

2 Chronicles 15

King James Version (KJV)

15 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:
(Azariah = Yah has helped; he was a prophet of God)

²And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. (This sounds like a reminder; or possibly a warning. It might be that the people were beginning to drift away from God, once again. People always forsake God. HE never forsakes them first)

James-4:8 (If you draw nigh unto the LORD, HE will draw nigh unto you)

³Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. (They had sunk into idolatry and perversion because of Jeroboam)

(The situation in Israel was getting worse and worse, because of their idol worship and their sexual perversion)

⁴But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

⁵And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. (vexations = consternation, bewilderment – they result in confusion) (the countries - the 10 northern tribes of Israel)

(There was widespread crime in the countryside, outside of the cities)

NOTE: (Look at the US today. That is exactly where we are. We have crime and corruption all around us. Our cities are hunting grounds for the criminals. Our young people are atheists and sexual perverts – all because of us. We have thrown God out of our schools. We have normalized sexual perversion as a lifestyle choice. We have legalized the murder of babies in abortion clinics. We don't even control our borders anymore)

⁶And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity. (Tribe against tribe; Israel was completely divided)

⁷Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded. (Be strong and do not let idol worship creep back into your nation. Judgment day is a reward for those who remain faithful to God)

Revelation-14 (The only things we take with us upon death are our good works)

⁸And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD. (Oded = Azariah the son of Oded)

(Abiah was successful against Jeroboam and took some border cities from Ephraim)

(renewed the altar of the LORD - Asa removed the idols out of the temple and repaired any damage done to it over the years)

⁹And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

(It was the evil rulers who forced idolatry upon the people of Israel. The people wanted to have God in their lives. They saw the example of Asa and his prosperity from God. They wanted to be a part of that)

¹⁰So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. (The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost)

¹¹And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

¹²And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; (They renewed their covenant with God) See Matthew-7:7

¹³ That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

Deuteronomy-17:2-6 (Idolatry was punishable by death, in the statutes & ordinances of Moses)

¹⁴ And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets. (They renewed their oath to God)

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about. (God gave them peace on every border; and peace of mind in their own homes)

¹⁶ And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron. (Maachah - mother of Abijah; Asa's grandmother; Old Hebrew didn't have a word for grandmother)

(She made an idol <a phallic symbol> to Ashtoreth <the moon goddess of the Phoenicians>. The brook Kidron was dry most of the year, except when they got heavy rains in the winter)

¹⁷ But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days. (As a man, he still had faults. The word translated as perfect really means mature, in Hebrew)

(Asa managed to clean up Judah and Benjamin, but Israel still kept their high places for their idol worship)

¹⁸ And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels. (He returned the consecrated things into the temple)

¹⁹ And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa. (God blessed them with peace. There were only minor skirmishes on the border with Israel)