**Asa: Will You Finish Strong?**

2 Chronicles 14-16

**2 Chronicles 15:1 (ESV)**The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded,

**2 Chronicles 15:2 (ESV)**and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.”

[History]

**2 Chronicles 14:1 (ESV)**Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years.

[Story]

**Asa Removed …**

**2 Chronicles 14:2 (ESV)**And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God.

**2 Chronicles 14:3 (ESV)**He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim

**2 Chronicles 14:4 (ESV)**and commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment.

**2 Chronicles 14:5 (ESV)**He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him.

**Asa Rebuilt …**

**2 Chronicles 14:6 (ESV)**He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the Lord gave him peace.

**Asa Relied …**

**2 Chronicles 14:11 (ESV)**And Asa cried to the Lord his God, “O Lord, there is none like You to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on You, and in Your name we have come against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.”

**Asa Received …**

**2 Chronicles 15:1 (ESV)**The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded,

**2 Chronicles 15:2 (ESV)**and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The Lord is with you while 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 15:7 (ESV)**But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”

**Asa Repaired …**

**2 Chronicles 15:8 (ESV)**As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the Lord that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the Lord.

**Asa Risked …**

**2 Chronicles 15:16 (ESV)**Even Maacah, his mother, King Asa removed from being queen mother because she had made a detestable image for Asherah. Asa cut down her image, crushed it, and burned it at the brook Kidron.

**2 Chronicles 15:17 (ESV)**But the high places were not taken out of Israel. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true all his days.

**Asa Reverted …**

**2 Chronicles 16:2 (ESV)**Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the Lord and the king’s house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying,

**2 Chronicles 16:3 (ESV)**“There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me.”

**Asa Rejected …**

**2 Chronicles 16:7 (ESV)**At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, “Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you.

**2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)**For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward Him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”

**2 Chronicles 16:10 (ESV)**Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

**Asa Refused …**

**2 Chronicles 16:12 (ESV)**In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but sought help from physicians.

**Asa Rested …**

**2 Chronicles 16:13 (ESV)**And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign.

**2 Chronicles 16:14 (ESV)**They buried him in the tomb that he had cut for himself in the city of David. They laid him on a bier that had been filled with various kinds of spices prepared by the perfumer’s art, and they made a very great fire in his honor.

[Connection]

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)**Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

**Acts 20:24 (ESV)**But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

**How to finish strong … [build list]**

1. **Rejoice in past successes, but keep trusting and obeying God today.**
2. **Respond positively to correction, not just affirmation.**
3. **Remember that spiritual battles never stop.**

[Christ/cross connection]

**Jude 24 (ESV)**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy,

**Jude 25 (ESV)**to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.