

Asa

1 Kings 15:9 – 16:34

2 Chronicles 14:2 – 16:14

by Don Falkos

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Asa king of Judah was completely faithful to the Lord. He destroyed the shrines, altars, and idols of foreign gods. He encouraged the people to obey the Lord. And the Lord blessed him with many years of peace.

A massive Ethiopian army attacked Judah. Asa prayed, and the Lord helped him. His vastly outnumbered army defeated the Ethiopians. A prophet said to Asa, "The Lord will be with you, as long as you obey and worship him. Be strong and don't give up."

Once Baasha king of Israel captured the city of Ramah in Judah. Asa took the silver and gold from the Lord's Temple and from his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram. In exchange, Ben-Hadad invaded Israel. Baasha left Ramah and went home to defend his kingdom.

A prophet said to Asa, "You have done a foolish thing. You have made Judah a vassal to the king of Aram rather than depending on the Lord your God for help. So your kingdom will never again be at peace."

During the reign of Asa in Judah, there was a series of kings in Israel. Under Omri and Ahab, Israel was built into a power to be reckoned with, while Judah became weak and subservient. Jericho was rebuilt, but the man who rebuilt it lost his oldest and youngest sons, fulfilling the curse spoken by Joshua hundreds of years before.

When Asa grew old, he contracted a foot disease that eventually killed him. His son Jehoshaphat became king after him.