

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF KING ASA

"You're Most Vulnerable When You Think You've Arrived"

Summary Points

Lesson 1

The first thing the bible records about King Asa is that: **"Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David."** I Kings 15:11 NKJV

What an excellent report! But compare this with his own father, King Abijam.

This is what was said about him: **"And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David."** I Kings 15:3 NKJV

Wow. In just one generation, there was such a drastic transformation from a king dedicated to evil to one who pleased God.

What was the difference? The bible gives us the clue.

"...Abijam became king over Judah. He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom." I Kings 15:1-2

"Asa removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron." I Kings 15:9-10, 13 NKJV

The influence of Maacah. That was the difference.

One king kept her around and learnt her evil ways. The other one removed her evil influence and succeeded in God's purpose. Asa was uncompromising in his commitment to God and he took a courageous step to strip his grandmother of her negative authority and influence.

Lesson 1: To follow God to Superabundant levels, you have to be brutal about removing negative relationships. NO SENTIMENTS.

ACTION STEP: Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to relationships that need to go! Then, ask for strength to follow through.

Lesson 2

Asa continued to do rule righteously and God gave him REST from his enemies. He also brought him and his kingdom into prosperity.

But suddenly, an enemy showed up! A king with a ONE MILLION STRONG army came against Asa and his people. They were completely outnumbered and would have been easily destroyed. Notice, however, that the bible has

no record of Asa going off track prior to this attack. He was still doing the right thing. He was still serving God. But an enemy showed up anyway.

Jesus said, **“In this life you will have tribulations.”** It’s the nature of the world we live in. But Asa could have become angry and bitter at God: “But I’ve been serving you diligently! Why did you let this happen?”

Instead, he chose to worship him as God and throw himself on his mercy. The Result? God delivered him with a mighty hand and they walked away with abundant prosperity!

Lesson 2: Never blame God for the entrance of an enemy into your life. MAGNIFY HIM and he will rise to fight for you and use that problem to ELEVATE you.

ACTION STEP: Let the first words you utter when an attack of the enemy interrupts your life be thanksgiving to God. You may not understand it; but thank him because he understands and he has your back. If you have been complaining and murmuring against God, ask for forgiveness and help to get back into a joyful state of heart.

Lesson 3

After their victory over this enemy, Asa and his people enjoyed many years of great peace and prosperity until they became a force up he reckoned with.

Then, another enemy showed up.

This time, Asa didn’t throw himself on God’s mercy. Instead, he took the enormous amounts of gold and silver he had amassed and used them to buy help from another king. He relied on his own strength instead of going to God.

Similar challenge, but a completely different outcome:

“And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: “Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.”

II Chronicles 16:7, 9 NKJV

Lesson 3: You can undo years of unusual favour by getting into bed with PRIDE.

ACTION STEP: Daily renew your dependence on God, particularly in those areas where you think you have many natural advantages or alternatives.

Meditation Verse: **“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”** II Chronicles 16:9 NKJV