

ERA: The Ever Ready and Able God

For the eyes of the Lord roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. (2 Chronicles 16:9a)

The Context...

- The people of God had been divided into two nations for about 20 years (Israel and Judah).
- Judah's King Asa is the great grandson of King Solomon.
- The two new nations sparred with each other regularly.
- The major threat in the region was to the South: The Cushites, who currently ruled Egypt.
- A more minor threat lay to the North in the nation of Aram ruled by King Ben-Hadad.

King Asa's Journey

He relied on God for intervention when his army was outnumbered 2 to 1.

Then Asa cried out to the Lord his God, "Lord, there is no one besides you to help the mighty and those without strength. Help us, Lord our God, for we depend on you, and in your name we have come against this large army. Lord, you are our God. Do not let a mere mortal hinder you." 2 Chr 14:11

- Early on he centered his rule around God's mission

As a did what was good and right in the sight of the Lord his God. He removed the pagan altars and the high places. He shattered their sacred pillars and chopped down their Asherah poles. He told the people of Judah to seek the Lord God of their ancestors and to carry out the instruction and the commands. (2 Chronicles 14:2-4)

Later on he relied on his own expertise and resources.

As a brought out the silver and gold from the treasuries of the Lord's temple and the royal palace and sent it to Aram's King Ben-hadad, who lived in Damascus, saying, 3 "There's a treaty between me and you, between my father and your father. Look, I have sent you silver and gold. Go break your treaty with Israel's King Baasha so that he will withdraw from me." (2 Chronicles 16:2-3)

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a disease in his feet, and his disease became increasingly severe. Yet even in his disease he didn't seek the Lord but only the physicians. (2 Chronicles 16:12)

What We Learn About the ERA God ...

- God is always working to fulfill His plan.
- God constantly and vigorously looks for people through whom He can fulfill His plan.
- God is ever ready and able to work for those who are about Him.
- God can make circumstances irrelevant in order to fulfill His plan.

What We Learn About Us...

- Our most important choice is what or who we rely on
- Our Options: God or anything else

What is your choice today?