

## **"NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: TO SEEK THE LORD"**

**December 30, 2007**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

**Matthew 22:37-39**

**The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.**

**2 Chronicles 15:2**

### **OUR TEXT**

**2 Chronicles 14-16**

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. <sup>3</sup> He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim <sup>4</sup> and commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment. <sup>5</sup> He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him.

**2 Chronicles 14:2-5**

He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace. <sup>7</sup> And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So they built and prospered.

**2 Chronicles 14:6-7**

Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. <sup>10</sup> And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. <sup>11</sup> And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you." <sup>12</sup> So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

**2 Chronicles 14:9-12**

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_

The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, <sup>2</sup> and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.

**2 Chronicles 15:1-2**

As soon as Asa heard these words...took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land...and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD...They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. <sup>15</sup> And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

**2 Chronicles 15:8, 14-15**

Even Maacah, his mother, King Asa removed from being queen mother because she had made a detestable image for Asherah. Asa cut down her image, crushed it, and burned it at the brook Kidron. <sup>17</sup> But the high places were not taken out of Israel. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true all his days.

**2 Chronicles 15:16-17**

### **3.**

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Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

**2 Chronicles 16:1**

Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying, <sup>3</sup>"There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold... <sup>4</sup> Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel.

**2 Chronicles 16:2-4**

At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. <sup>8</sup> Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand. <sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

**2 Chronicles 16:7-9**

Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

**2 Chronicles 16:10**

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians.

**2 Chronicles 16:12**

## **CONCLUSION**

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

<sup>11</sup> Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

**1 Chronicles 16:10-11**