

Devotional from Pastor Ho
December 17, 2020

2 Chronicles 16:12, *“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.”*

The time marker (“in the thirty-ninth year...”) is important, because during the first thirty five years of his reign (chapters 14-15), Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God by seeking him (14:2, 7), not least when he cried to the Lord as he battled against a million-man strong Ethiopian army with a much smaller one, and God gave him victory.

Chapter 16 begins the thirty-sixth year of his reign, when he began to drift away from reliance upon the Lord. At that time the Northern kingdom of Israel began to encroach upon the territory of the Southern kingdom of Judah by building Ramah. Instead of calling upon the Lord, this time around Asa relied upon the king of Syria, paying him tribute with silver and gold. In his mercy, God sent the prophet Hanani to declare his judgment on Asa, but instead of repenting, Asa locked him up.

Our passage tells us that three years later when the disease in his feet got worse, Asa sought help from physicians but did not seek the Lord. We can be sure the Chronicler is not implying that physicians were not needed, although that may be true if such is God’s will. The point is that Asa had so completely turned away from God that even to his death two years later, he did not cry out to God, as if he had never known God.

We can hardly explain the apostasy of Asa, except by saying that not all that begins well ends well. Biblically speaking, however, Jesus has told us more than once that those whom the Father has given him, not one is lost (John 6:39; 10:28; 17:12; 18:9). The only way to know we are in that category is if we hold fast or be faithful, or otherwise, repent (see last week’s devotion). Assurance also comes in knowing that “[we] by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet 1:5). We do well to thank the Lord every morning we wake up, that we are still Christians, especially when we commemorate his coming to bring us his salvation.

Prayer: Merciful Lord, you have purchased us with your precious blood, would you also keep us till salvation is revealed in the last time? Meanwhile, when we sin against you, do help us to repent. Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2020年12月17日

歷代誌下 16 章 12 節：“亞撒作王三十九年，他腳上有病，而且甚重。病的時候沒有求耶和華，只求醫生。”

這裡的時間標記（“三十九年...”）很重要，因為在他作王的前三十五年中（第 14-15 章），亞撒行耶和華他的神眼中看為好和正的事，尋求他（14:2, 7），尤其是當他人數極少的軍隊面對一支擁有百萬人的強大古實軍隊作戰時，他呼求神，神就給了他勝利。

第十六章開始了他作王的第三十六年，就是當他開始漂離對主的依賴的時候。那時，北國以色列開始通過修築拉瑪來侵略南國猶大的領土。這次，亞撒沒有尋求主，而是依靠亞蘭王，向他獻上了金銀。神以憐憫的心派先知哈拿尼宣布對亞撒的審判，但亞撒沒有悔改，反而把先知關起來。

我們的這段經文告訴我們，三年後，當他腳上的病甚重時，亞撒只向醫生求幫助，但沒有求告耶和華。我們可以肯定歷代誌作者並不意味著不需要醫生，雖然若神願意，那也沒錯。關鍵是亞撒已經完全遠離神，以至於兩年後他去世時，他都沒有呼求神，彷彿他從未認識過神。

我們很難解釋亞撒的叛逆，只能說不是所有的善始都能善終。但是，從聖經的角度講，耶穌已經告訴了我們不止一次，父賜給他的人，一個也不失落（約翰福音 6:39; 10:28; 17:12; 18:9）。唯一能讓我們知道我們是屬於不失落的這一群，就是當我們堅守或忠心，否則便悔改（參上週的靈修）。確據也來自知道我們是“因信蒙神能力保守的人，必能得著所預備、到末世要顯現的救恩”（彼得前書 1:5）。我們每天早晨醒來時的確要感謝主，因為我們仍然是基督徒，尤其是當我們紀念他的降臨是為我們帶來他的救恩。

禱告：慈悲的主，你用你的寶血買贖了我們，請保守我們直到救恩在末世顯現時。同時，當我們得罪你時，請幫助我們悔改。阿們。

何牧师的灵修

2020年12月17日

历代志下 16 章 12 节：“亚撒作王三十九年，他脚上有病，而且甚重。病的时候没有求耶和华，只求医生。”

这里的时间标记（“三十九年...”）很重要，因为在他作王的前三十五年中（第 14-15 章），亚撒行耶和华他的神眼中看为好和正的事，寻求他（14:2, 7），尤其是当他人人数极少的军队面对一支拥有百万人的强大古实军队作战时，他呼求神，神就给了他胜利。

第十六章开始了他作王的第三十六年，就是当他开始漂离对主的依赖的时候。那时，北国以色列开始通过修筑拉玛来侵略南国犹大的领土。这次，亚撒没有寻求主，而是依靠亚兰王，向他献上了金银。神以怜悯的心派先知哈拿尼宣布对亚撒的审判，但亚撒没有悔改，反而把先知关起来。

我们的这段经文告诉我们，三年后，当他脚上的病甚重时，亚撒只向医生求帮助，但没有求告耶和华。我们可以肯定历代志作者并不意味着不需要医生，虽然若神愿意，那也没错。关键是亚撒已经完全远离神，以至于两年后他去世时，他都没有呼求神，仿佛他从未认识过神。

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祷告：慈悲的主，你用你的宝血买赎了我们，请保守我们直到救恩在末世显现时。同时，当我们得罪你时，请帮助我们悔改。阿们。