

“We Interrupt This Program”

2 Chronicles 15:1-8: READ

Asa was a descendant of David and the third king of the southern kingdom of Judah. He ruled for forty-one years (1 Kings 15:10) and “*did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God*” (2 Chronicles 14:2). **He was the King of “a divided nation”**. Asa became king of Judah in the twentieth year of **Jeroboam** of Israel’s reign (Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the kingdom divided).



March 24th – 25th, 2020

The southern kingdoms of Judah and Benjamin had long been following after false gods and ignoring their relationship with the one true God (v. 3) ... **and God interrupted their program!**

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.” -- 2 Chronicles 15:5-6 (NASU)

We find in verse 4 that in their distress however, they turned to the Lord. Times were desperate for them (v. 5 and 6). And in these desperate times, desperate measures were needed to right the ship, to get back on track with God. What we have here in this story of Asa is the desperate measures they took **“to get back on track with God.”**

There are several things that Asa and the Southern Kingdom of Judah do to get back on track with, and restore a proper relationship with God.

The central lesson of Asa’s life is summed up by the otherwise unknown prophet Azariah (2 Chron. 15:2): **“If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.”**

“Seeking the Lord” is a major theme in these chapters and in all of 1 & 2 Chronicles. The Hebrew word literally means to trample under foot; the picture is that of frequenting a place so often that you *“beat a path”* there. The verb has the nuance of seeking with care and of inquiring after knowledge, insight, or advice on a problem.

SEEKING THE LORD MEANS . . .

(1) Obedience to God’s word. (2 Chron. 14:4; see 15:3, 4). There is no such thing as revival among God’s people without a return to His Word as the basis for life and conduct. In fact it’s safe to say that your spiritual health today is in direct proportion to how well you understand and obey the Word of God.

Please note that I did not say just “*how well you understand the Word*” ... but rather, “*how well you understand and obey,*” because knowledge without obedience leads to delusion (James 1:22).

If you want God’s blessing, you must begin a habit of regularly “beating a path” to God in His Word with the aim of applying it to your daily life.

Seeking the Lord means . . .

(2) Separation from known evil (14:5; 15:8, 16-17).

Seeking the Lord means . . .

(3) Fortifying our lives against spiritual danger. A lot of Christians kick back when the pressure is off and figure that they’ll knuckle down when they really have to. But then the trial hits and they fall apart. The time to strengthen your walk with the Lord is now (Proverbs 1:24-33)!

Seeking the Lord means . . .

(4) Trusting in the Lord, not methods. Asa knew, as everyone who grows strong in the Lord knows, that a powerful army is useless if the Lord is not his strength. The stronger you grow in the Lord, the more you become painfully aware of your own weakness, which drives you to trust in God alone. Methods and good management principles are fine, but we must be careful never to trust in them.

Finally, seeking the Lord means . . .

(5) Committing ourselves to worship the Lord (15:8b-15, 18). They restored the altar and began to offer the appointed sacrifices. They entered into a covenant to seek the Lord (15:12). Asa brought the dedicated things of silver and gold into the house of God (15:18). All of this was both time-consuming and expensive. It took time to slaughter all those animals and offer them in accordance with the Mosaic Law. It was costly to take perfectly good animals and sacrifice them. Gold and silver utensils were much more costly than copper or bronze.

True worship always costs our time and our money. If you’re a convenience Christian ... you worship when you don’t have something else to do, and you give when you have a little extra so it doesn’t pinch you ... then you’re not seeking the Lord. As David said, “*I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing*” (2 Sam. 24:24).

Thus seeking the Lord means ... obeying His Word; separating ourselves from known evil; fortifying our lives against spiritual danger; trusting in the Lord, not methods; and, committing ourselves to worship God. IF WE SEEK THE LORD, HE WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT US ... AND NOT INTERRUPT OUR PROGRAM OF LIFE!