

MAY 12

Read 2 Chronicles 14-17

CHAPTER 14

SO Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.

2 And Asa did *that which was* good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:

3 For he took away the altars of the strange *gods*, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves:

4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.

5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.

6 ¶ And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest.

7 Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about *them* walls, and towers,

gates, and bars, *while* the land *is* yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought *him*, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered.

8 And Asa had an army *of men* that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these *were* mighty men of valour.

9 ¶ And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.

10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, *it is* nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O

LORD, thou *art* our God; let not man prevail against thee.

12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.

13 And Asa and the people that *were* with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil.

14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

15 They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 15

AND the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for a long season Israel *hath been* without the true God,

and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

5 And in those times *there was* no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations *were* upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

8. And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that *was* before the porch of the LORD.

9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God *was* with him.

10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

11 And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

14 And they sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

16 ¶ And also *concerning* Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from *being* queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped *it*, and burnt *it* at the brook Kidron.

17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

18 ¶ And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels.

19 And there was no *more* war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

CHAPTER 16

IN the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,

3 *There is* a league between me and thee, as *there was* between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.

4 And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the cap-

tains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.

5 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard *it*, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease.

6 Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.

7 ¶ And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.

8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for *he was* in a rage with him because of this *thing*. And Asa oppressed *some* of the people the same time.

11 ¶ And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

13 ¶ And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.

14 And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds *of spices* prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

CHAPTER 17

AND Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set gar-

risons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

3 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

4 But sought to the *LORD* God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.

5 Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.

7 ¶ Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, *even* to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8 And with them *he sent* Levites, *even* Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

9 And they taught in Judah, and *had* the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.

10 ¶ And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that *were* round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

11 Also *some* of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.

12 ¶ And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.

13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, *were* in Jerusalem.

14 And these *are* the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand.

15 And next to him *was* Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.

16 And next him *was* Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour.

17 And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand.

18 And next him *was* Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war.

19 These waited on the king, beside *those* whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapters 13—16 cover the rule of Abijah and Asa. Abijah is also called Abijam in I Kings 15.

In the first twelve verses of chapter 13 the writer of Chronicles shows that true worship of the Lord was conducted in the Temple at Jerusalem. Then the great victory of Abijah over Jeroboam is described in verses 13-22.

Abijam was a wicked king and reigned only three years. His son Asa came to the throne and I Kings 15 records that he was a good king. Asa was a welcome change after all the years of evil rulers. He attempted to take away the awful sins established by Rehoboam, and under his leadership there was a period of rest and revival. He even had his mother removed from her position as queen because she was an idol worshiper. However, Asa's reign did not end as well as it had begun. He began to trust in men for protection and failed to trust the Lord. He used the Temple's wealth to hire Assyria to fight for him, and this ungodly alliance cost him dearly.

Chapter 16 records the death of Asa and, in chapter 17, Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead. Revival took place under Jehoshaphat's leadership and his growing power is recorded in the latter part of this chapter.

Jehoshaphat entered into an alliance with Ahab, the king of Israel, which proved to be a great mistake. The alliance was a serious compromise and blunder on the part of Jehoshaphat. He was rebuked by the prophet Jehu, and as a result of this rebuke Jehoshaphat restored judicial justice and priestly order in Judah.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction" (Proverbs 13:3).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 15: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

HYMN FOR TODAY

GOLDEN HARPS ARE SOUNDING
Words and Music by Frances R. Havergal,
1836-1879

Christ's resurrection is one of the most authenticated facts in history. During the 40-day interlude between Easter and the ascension, He was seen by such trusted witnesses as Peter, the entire group of disciples and apostles, a crowd of 500 of His followers, and finally by the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:5-8). And many of these same individuals who saw His resurrected body also witnesses His ascent into heaven. The resurrection and the ascension, cornerstones of the Christian faith, have been historically documented. Christ's ascension assures us that Jesus is alive and ruling His kingdom while seated at the right hand of His Father. The ascension is also the guarantee that our Lord will personally return for His followers and escort us to the heavenly home He has prepared.

"Golden Harps Are Sounding" is one of our fine but unfamiliar hymns from the neglected "Ascension and Reign" section of many church hymnals. These are hymns that should be used not only during this Ascension Day season but also throughout the year to teach believers the importance of this event.

The author, Frances Havergal, wrote this Ascension Day hymn especially for a group of children while visiting their school. It is said to have been written within the space of ten minutes. "Golden Harps Are Sounding" is one of the few hymns for which Miss Havergal also composed her own tune, "Hermas."

*Golden harps are sounding, angel voices ring,
Pearly gates are opened, opened for the King;
Christ, the King of glory, Jesus, King of love,
Is gone up in triumph to His throne above.*

*He who came to save us, He who bled and died,
Now is crowned with glory at His Father's side;
Never more to suffer, never more to die,
Jesus, King of glory, is gone up on high.*

*Praying for His children in that blessed place,
Calling them to glory, sending them His grace:
His bright home preparing, faithful ones, for you;
Jesus ever liveth, ever loveth too.*

Refrain:

*All His work is ended, joyfully we sing;
Jesus hath ascended—Glory to our King!*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1820

THE BIRTHDAY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Florence Nightingale has been called the forerunner of nursing. She was wealthy, yet walked among the slums. She worked among “down-and-outers.” What an example this is to us!

She was born in Florence, Italy, and was named after the city. At the age of seventeen she was teaching the Bible. She said concerning her life, “I have done nothing. God has done everything. I have worked very hard; that is all. I have never refused God anything.” May we pause to thank God for Florence Nightingale and for nurses everywhere. Let us also take her example of sacrificial service for Christ.

1898

THE BIRTHDAY OF WALTER HUGHES.

Walter Hughes is a Canadian Bible teacher. What a heartbeat his great ministry has! Pray for Bible teachers today, especially those who believe in evangelism and for whom the Bible is not a mathematics book but a love story.

1937

THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI OF ENGLAND.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

1871

SEGREGATED STREET CARS INTEGRATED IN LOUISVILLE, KY., following a sit-in staged by a black teenager.

1898

LOUISIANA ADOPTED NEW CONSTITUTION WITH “GRANDFATHER CLAUSE” DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE BLACK VOTERS.

1910

SECOND NAACP CONFERENCE, HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, CREATED A PERMANENT NATIONAL STRUCTURE.

1951

DEATH OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN OSCAR DEPRIEST (80), CHICAGO.

1967

H. RAP BROWN REPLACED STOKELY CARMICHAEL AS CHAIRMAN OF STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

1970

RACE RIOT, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

Six blacks were killed. Authorities said five of the victims were shot by police.

1958

SUMMIT MEETING OF NATIONAL NEGRO LEADERS CALLED FOR STEPPED UP CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND DESEGREGATION.

President Eisenhower was sharply criticized for a speech which, in effect, urged the leaders to “be patient” in seeking full citizenship rights.

A Christian Life

IGNATIUS
35-107 A.D.

Bishop of Antioch, where disciples were first called Christians in Acts 11. Ignatius was a native Syrian and a contemporary of John the Apostle and Polycarp. He was the first man to use the term “catholic,” but he never used it in any letter as referring to anything more than the body of born-again believers who were in Christ by the Holy Spirit. At no time does he suggest that such a term applies to anything Roman, or connected with Rome. Nor does he ever connect it with anyone who thinks that water baptism is a part of salvation.

The attitude of Ignatius was, “I would rather die for Christ than rule the whole earth. Leave me to the beasts, that I may by them be a partaker of God. Welcome, nails and cross! Welcome, broken bones, bruised body! Welcome, all diabolic torture, if I may but obtain the Lord Jesus Christ!”

Ignatius was thrown to the lions and eaten alive in 107 A.D.



The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I MUST BECOME BETTER BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN"

(Assignment 15)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

() Luke 5:31

And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

() Luke 5:32

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

() Luke 18:10

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

() Luke 18:11

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

() Luke 18:12 (see Luke 18:13-14)

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.