**December 4, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

**37 Market Street, New Haven, CT 06513**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Servant / Shepherd**

**The Late Bishop E. Samuel Green, Establishmentarian**

**“AND ASA DID [THAT WHICH WAS] RIGHT IN THE EYES OF THE LORD, AS [DID] DAVID HIS FATHER."**

**1 Kings 15:9-34**

***I Kings 15:9 "And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah."***

***I Kings 15:10 "And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name [was] Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom."***

Abijam died in the third year of his reign. It appears, that Asa truly did want to heal this nation. During the reign of Asa, 8 different kings would be on the throne of the ten tribes. Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Tibni, Omri, and Ahab. The sad thing is that the Israelites {the ten tribes} had no kings that followed God. Judah had a few good kings, like Asa.

***I Kings 15:11 "And Asa did [that which was] right in the eyes of the LORD, as [did] David his father."***

This is very interesting that Asa was a follower of God, since his father was an evil king, and his mother was an idolater. Notice, that he was right in the eyes of the LORD. He was not perfect, but his heart was stayed on God.

***I Kings 15:12 "And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."***

"Sodomites" are those who are practicing homosexuals and lesbians. This sin was so revolting to God, that He gave them over to a reprobate mind.

***Romans 1:26 "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:"***

***Romans 1:27 "And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."***

***Romans 1:28 "And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"***

***I Kings 15:13 "And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from [being] queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt [it] by the brook Kidron."***

In verse 12 above, we saw that he did away with the idols in the land. Maachah had been acting as queen. He removed her and her idols. He burned the idol of his queen. He would not tolerate idol worship wherever it was found. The idol was made of wood, probably, because it burned.

***I Kings 15:14 "But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days."***

These high places were not places of idols, or they would have come down, too. These had, probably, been used in the worship of the LORD at some time or other. He loved the LORD in his heart, and wanted to do what was right in the LORD's sight. It is interesting to note, also, that his love of the LORD remained his whole life.

***I Kings 15:15 "And he brought in the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which himself had dedicated, into the house of the LORD, silver, and gold, and vessels."***

This is a re-gathering of the things of the temple. These precious things from his father were things he had brought home, as spoil from his battles.

***I Kings 15:16 "And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days."***

Baasha became king, because he killed Nadab. Baasha was of the tribe of Issachar. The war mentioned, here, is speaking more of skirmishes than all out war. They did not get along at all. There were no alliances between them.

***I Kings 15:17 "And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah."***

This Ramah is like a fortress to keep the people of Israel from going to Jerusalem. There were, probably, many Israelites who would have liked to go to the temple, had it been allowed. Abijah had conquered the city of Ramah, when he was in power. It appears, that Baasha had taken it back and built the fort. He did not want any communication between his people and with Judah.

***I Kings 15:18 "Then Asa took all the silver and the gold [that were] left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants: and king Asa sent them to Ben-hadad, the son of Tabrimon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,"***

This is a very strange thing to do. Asa was in right standing with the LORD. He could have asked the LORD for help. He, instead, takes the silver and gold in the treasury of the temple, and his own gold and silver from the castle, to reach out to a heathen king. "Ben-hadad" means son of the sun. There were several leaders of Syria, who were named Ben-hadad. Damascus was the capital of Syria.

***I Kings 15:19 "[There is] a league between me and thee, [and] between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent unto thee a present of silver and gold; come and break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me."***

The "gift" was more like a bribe. He actually was hiring Ben-hadad to come against the ten tribes of Israel. The silver and gold, if accepted, confirm a league between Syria and Judah. It appeared, that Baasha was harassing Asa. If Asa and Ben-hadad are allied, Baasha will leave them alone.

***I Kings 15:20 "So Ben-hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maachah, and all Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali."***

***I Kings 15:21 "And it came to pass, when Baasha heard [thereof], that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah."***

When Ben-hadad made league with Asa, it frightened Baasha and he stopped building on Ramah. It appears, he abandoned it from the next few verses. Tirzah would be safer for him that Ramah. The taking of the cities, Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maachah, and Cinneroth was a warning to Baasha.

***I Kings 15:22 "Then king Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none [was] exempted: and they took away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and king Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah."***

It seems from this, that Asa used the material Baasha had intended for Ramah, and built up Geba and Mizpah. Geba would have been the furthest extremity of the southern kingdom. This would be like the fort at Ramah, but would belong to Asa. Geba would protect the pass. Mizpah means watch tower, so there is no question what this was used for. All Judah had to help with the tearing down of Ramah, and the building of Geba and Mizpah. This needed to be done quickly, so everyone was required to help.

***I Kings 15:23 The rest of all the acts of Asa, and all his might, and all that he did, and the cities which he built, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? Nevertheless in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet***."

To read of Asa's reign would be a delight, because he was a man of God. "Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD". Even though this 41 years of reign were successful, we find that King Asa has something wrong with his feet in his old age. Most believe the disease, mentioned here, was the gout. Prosperity sometimes brings on gout. The cause is, generally, believed to be eating too many rich foods.

***I Kings 15:24 "And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead."***

Asa had an honorable burial. He was righteous in the sight of the LORD. He was buried near David. Jehoshaphat, we will find, was like his father. He did right in the sight of the LORD. "Jehoshaphat" means whom Jehovah judges. At the death of Asa, his son, Jehoshaphat, became king.

***I Kings 15:25 "And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years."***

***I Kings 15:26 "And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."***

Nadab, king of the ten tribes, just reigned 2 years. He was an evil, idolatrous king. The worst sin of all, is when you cause others to sin. Leaders should set good examples for their people. Nadab set a bad example.

***I Kings 15:27 "And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which [belonged] to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon."***

Baasha was so evil, that he killed Nadab to get his throne. The reason the name Ahijah is explained, here, to be of the tribe of Issachar, is to separate him from the prophet Ahijah. Gibbethon was a Levitical city in the land of Dan. At the time of the battle, it belonged to the Philistines. The Levites all went to Judah, when the division of the tribes was made. The Levites joined Judah, because the temple was in their territory. They did not want to be cut off from the temple.

***I Kings 15:28 "Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead."***

We clearly see the reason for Baasha killing Nadab. It was to get his throne.

***I Kings 15:29 "And it came to pass, when he reigned, [that] he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite:"***

***I Kings 15:30 "Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger."***

This is speaking of when Baasha reigned. The statement "he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed" means he killed the women and the children, as well as the men. He fulfilled the prophecy of the prophet Ahijah. He had no intention of fulfilling prophecy, however. He did it out of greed, not to please God, or anyone, other than himself. The prophecy was pertaining to Jeroboam.

***I Kings 15:31 "Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel***?"

Chronicles are records that were kept. They would be of a more historical nature.

***I Kings 15:32 "And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days."***

***I Kings 15:33 "In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years."***

***I Kings 15:34 "And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."***

Baasha was a very evil king, who reigned 24 years. He fought with Asa, who was righteous in the sight of the LORD. He was like his grandfather, Jeroboam. He was an idolater, who led others into idolatry. Again I will say, The ten tribes of Israel had only evil kings.

**QUESTIONS**

1. During the reign of Asa, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ different kings would be on the throne of the ten tribes.
2. Asa did that which was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the LORD.
3. What was unusual about this?
4. Verse 12 says, he took away the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of the land.
5. Who are "sodomites"?
6. Why did he remove Maachah from being queen?
7. What did Asa do with her idol?
8. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were not removed.
9. Asa's heart was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the LORD all of his days.
10. There was war between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. How did Baashah become king?
12. Why did Baashah build up Ramah?
13. Who did Asa make league with?
14. What does "Ben-hadad" mean?
15. Where did Baashah go from Ramah?
16. What did Asa do with the materials from Ramah?
17. Happy is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whose God is the LORD.
18. What do most believe was the disease of Asa's feet?
19. What terrible thing did Baashah do to the house of Jeroboam?
20. What are the chronicles mentioned in these lessons?
21. The ten tribes of Israel had only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kings.