

Sermon: With You and Watching You

Text: 2 Chronicles 15

Introduction:

Following the death of Solomon in 930BC, the united nation of Israel divides into two nations under the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. The ten northern tribes are ruled by a former general of Solomon's by the name of Jeroboam. Only the two southern tribes, Benjamin and Judah, remain headquartered in Jerusalem and ruled by Rehoboam.

Following Rehoboam's death after 17 years on the throne, his son Abijah takes over. But his rule is short lived, as he dies after only 3 years. His son, Asa, becomes the third king of Judah.

Asa was one of the best kings that Judah would have in her 344 years as a nation. As we read in 2 Chronicles 14:2-6: 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 ancestors, 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.*

Eventually, though, an army from the land that we now know of as Ethiopia, came to attack Judah. Asa called on God for help, and the Lord gave the people great success. The Lord struck down the Cushite's (the people of Ethiopia) before Asa and Judah, and God delivered a great victory.

Now that a major battle has been won with God's help, a prophet named Azariah approaches the king to remind him that the people still need God's help. He tells Asa that as long as they follow God, he'll protect them. Back in the day, Israel didn't follow God and they paid the price.

Examination:

- **Read 2 Chronicles 15**
 - And the _____ of God came upon Azariah. (v. 1)
 - Who did Azariah go out to meet with a message from God?
 - What was Azariah speaking?
 - What do you think it means "to seek the Lord"? (v. 2) what does God promise to do if Asa and the people do, indeed, seek the Lord? What will happen if they don't?
 - What terrible thing had gone on in the land, before Asa became king?
 - How do these words of Azariah encourage you in your faith?
 - How did Asa respond to the "Voice of God"? (v. 8) what do you think it means that he "took courage"? In what ways does God give you courage in your own life?
 - What had happened to the altar that was in the Lord's temple? Why do you suppose the altar had fallen into disrepair?
 - Why did some of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon come to Judah? (v. 9)

- When did they gather in Jerusalem for the celebration? (v. 10)
- When is the Feast of Weeks?
- What did they offer to the LORD of the spoil?
- What does "seven" mean? Why 700 head of cattle, and 7,000 sheep and goats?
- What is a "covenant"? What covenant had they made with God?
- Why was there such rejoicing?
- Who did Asa remove as queen? (v. 16) why did he remove her? What did he do with her idol?
- What wonderful thing was said of Asa in verse 17?
- What did Asa bring into the temple?
- How long was there peace after this celebration?

Application:

Do you believe that “The Lord is with you when you are with him? If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”? Do these words give you courage? What are you willing to DO as a response to what God is saying to you today? What “altar” needs to be repaired in your own life? In the life of your family?