The curious case of the last years of King Asa.

Consider II Chronicles 16:1-10

The sixteenth chapter of Second Chronicles captures the final few years of King Asa’s 41-year reign. We should keep in mind that the vast majority of King Asa’s leadership was marked by peace and quiet. Although he had enemies, none of them were able to disrupt the favor of God on his life.

King Asa was confronted by a real and present danger when King Baasha planned an all-out attack on Judah. King Asa devised the idea of bribing one of King Baasha’s allies to undermine Baasha. The plan works wonderfully. King Asa, once again, wins without a single life lost.

However, on the surface, there are at least two problems with this plan.

Problem #1. He took resources from the house of God to give to an ungodly person.

Problem #2. He had forgotten the way the Lord delivered Judah from the overwhelming odds they faced from the Ethiopians.

Problem #3. He never prayed for God’s direction.

**Life Lesson #63** – Some things belong exclusively to God and God’s Work. God sees them as “…holy unto the Lord…” It is unwise to take things that have been or should be, reserved for God and give them to ungodly people and purposes. (Even in a pinch!)

Consider Leviticus 27:30-32, Numbers 30:2, Ecclesiastes 5:5-6

What has The Lord done before?

It is important that we revisit the scene of one of the greatest victories in the Bible, found in II Chronicles 14. When Judah was outnumbered, God intervened. Remember the perfect prayer prayed by King Asa? Remember the oath of the people to seek the Lord wholly?

It is noteworthy that King Asa did not pray a similar prayer against Baasha as he did against the Ethiopians.

Consider II Chronicles 14:11, II Chronicles 15:8-15

**Life Lesson #64**- When trouble arises, either suddenly or gradually, seek the Lord.

**Life Lesson #65**- From time to time, have a private testimony service. Go down memory lane and remind ourselves of previous miracles and blessings. Those testimonies will always produce a divine calm and more faith.

The scope of II Chronicles 16:9-12

Consider II Chronicles 16:9-12

By this time in King Asa’s life, his judgment had begun to wane. The keen sense of faith that led him through his tenure as king had slipped away. His final years are marred by three bad decisions. The first bad decision involved his response to the invasion of King Baasha. The second was his response to the Prophet of the Lord. The third, and perhaps most disturbing, was his refusal to seek God.

Unlike his response to the good report from the Prophet Azariah in II Chronicles 14, King Asa overreacted and made matters worse. When all he needed to do was repent!

This third error of judgment separates him from King David, who famously trusted God unwaveringly.

Consider Psalm 20:7

**Life Lesson #66**- We should command ourselves to trust God until our last breath. Some people die bitter and angry; some die filled with worry concerning those they are leaving behind. We want to leave this world with the kind of praise that Morphine and Codeine cannot suppress!

The Bible records his response for all of us to see. It reminds us, even the seniors and experienced Saints, to keep a close eye on our reactions and responses.

The Chronicler documents King Asa’s funeral. He describes it as a grand event for a good leader, who led well and admirably for four decades.

Consider II Chronicles 16:13-14

Asa’s contemporaries (The criteria of a bad king)

 As a quick reminder, King Asa was the King of Judah or the Southern Kingdom. A biblical timeline shows a string of contemporaries. King Asa had to be aware of what was going on to his north.

All of these kings were “Bad.” The Bible establishes a criterion of a bad king or a common thread. They all did “evil.” They all continued to practice idolatry.

Nadab- I Kings 15:25-26

Baasha- I Kings 15:33-34

Elah- I Kings 16:8-10

Zimri- I Kings 16:15-20

Omri- I Kings 16:25-26

Ahab- I Kings 16:29-30

The only lesson we learn from these Kings is that they did not listen or learn from the mistakes of their predecessors.

Homework: II Chronicles, chapters 17 - 21