

2 Chronicles 14

King James Version (KJV)

14 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years. (Asa ruled for a total of 41 years. Asa means physician or cure in Hebrew – Per Smith’s Bible Dictionary)

²And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: (He was true to God)

³For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: (He got rid of the idol worship in Judah)

⁴And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. (This is a sure way for a country to be successful and to prosper. If you seek God, you will find Him)

⁵Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. (high places of worship to God and to idols – Both were against God’s law) (images– sun images- sun pillars for Baal worship) (Asa wiped out Baal worship in Judah and Benjamin)

⁶And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. (God rewarded Asa with peace)

⁷Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, 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 hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. (build- fortify) (rest on every side = no enemies in your lands or at your borders; seek God in your life and you will have peace)

⁸And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour. (targets- large shields for protection against arrows; not targets as we know them today)

⁹And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. (Mareshah- a plain in Judah) (thousand thousand = a Hebrew expression that means so large that it cannot be counted)

¹⁰Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. (Between Hebron and Ashdod)

¹¹And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee. (Asa is asking God to show His power to these heathen people)

¹²So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. (God destroyed them, not Asa. Like David, Asa put his faith in God, not in his army)

Leviticus-26:8 (If you do things God's way, five of you can put a hundred to flight, and a hundred can put ten thousand of the enemy to flight)

¹³And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. (Gerar was in an area occupied by the Philistines, who must have sided with the Ethiopians. Both of them paid the price for attacking God's people)

¹⁴And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. (God did this so that they could not regroup and attack Asa again)

¹⁵They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.