

Lesson III.

ASA'S GOOD REIGN

July 17, 1904

2 Chron. 14 : 1-12. Study vs. 1-15—Memory Verses, 2-5.

Golden Text—Help us, O Lord, our God ; for we rest on thee.—2 Chron. 14 : 11.

1 So Abi'jah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of Da'vid : and A'sa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.

2 And A'sa 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 Ju'dah 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 Ju'dah 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 Ju'dah, 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 A'sa had an army *of men* that bare targets and spears, out of Ju'dah, three hundred thousand ; and out of Ben'jamin, 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 Ze'rah the E'thiop'ian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots ; and came unto Maresh'ah.

10 Then A'sa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Ze'phathah at Maresh'ah.

11 And A'sa 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 E'thiop'ians before A'sa and before Ju'dah ; and the E'thiop'ians fled.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After a time Rehoboam and Jeroboam died, and their sons were made kings in their places ; but under them the nation became worse instead of better. The name of the next king of Judah was Asa, who, unlike his father and grandfather, was a good man, and one who was not afraid to obey all the word of the Lord. For this, God gave Asa and his kingdom peace from all their enemies for ten years.

The first thing that Asa did after he was made king was to break down the images that his father and grandfather had set up. Also he took away the altars of the strange gods, and cut down the wooden pillars of the heathen goddess, Asherah, whom the people

had learned to worship, they having disobediently forsaken the true worship belonging to God's house at Jerusalem. When all signs of the false worship were removed, Asa set himself to teach the people to seek again the Lord God of their fathers, and to keep His laws and commandments.

While the country was at peace, Asa thought it a good time to rebuild the cities and fortresses of the kingdom. And for the same reason he now chose out the bravest and strongest of his young men, and drilled them for his armies, so that in a few years Asa had three hundred thousand spearmen and almost as many archers ready to fight on the side of the Lord: