

# Living for God in "Interesting" Times

## From King Asa: Questions to Help Us Start Strong and Stay Teachable Week One

2 Chronicles 14:1-*And Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. Asa his son succeeded him as king, and in his days the country was at peace for ten years.*

2-*Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.*

3-*He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles.*

4-*He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.*

5-*He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him.*

6-*He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest.*

7-*"Let us build up these towns," he said to Judah, "and put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God; we sought him and he has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.*

Background and overview of the Kings of Judah (Dates from Leon Wood's A Survey of Israel's History):

### Unified Kingdom:

|          |              |  |
|----------|--------------|--|
| Saul-    | 1043-1011 BC | (The first king, called for by the people, but without a heart for God)  |
| David-   | 1011-971 BC  | (Anointed by Samuel- the man after God's own heart)                      |
| Solomon- | 971-931 BC   | (Oversaw expansion of the nation- asked for wisdom yet drifted from God) |

### Divided Kingdom begins (Rulers of the southern tribe of Judah):

|                    |            |   |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| Rehoboam           | 931-913 BC | (Son of Solomon- presided over division of the kingdom.)  |
| Abijam             | 913-911 BC | (Considered a bad king- reigned only three years.)  |
| <u>Asa</u>         | 911-870 BC | (The first of Judah's eight "good kings"-men who were approved by God.)   |
| <u>Jehoshaphat</u> | 873-848 BC | (The second "good king"- God honoring. He overlapped his father's reign.)   |
| Jehoram            | 853-841 BC | (Bad king who murdered six of his brothers and was struck dead by God.)   |
| Ahaziah            | 841 BC     | (Bad king murdered by Jehu who also murdered King Jehoram of Israel.)   |
| Athaliah           | 841-835 BC | (Wife of Jehoram, mother of Ahaziah, sister of Jezebel of Samaria. She had her grandchildren murdered in order to ensure her reign. She was cruel, wicked and ultimately was murdered by the army)  |
| <u>Joash</u>       | 835-796 BC | (The third good king- Grandson of Athaliah- rescued from his grandmother as a child. Reigned well as long as his advisor, the high priest Jehoiada, was his mentor)   |
| Amaziah            | 796-767 BC | (Son of Joash- the fourth good king.)   |
| Azariah(Uzziah)    | 791-739 BC | (The fifth good king. He ruled longer than any prior king in either kingdom-52 years. He served as co-regent with his father(24 years) and with his son (12 years). He was struck by God with leprosy when he inappropriately took on the priest's role.) |
| Jotham             | 750-731 BC | (The sixth good king. He is the fourth God approved leader in a row, representing over 100 years of spiritual focus and health. Though not the golden age under David this was the last long God-honoring time before the Babylonian captivity.)          |
| Ahaz               | 743-715 BC | (Son of Jotham, served as co-regent for a time with his father. He aligned with the King of Assyria and religiously honored Baal and 'did evil in the sight of the LORD'.)  |
| <u>Hezekiah</u>    | 728-686 BC | (Seventh good king- one of the most honorable in the sight of God. Given great praise as acting in a manner similar to King David.)   |
| Manasseh           | 697-642 BC | (Served as co-regent for 11 years with his father, the fifth consecutive prince to begin his rule this way. He did not imitate his father in devotion to God and both he and the nation suffered.)  |
| Amnon              | 642-640 BC | (His servants, repulsed by his life and idolatry conspired to kill him in his own home.)  |
| <u>Josiah</u>      | 640-609 BC | (The eighth and final good king in Judah. Began ruling at eight years of age. His 31 years were among the happiest in Judah's history- full of political peace, personal prosperity and religious reform.)  |
| Jehoahaz           | 609 BC     | (One of Josiah's three sons who each ruled over Judah, and all failed to follow God.)   |
| Jehoiakim          | 609-597 BC | (Ignored God's prophet Jeremiah, squandered the treasury and despised by Judah.)  |
| Jehoiachin         | 597 BC     | (18 year old son, served three months- taken captive to Babylon)  |
| Zedekiah           | 597-586 BC | (Jehoiachin's uncle and Josiah's third son. Unsuccessfully revolted against Babylon's control. His sons were murdered before his eyes, he was blinded by the Babylonians and carried away in captivity. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.)         |

The Northern ten tribes had 19 Kings from 931 to the Assyrian captivity in 722BC. Not one was considered God honoring.