Lesson 3: Asa & the Prophets of God

Readings – 2 Chronicles 14-16, 1 Kings 15-16

**WHEN?**

The history of the divided kingdom has been divided into the time periods of different oppressors. Circle the prophets in this lesson & mark the decades of their activities using the timelines in the reference section/back cover.

**WHY?**

King Asa life is summarized in 1 Kings 15:11 that he did right in the eyes of the Lord. He reigned for 41 years while the northern kingdom of Israel went through 7 kings and 3 dynasties.

1 Kings 15:11 (ESV)

And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as David his father had done.

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He starts his reign cleaning the Land of idolatry and in particular the cutting down of the Asherim/Aserah, a pole or tree representing a goddess.

He turns to God to defeat Zerah the Ethiopian & his army and along with the people make a covenant to follow the Lord.

Why then with the threat of Baasha does he turn to Syria rather than the Lord and even refuses to turn to the Lord when his feet become diseased?

**WHERE?**

How far did the people carry the timber to build Geba & Mizpah?

2 Chronicles 16:6 (ESV)

Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them he built Geba and Mizpah.
2 Chronicles 14:1 (ESV)

1 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.

How is Asa’s kingship described in 2 Chr 14:2?

Several specific actions taken by Asa and the people are described – list them:

Vs 3 a.

b. 

c. 

d. 

Vs 4 a.

b. 

Vs 5. a.

b. 

What did God give Asa and the people as a result of their actions and was done (5-6)?

2 Chronicles 14:9 (ESV) – Asa & Zerah

9 Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.

Asa deploys his men at most 580,000 men (2 Chr 14:8) & then he cried to whom (11)?

Asa makes 4 statements why the Lord would deliver them, - List them –

a. (11) 

b. (11) 

c. (11) 

d. (11)

Who defeated the Ethiopians (12)?

Asherah, the Canaanite goddess of fertility—was often depicted as a tree or a pole.
2 Chronicles 15:1 (ESV) — Asa’s Reforms

1 The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded,

Who did Azariah tell to listen to him (2)?

What was his message to them

a. (2)

b. (2)

c. (2)

Can you describe a time in the history of God’s people that fits what is described in verses 3-6?

Azariah tells Asa and the people to take courage in verse 7. Why would you need to take courage to do right?

2 Chronicles 16

How should the people act in response to Azariah’s message (7)?

What people came to Asa’s call to gather (9-10)?

How did the people about the renewal of the covenant (12-15)?
2 Chronicles 16 (ESV) – Asa’s Last Years

In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

During Asa’s rule several kings had come and gone in Israel. The strongest and longest ruling king of Israel during his life was Baasha and given the length of his rule (35th year in verse 2 Chr 15:19 should probably read 25th year (1 Kgs 16:8)).

How did Asa respond to this threat (2:3)?

What action did Ben-Hadad take (4)?

What did Asa call out of the men of Judah to do (6)?

How did Asa respond to being called a fool (10)?

What did Asa develop in the 39th year of his reign (12)?

Who did he not seek (12)?

When did Asa die (13)?

1 Kings 15:16-17 (ESV)

And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 17 Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

To stop him Asa makes a covenant with Syria to attack Israel. How did Baasha react to the attack (vs 2 Chr 16:5 or 1 Kgs 15:21)?

1 Kings 16:1-4
What message did Jehu son of Hanani deliver to Baasha?

2 Chronicles 16:7-10
What was the result of Asa putting his trust in Ben-Hadad (7)?

What previous attack did Hanani remind Asa about (8)?

How did Hanani describe Asa as a result (9)?