



"Faith in the Reign of Asa" Living by Faith Series January 28, 2023

Introduction

✿ Rehoboam

14 He [Rehoboam] did evil because **he did not set his heart to seek the LORD**. [2Ch 12:14 NASB95]
20 ... he took Maacah the daughter of Absalom, and she bore him Abijah, [and three other sons]. 21 Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom more than all his [other] wives and concubines. For he had taken eighteen wives and sixty concubines and fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. 22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maacah as head and leader among his brothers, for he [intended] to make him king. [2Ch 11:20-22 NASB95]

✿ Abijah

1 Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam [of Israel's ten Northern tribes], the son of Nebat, **Abijam** ["My Father is the Sea" or Abijah "My Father is Yahweh"] became king over Judah. 2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. 3 He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and **his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God**, like the heart of his father David. [1Ki 15:1-3 NASB95]

✿ Asa - the father of Jehoshaphat

- 1 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and his son Asa became king in his place. The land was undisturbed for ten years during his days.
- 9 So in the twentieth year of Jeroboam the king of Israel, **Asa** began to reign as king of Judah. 10 He **reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem...** [1Ki 15:9-10a NASB95]

Those who live by faith... Psalm 105:3-4

1. ...keep _____ with the Lord.

1. ...do good and right in the _____ of the Lord God.
2 Asa did good and right in **the sight of the LORD** his God, [2 Ch 14:2]

2. ...live by a _____ of the heart and not a ritual or work of the Law.

- 25 In the same way [He took] the cup also after supper, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this**, as often as you drink [it,] in remembrance of Me." [1Co 11:25]
- 14 But the high places were not taken away; nevertheless **the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the LORD all his days**. [1Ki 15:12-14 NASB95]

3. ...seek God and observe His _____.

4 and commanded Judah to seek the **LORD God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment**. [2Ch 14:4 NASB95]

4. ...remove all forms of _____.

- 3 for he removed the **foreign altars and high places**, tore down **the [sacred] pillars**, cut down the **Asherim**. [2 Ch 14:3]
- 5 He also removed the **high places and the incense altars** from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom was undisturbed under him. [2Ch 14:5 NASB95]

- 12 He also **put away the male cult prostitutes** from the land and **removed all the idols** which his fathers had made. 13 He also **removed Maacah his mother from [being] queen mother**, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah; and Asa cut down her horrid image and burned [it] at the brook Kidron. [1Ki 15:12-13 NASB95]

2. ...and seek the Lord will not be _____ by Him.

1 Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded, 2 and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: **the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.** [2Ch 15:1-2 NASB95]

1. ...turn to the Lord in times of _____.

3 "For many days Israel was **without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law.** 4 "But in their distress they turned to the **LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.** 5 "In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. 6 "Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress. 7 "But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work." [2Ch 15:3-7 NASB95]

2. ...do not trust in _____.

8 Now **Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah**, bearing large shields and spears, and **280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows**; all of them were valiant warriors. 9 Now **Zerah the Ethiopian** came out against them with an army of **a million men and 300 chariots**, and he came to Mareshah. 10 So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. [2Ch 14:8-10 NASB95]

3. ...trust that God is more _____ than the greatest enemy.

11 Then Asa **called to the LORD** his God and said, "**LORD, there is no one besides You to help [in the battle] between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.**"

✳ ..._____ to the Lord.

✳ ...trust in His _____ - reputation.

✳ ...acknowledge the Lord is the _____.

12 So **the LORD routed the Ethiopians** before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. 13 Asa and the people who [were] with him pursued them as far as Gerar; and so many **Ethiopians fell** that they could not recover, for they **were shattered before the LORD and before His army.** And they carried away very much plunder. [2Ch 14:11-13 NASB95]

3. ...will be _____ by Him.

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign **Baasha king of Israel** came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent [anyone] from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah. 2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent them to **Ben-hadad king of Aram**, who lived in Damascus, saying, 3 "[Let there be] a

"Faith in the Reign of Asa"
Living by Faith Series
January 28, 2023

*treaty between you and me, [as] between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me." 4 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim and all the store cities of Naphtali. 5 When Baasha heard [of it,] he ceased fortifying Ramah and stopped his work. 6 Then King Asa brought all Judah, and **they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had been building, and with them he fortified Geba and Mizpah.** [2Ch 16:1-6 NASB95]*

1. ...do not replace their _____ with God with the ungodly.

2. ...do _____ from their enemies.

3. ...do not miss _____ opportunity

*7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because **you** have **relied on the king of Aram** and **have not relied on the LORD your God**, therefore **the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.** 8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. [2Ch 16:7-8 NASB95]*

4. ...are _____ by the Lord.

9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars." 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time. [2Ch 16:9-10]

Conclusion

1. God's eyes are always _____ for a _____ servant to bless.

2. Ask God for the _____ of your _____ to be completely His.