The privilege of peace and quiet.

The successful campaign led by King Abijam crippled Jeroboam and had a unique effect on the region. Consider II Samuel 3:6, I Kings 15:6, I Kings 15:7, II Chronicles 14:1c

The Chronicler inserted an important detail at the end of the first verse of the 14th chapter, “the land was quiet ten years.” Ten years of what we call peace and quiet. This statement may seem small, but it was neither small nor insignificant. God allowed ten years of no conflict. Ten years without war-related deaths. Ten years for focus and learning and rest from war.

This is very meaningful because this would be after twenty years of war between Rehoboam and Abijam, against Jeroboam! Americans cannot imagine what it feels like to be in a constant state of war. But there are several places around the world that are always at war.

The fact is that God allows for periods of peace.

Joshua 11:23, Joshua 14:15, Joshua 21:44, I Kings 4:24, I Chron 22:9 and II Chronicles 14:1, 5-6.

**Life Lesson #59** - When God allows periods of peace, we should appreciate them and thank God. Peace is a privilege.

Too often we fail to capitalize on the periods of peace God grants us. People who prayerfully manage those periods tend to extend the periods. Those who do not approach them prayerfully tend to regret those periods after they are gone.

II Chronicles 14

Asa is known as a good King. His father, Abijah, did not have a long reign. But he left Asa in a good position to reform in Judah. Asa is known as one of the great reformers of the Old Testament. His name is mentioned favorably, in that he is considered one of the top ten Kings of the Bible. The was the first reformer of the Kingdom of Judah.

Consider I Kings 15:12-13, II Chronicles 14:1-7

It would be good to realize that some of the items Asa destroyed would have dated back to the days of Solomon. There had to be joy from the Levites and Priests as these reforms were being implemented.

His resume is extremely important because it includes the following:

* Took away the sodomites (I Kings 15:12)
* Removed his mother from being queen (I Kings 15:13)
* Took away the altars of the strange gods
* Took away the high places
* Break down the images
* Cut down the groves (wooden images)
* Built up key cities
* Sought the Lord

It is clear that God was pleased with these actions. The actions of Asa were clearly inspired by a love for God and deep study of the word of God. He was simply following the blueprint laid out in the Sacred Texts. Judah had to be a happy place for those who loved God.

II Chronicles 14:9-15

One of the greatest victories recorded in the Old Testament happened during the reign of King Asa.

Consider II Chronicles 14:8-15.

We can see that Asa’s military of more than five hundred thousand was once again outnumbered 2 to 1 by the one-million-man military from Ethiopia. And, just as the Lord fought for Judah under Ahijah, He intervened for Asa.

Asa had learned how to go to the Lord in prayer. (He would have been there during the battle against Jeroboam.) We too must realize that God is never intimidated by the size or scope of our problems. Whenever we are faced with a major problem, we should respond by seeking God’s intervention.

**Life Lesson #60 -** To God, there are no big problems, or little problems, just opportunities. When we pray, we should not panic, just pray!

II Chronicles 15

There was a great revival in Asa’s day.

**Life Lesson #61** - Unity always precedes revival. Disunity always prevents revival. Those who want revival should engage in praying for unity. We should commit to participate, wholeheartedly, in doing the things that we know please God.

We should check our personal resumes and see if we are in line for a season of renewal, revival, and peace.

Consider II Chronicles 15:1-19

As we discussed earlier, Judah was a great place in those days. So much so, that people began to leave the Northern Kingdom, and join themselves to Judah. They recognized that God was with them, and most of all they appreciated Asa’s commitment to pleasing God.

**Life Lesson #62** - People appreciate order! There are people who want to be around people who love the presence of the Lord. When worship is sincere and organized and prepared, those who love God will find their way there. The opposite is also true.

Consider I Corinthians 14:33, James 3:16

Homework: Study II Chronicles 16 and I Kings 16