

Lesson, 2 Chron. 14: 2-12. Read 2 Chron. 14, 15, 16. Commit vs. 2-5.

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 four-score 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. Then 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.

GOLDEN TEXT.

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

LESSON PLAN.

1. Reform Through Faith, vs. 2-5.
2. Rebuilding In Faith, vs. 6-8.
3. Repulse By Faith, vs. 9-12.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Reformation under Asa, 2 Chron. 14: 1-12.
 T. God's presence, 2 Chron. 17: 1-9.
 W. A solemn covenant, 2 Chron. 15: 10-19.
 T. Call to repentance, Amos, 5: 4-15.
 F. Trust in God, Psalm 20.
 S. God the strongest Defender, Isaiah 31.
 S. Reward of obedience.—Prov. 3: 1-10.—I. B. R. A. Selections.

CATECHISM.

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory ; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

LESSON HYMNS.

Nos. 217, 239, 254, 465.

Last quarter's lessons lay in Israel. Our course this quarter covers the history of Judah. We begin with the third reign—the first reformation. The mark of Israel's history is apostasy, men falling away from God ; of Judah's, chastisement, God leading men back to himself. Asa is the earliest representative king.

2. **Of Asa.**—He came early to the throne, at 10 or 11. His very youth "in part accounts for his pious upbringing, for he would, during his minority, be under the guardianship of the high priest." **Did Good and Right.**—In 1 Kings 15, is added "as did David his father." It is his conduct as monarch that is spoken of. But his character as a man is described as well, for personal views moulded his royal acts. He sincerely sought to please God. The two kings before him, when in straits called on God, but this was not the general stamp of their conduct. They tried to serve two masters. Asa sought first the kingdom of God.

3. **Strange Gods.**—All gods beside Jehovah, but with a special reference. Strangers were persons of foreign origin dwelling in the land of Israel, principally remnants of the old Canaanites. Strange gods were their gods. **High Places.** Altars on the tops of hills, either for worship of God on lofty sites, or for worship of deified heroes. The Mosaic law forbade all such places. **Images,** not the

same word as in v. 5. Here it is "things set up," anything set up as a centre for religious gatherings, e.g. the golden calves, **Groves,** not trees, but images, probably a Syrian goddess, Asherah, whose worship was very impure. **Images.**—Sun-images, very likely of a conical form, and gilt.

4. **Do the Law.**—See Deut. 12: 11.

5. **Had Rest.**—The whole era was a time of unrest. See 15: 5. The victory at Zemaraim secured peace. Asa saw God's hand in this. He also foresaw attack, so he rebuilt the walls of his cities. Faith did not say God would defend him without walls. Faith is never foolhardy.

9. **Zerah.**—In Hebrew called "the Cushite." Cush, as a country, lay south of Egypt. The Cushites, as a people, spread from the Tigris to the upper Nile. This great army may have been from Arabia, but was more probably from Egypt. **Mareshah.**—Where the roads from Egypt met. One of the border fortresses Rehobam had built. This was the only time Judah met Egypt in battle on a plain.

11.—Asa's prayer shows true faith. He was clearly used to prayer.

12.—The victory was miracle. Egypt was crushed. 300 years passed before she again fought against Judah.