** [2 Chronicles 14:9-15]

- ✧ Ethiopians came against Judah with a million man army and 300 chariots.
- ✧ Asa cried out to Yahweh, acknowledging that Yahweh can prevail over any size of armies for those who trust in Him.
- ✧ Yahweh overthrew the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians could not recover.
- ✧ The fear of Yahweh overcame the Ethiopians and Asa and those with him pursued them as far as Gerar and defeated all the cities around Gerar taking exceeding great spoils and livestock back to Jerusalem.