

I. Wholehearted - 1 Kings 15:9-15

1. Two kingdoms (**verse 9**)
 - A. Northern Kingdom (Israel) - under Jeroboam
 - B. Southern Kingdom (Judah) - Asa
 - Father was Abijam
 - Grandfather was Rehoboam
 - Great grandfather was Solomon
2. Asa in Jerusalem for 41 years (**verse 10**)
3. Asa did what was right in eyes of the Lord (**verse 11**)
 - like his father David
 - compared to David and contrasted to Abijam and Rehoboam, Solomon
4. He expelled male prostitutes from the land
 - got rid of idols (**verse 12**)
 - this is how you “do what is right in the eyes of the Lord”
- Rea
Rea
 - note he is breaking with what his ancestors had done
5. He even deposed his grandmother (**verse 13**) - from queen mother
 - why - her worship of Asherah - the Canaanite goddess of fertility
 - it was “repulsive”
6. He did not remove the high places but his heart was committed to follow the Lord (**verse 14**)
7. He brought into the temple the items he and his father had dedicated (verse 15)
 - “separated” items
8. Whole hearted devotion
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Do you think that Asa got any “push back?” - from whom?
 2. He turns back the clock that his ancestors had begun rolling - how did he do it?
 3. 41 years is a long reign for Israel

II. Cornered - 1 Kings 15:16-19

1. Two kings fought one another - northern and southern kingdoms (**verse 16**)
 - Asa vs Baasha (king of Israel)
2. Baasha prevents anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa (**verse 17**)
 - Baasha blocks a key passageway cutting off trade and communication
 - he blocks Asa in
3. Asa deals with the treasures - sent to Damascus (**verse 18**)
 - to Ben-Hadad king of Aram
 - sent as a gift to Ben-Hadad with the idea of a treaty between the two of them
- (**verse 19**)
 - similar to the treaty between our fathers (covenant)
4. Ben-Hadad agreed to the treaty
 - he sends forces against Israel
 - Asa had sent a “gift” - translated elsewhere as “bribe”
5. Asa trusted Ben-Hadad instead of the Lord to save him
 - in difficult times it is easy not to trust God, but someone/ something you can see

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. When Abraham was childless late in his life - he failed by trying to have a son by Hagar - impatient
2. Note that Asa was on the defense with Baasha not on the offensive - this war was not his idea
3. Such conflicts were common in the day - both within the kingdom of Israel and outside

III. Resolved - 1 Kings 15:20-22

1. Ben-Hadad sent troops against Baasha (**verse 20**)
-the towns attacked are noted in this verse
2. So, Baasha stopped building Ramah and withdrew to Tirzah (**verse 21**)
3. Asa removed all the stones and timber that Baasha had brought there and built up Geba in Benjamin (**verse 22**)

Rea -used the timbers of evil, to build something good

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Do you think that Asa did the right thing in making this covenant with Baasha?
2. There is no sin in “strategies” - plans
-God can work through our “plans” or God can work outside our plans
3. Even if you live good in a bad world there is nothing that says you will not be attacked by bad persons
4. This shows that it is possible to make a difference - even turn back the hands of time - spiritually

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