

(3) Asa

BIBLICAL RECORD:

- 1 Kings 15:9-24
- 2 Chronicles 13:1 – 14:1
- 1st reference: 1 Kings 15:8
- Last reference: Matthew 1:8
- Mentioned 59 times in the Bible

POSITION:

- 3rd King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah

REIGN:

- 41 Years
- 911-871 B.C.

CHARACTER:

- Good

DEATH:

- **2 Chronicles 16:13** – “So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign.”

FAMILY:

- Son of Abijah
- Grandmother was Maacha
- His son was Jehoshaphat (25), 4th King of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

RULER(s) IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM:

- Became King during the 20th year of Jeroboam I (22), 1st King in the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Reigned during the reigns of the first 7 kings in the Northern Kingdom
 - Jeroboam (22) – Last 2 years of his reign.
 - Nadab (2)
 - Baasha (24)
 - Elah (2)
 - Zimri (7 days)
 - Omri (12)
 - Ahab (22) – Into 3rd year of Ahab’s reign

PROPHET(s):

- Azariah
- Hanani

OBSERVATIONS:

- 58 Bible references to him

- Asa was the godly son of a godless father (Ahijah) and the godly father of a godless son (Manasseh)
- The first 10 years of his reign were occupied in abolishing idolatry in the Southern Kingdom. He deposed his own grandmother for her idol-worship.
 1. Revival was drastic.
 2. The altar was renewed.
 3. Solemn vows were taken.
 4. Old vessels were rededicated.
 5. Old paths were re-trod.

FACTS:

- **1 Kings 15:11** – “Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord as his father David had done.”
- Asa brought about some great reforms:
 - He ran the male prostitutes out of the land. 2 Kings 15:12
 - Got rid of all the idols his fathers had made. 1 Kings 15:12
 - Deposed his own grandmother Maacha from her position as queen mother because she had made an Asherah pole and burned it in the Kidron Valley. 1 Kings 15:13 Note: Asherah was the name of a Phoenician goddess, or rather of the idol itself (KJV "grove"). Asherah is closely connected with ASHTORETH and her worship, Judges 3:7, Judges 2:3; 6:25; 1 Kings 18:19. Ashtoreth being, perhaps, the proper name of the goddess, while Asherah is the name of her image or symbol, which was of wood. See Judges 6:25-30; 2 Kings 23:14.
- **1 Kings 15:14** – “Although he did not remove the high places, Asa’s heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life.”
- “There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns. . .” **1 Kings 15:16**
- Asa Used silver and gold from the Temple and his own palace and sent them to Ben-Hadad, king of Aram and asked him to void his treaty with Baasha and establish one with him, and he did. 1 Kings 15:18-22 During Baasha’s 36th year as king, Baasha had gone up “. . . and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.” **2 Chronicles 16:1**
- Because Asa relied on Ben-hadad rather than God, Hanani the seer went to see Asa and criticized him for relying on Man rather than God. 2 Chronicles 16:7-9
- Asa was angry with Hanani and had him put in prison. 2 Chronicles 16:10
- **2 Chronicles 16:7** – “. . . The land is still ours, because we have sought the Lord our God; we sought Him and He has given us rest on every side . . .”
- Asa defeated Zerah the Cushite in battle. 2 Chronicles 16:9-15
- Azariah, son of Oded, gave excellent advice to King Asa in **2 Chronicles 15:2** – “The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”

- **2 Chronicles 15:3-4** – “For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. But in their distress they turned to the LORD , the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them.”
- In addition to the people of Judah and Benjamin, people from “. . . Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them, for large numbers had come over to him from Israel when they saw that the Lord was with him.” **2 Chronicles 15:9**
- **2 Chronicles 16:12** – “In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD , but only from the physicians.”

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE & REIGN:

- It is wrong to rely on men rather than God. (Ben-Hadad then the physicians) 2 Chronicles 16:7-9, 12 Note: These were the only two blemishes on his Biblical record.

KEY PASSAGE(s):

- **2 Chronicles 15:2** – “The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”
- **2 Chronicles 16:9** – “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him . . .”