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## Daily Rice 2024 June 7

YouTube Prayer Link

Don't fall into hatred in last few years of life

2 Chronicles, chapter 16

2 Chronicles chapter 16 recounts the wrong actions of King Asa of southern Judah in his later years when he faced difficult times

During the 36th year of Asa's reign, Baash, king of Israel, the northern nation of Israel, invaded the territory of Judah. Asa chose to form an alliance with Sam, the prince of Syria, as well as a number of other nations, hoping to get their help against Israel. However, Asa did not fully trust in God's power, but relied on outside aid, and he even took silver and gold from the temple of God in exchange for foreign help.

This action brought the prophet Hanani before Asa and criticized him for not trusting fully in God's power, but rather in his own power with foreign allies. Hanani prophesied that because Asa relied on foreign power rather than trusting God completely, he would lose victory and peace in the war forever. Asa "degraded his grandmother, Queen Magah" (15:16), purging idols by faith. But now, instead of seeking and trusting God, Asa "took silver and gold out of the treasury of the house of the Lord and the king's house" and solved the problem by his own means (16:2-3).

Like Asa, no matter how spiritual and strong a person once was, when he loses his vigilance and attention, he immediately forgets to seek God and no longer rely on Him. If we do not rely on

God "with truth" (16:9) and instead rely on human solutions to solve problems, we are often "drinking to quench our thirst," and while we solve one problem opportunistically, we lead to new problems. Although he was temporarily freed from one difficulty, he fell into more difficulties. Today, what some people call "the Holy Spirit speaks to himself" is actually as selective as Asa: those who love to hear are taken as the words of the Spirit, and those who do not like to hear are taken as human words. "Therefore let him who thinks he is standing take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12), especially those who think they are spiritual, who think they are familiar with the scriptures, who think they are accomplished, are more likely to love to hear only positive words than negative ones. Therefore God allowed Asa to be unsafe, "and it was written in the Scriptures as a warning to us, men of the last days" (1 Corinthians 10:11). Asa's experience is a good reminder for us.

It is a great grace that we can serve God. If there have been some achievements, it is also the work of God, and we must not be complacent because of this, and we must not slack off every day to go to God to draw on God's strength and presence. As Paul said, "I have one thing, forgetting what is behind me, and pressing on what is before me, and pressing toward the standard for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14).

The main reason why man indulges himself and goes in the wrong direction on the road to heaven is that he has fallen into a state of "self-deception", "deception" and "deception of God". He was full of thinking that he had sinned so that no one knew about it, and that it was only insignificant, that it was not seen, and that God did not even care about it. So, the first seed of failure began to be sown!

Asa was so angry at Hanani's criticism that he even imprisoned Hanani and silenced some other critics of him. 2 Chronicles 16:12 records: "In the thirty-ninth year of Asa's reign, he was sick with his feet, and it was very serious. When he was sick, he did not seek the Lord, but only the doctor. This phrase is the author's commentary indicating that Asa's illness was due to his religious failures; He was suffering from death, which could not be saved by medicine. Not only did his short-lived pride make him enemies with his former ally Edom, but his body was also afflicted by illness.

Illness may occur naturally, but it can also be God's punishment. For there are many examples in the Book of Chronicles where illness was used as a means of punishment (21:16-20; 26:16-23). Doctors indicate human means. There is nothing wrong with medicine itself, because God has given it as a common favor, and Paul has advised Timothy to use a small amount of wine to heal him (1 Timothy 5:23). Thus, the reason for the condemnation in this section is not the act of seeking healing per se, but the fact that there is no reliance on the God of healing (2 Kings 5:8-14; Job 42:10; Psalm 6:2; 41:4), but more on the human method; Use superstitious methods (1 Samuel 28:7; 2 Kings 1:2ff) to seek medical treatment.

When your health is in trouble, you don't think of God, you trust God, you rely on God, and you put your hope in God. No matter how spiritual and strong a person once was, once he loses his vigilance and attention, he will immediately forget to seek God and no longer rely on Him.

Asa's experience reminds us that it is a great grace to serve God, and that we need to go to God every day to draw on God's strength and presence, and to rely on God carefully and not rely on human solutions to solve problems.

Let's pray together:

Lord, what your people need is what man cannot provide. We need something supernatural from you. Jesus, who loves our Lord and God who created and governs the universe, help us to fight courageously for you in these last days. Lord, you are our strength, our fortress, our trust, and apart from you we can do nothing. Pray that the Lord will strengthen us to be your faithful servants, to live our lives according to the teachings of your Word, and to build our churches according to your Word. that the world may see in us heavenly glory, not earthly sin and uncleanness.

Thank you, Lord, that you are an omnipresent and omnipotent God! Your eyes will be on the whole earth, and you will be mighty to help those who follow you with all your heart. Help us and follow you with all our hearts and never be far away for the rest of our lives.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

## 2 Chronicles, Chapter 16

16:1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that no one should go in or out of Asa, king of Judah.

16:2 So Asa took silver and gold out of the treasury of the house of Jehohua and the king's house, and gave it to Benhadad king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

16:3 Your father made a covenant with my father, and I will make a covenant with you. And now I give thee silver and gold, and I beseech thee, that thou wilt break thy covenant with Baasha king of Israel, and that he may depart from me.

16:4 Ben-Hadad listened to King Asa and sent his captains to attack the cities of Israel. And they conquered all the cities of Evan, Dan, and Apelmaim, and Naphtali.

16:5 When Basha heard this, he stopped building Rama .

16:6 So King Asa led all the men of Judah and brought away the stones and wood that Bashah had used to build Ramah for the building of Gaba and Mezpah.

16:7 Then Hananiah the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him, Because you trusted in the king of Syria, and did not rely on the God of Yahweh and the Lord, the army of the king of Syria escaped from your hand.

16:8 Wasn't the army of the Gibeonites of the ancient Shirion and the Libites very large ? Isn't there a lot of chariots and horsemen ? Because you rely on Yahweh, he has delivered them into your hands.

16:9 Yahweh's eyes were on the whole earth, and he would show great power to those who were sincere to him. You are foolish in doing this. After that you will have wars.

16:10 Asa was so angry with the seer that he imprisoned him. At that time, Asa also mistreated some of the people.

16:11 The acts of Asa are written from beginning to end in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

16:12 And it came to pass in the thirty-ninth year that Asa was in the thirty-ninth year of his foot, and it was very serious. when he was sick , he did n't ask for yes and hua , he only asked for a doctor .

16:13 He reigned forty-one years and died, and slept with his fathers.

16:14 He was buried in a tomb which he had dug for himself in the Acropolis, and laid it on a bed, which was piled up with all sorts of fragrant incense, which he mixed according to the manner of incense, and burned many things for him.

Chapter 16 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the wrong actions of Asa, king of Judah in the southern kingdom, in his later years when he was faced with difficulties.

During the 36th year of Asa's reign, Baash, king of Israel, the northern nation of Israel, invaded the territory of Judah. Asa chose to form an alliance with Sam, the prince of Syria, as well as a number of other nations, hoping to get their help against Israel. However, Asa did not fully trust in God's power, but relied on outside aid, and he even took silver and gold from the temple of God in exchange for foreign help.

This action brought the prophet Hanani before Asa and criticized him for not trusting fully in God's power, but rather in his own power with foreign allies. Hanani prophesied that because Asa relied on foreign power rather than trusting God completely, he would lose victory and peace in the war forever.

Asa was so angry at this criticism that he even imprisoned Hanani and suppressed some others to criticize his actions. However, when he fell ill in his later years, he also did not fully trust in the power of God, but believed in human medical treatment, which also led to the deterioration of his condition. Although the decisions he made in his later years may not have been the most correct, his faith and the strong convictions of his youth are still admired.

Chapter 16 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the deeds and history of King Asa of Israel. Here are a few important verses:

1. 2 Chronicles 16:7: "Then Hanani the seer came to King Asa and said to him, 'Because you trust in the king of Syria and not in the Lord your God, the army of the king of Syria is out of your hand. '"

This passage shows that the prophet Hanani's counsel to Asa reminded him not to rely on manpower but to trust in God's help.

2. 2 Chronicles 16:9: "The eyes of the Lord are on the earth, to show great power to those who are honest to him." "

This passage emphasizes God's omnipotence and faithfulness, showing that as long as we truly trust Him, God will show His power to help us.

3. 2 Chronicles 16:12: "In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa was sick with his feet, and he was very serious. When he was sick, he did not ask the LORD, but the doctor. '"

This passage describes Asa's weakness and error. Even in the midst of illness and trouble, he did not seek God's help, but relied on manpower and doctors.

4. 2 Chronicles 16:13-14: "Asa slept with his fathers, and the time of his death was very great. They burned him a great deal of spices, and burned his coffin with great fire. '"

This passage records Asa's death and funeral. His death is considered an important event, and people burned many spices for him.