

Asa's Religious Reforms

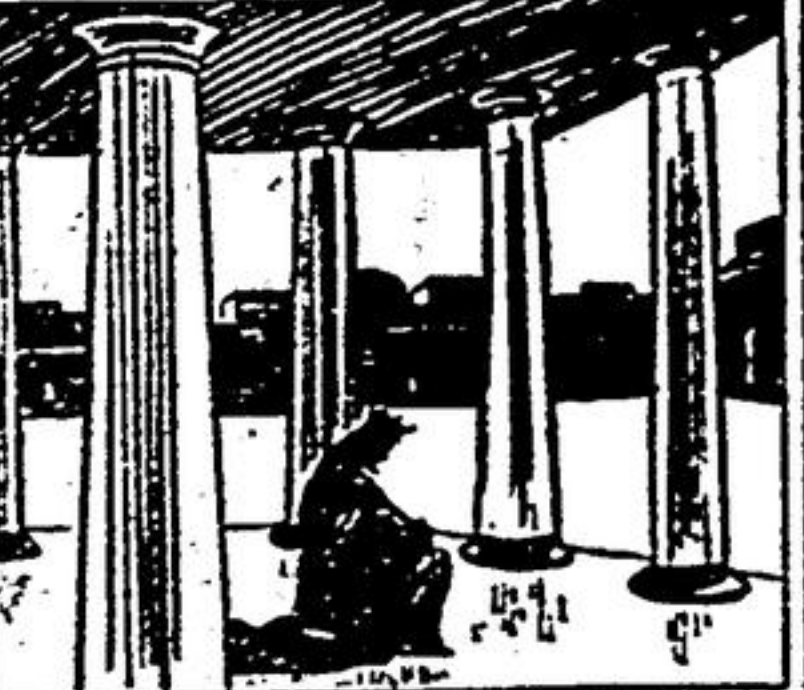
ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Boeschel

Scripture—II Chronicles 14-16



Asa succeeded his father, Abijah, to the throne of Judah. "And he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves."



The Ethiopians, having a huge army, attacked the kingdom of Judah, but Asa the king appealed to the Lord, who smote the Ethiopian hosts, so that they fled, pursued by the army of Judah.



Azariah the prophet went to meet Asa, telling him that as long as he and his people were true to God, He would be with them; but if they forsake Him the Lord would forsake them.



King Asa gathered his people and the strangers in his realm, vowing to seek the Lord with all their souls. MEMORY VERSE—II Chronicles 15:2

The Golden Text



Asa destroying Queen Maachah's idols. "The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you."—II Chronicles 15:2.

ASA'S RELIGIOUS REFORMS places set aside for the worship of the idols of Asa's mother, Maachah. Now Judah was a comparatively small country surrounded by nations much larger and far more powerful, so Asa began to build walled cities and to train an army to defend his land in a time of quiet and peace. So he built the cities and made walls about them and towers, gates and bars. He raised an army of "mighty men of valor". Best of all he kept his trust in God to protect him and his people. At last the land was attacked by a much more powerful force than Judah's—by the Ethiopians from the southeast with many thousands of men of arms and 300 war chariots. The invaders entered the town of Mareshah, a city situated at the foot of the hills east of Gaza. Here the battle lines were set when Asa went out to meet his enemy. Asa cried to the Lord his God, saying, "Lord it is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many or with

them that have no power; help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude, O Lord. Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." The Lord smote the Ethiopians and routed them completely, with the enemy fleeing and Asa and his men pursuing. We read that Asa's army "carried away very much spoil." "And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Obed. He went out to meet the king, and said to him: "Hear 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." Asa listened to the prophet. "For a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found of them." Asa then gathered all Judah and Benjamin and the strangers with them, and they gathered

themselves together at Jerusalem and held a great revival. They offered sacrifices of all the spoil they had taken from the defeated Ethiopians and "they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul." They went too far in their enthusiasm, threatening to put to death any man or woman who would not seek the Lord. They celebrated "with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets." Sad to say, the last years of the life of Asa were not so upright as these first ones. He reigned for 40 years, and in the six and thirtieth year Israel came against Judah. Instead of praying to God to help this time, Asa made an alliance with the king of Syria, Benhadad, sending gifts of silver and gold treasure to him, from the Lord's house and from his own.

The Syrian king sent his armies against Israel and defeated them, but the seer, Hanani, came to Asa and upbraided him, saying that he should have relied on the Lord's aid as he had done at the time of the Ethiopian invasion, and that he had now displeased God. Asa was so incensed at this criticism of him that he had the seer imprisoned. It came about that Asa was afflicted with a disease of the feet in the 39th year of his reign. The king consulted physicians and again sought not the Lord. Not that he should not have called a physician, but why did he not call upon his God who had been his help in ages past? Thus Asa died and so ended the reign that began with so much promise. The moral is clear, we think, even to the youngest classes.

Business Directory

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DR. S. S. BALL: Physician and Surgeon. X-RAY. OFFICE: Corner of O'Brien & Main, Phone 196. Coroner for York County.

DR. G. F. BUTTON: DR. R. F. BUCKLEY. Telephone 371 & 375w. X-RAY. Hours—Daily 9 to 12 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Evenings—7 to 9 p.m. Sundays—11 to 12 a.m. and by appointment. Office over Button Bldg.

DRS. MITCHELL & SMITH: Physicians & Surgeons. X-RAY. Phone 280 Stouffville. Office Hours Daily 9-12 a.m. 1-4 p.m. 7-9 p.m. Wednesday—office closed in a.m. Sunday—Office Open 2-3 p.m.

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GARNET V. GRAY, R.O. OPTOMETRIST. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Every Tuesday. Evening by Appointment. WM. BIRKETT RESIDENCE (Main St. West—3 doors west of Albert St.). Phone 40j2 for appointment.

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AUDLEY: Thursday, April 14, 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bell, of North Battleford, Saskatchewan, are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 18. Mr. Bell was born in Audley, and Archie Bell of this community is a nephew. Sharon's and Bobby Blake of Greenwood are spending the holidays with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. U. Blake. Miss Lillian Bickell of Toronto spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. James Davidson. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Izatt and family attended a family gathering on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oliphant, Clarkson, in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lyon, prior to their moving to Shelburne. Robert Ashton of Pickering is visiting this week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hedge. Judy Puckrin, having been chosen from Pickering High School, is spending this week in Toronto at the Simpson Service Club. There was a good attendance at the Easter Church Service on Sunday. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. Marie Smith spent a few days with her grandmother, Mrs. Simpson, Puckrin, Oshawa, while Miss Margaret Puckrin was in the hospital undergoing a tonsillectomy.

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the Cedar Grove Community Club and their friends to take part in their regular Square dance at Cherry Hill Farm on Saturday, April 16th, 8:30 p.m. Will those planning to attend please contact Archie Little or John Petrie. The postponed meeting of the W.M.S. will be held at Zion Church on Thursday, April 21, at 2:30 p.m. Miss Bishop, missionary-at-large with the Dept. of Immigration, will be guest speaker. Mrs. Little's group will be in charge. Cedar Grove W.M.S. have invited the groups from Locust Hill, Markham and Milliken to join them for this meeting. Waste Paper Collection will be during the last two weeks in April. Please tie paper in small neat bundles and leave in the shed of Zion church. Notes about neighbours—Yvonne Hoesser is home again after two pleasant and interesting months in Arizona. Norma and Don Cornelius spent the Easter weekend in Beamsville. The Lapps are all in their new homes now. Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Lapp have moved to the big house and Bob and Joyce are in the white house. Quite a shuffle over there. Scotty and Ila Crichton returned to the fold last week and have rented the apartment at the Lapps. Nice to have them home again, seems like a long time. The Tapscott's entertained Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wright over Easter and Mr. Ed Berringer from Elmira and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Jo Smith.

ma Jennie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Moyer. Mr. Wm. Grove, one of our experienced fishermen, brought home a hundred sucker fish of splendid quality and size on Saturday afternoon. A service of sacred song was presented by the Goshen Choristers at the Wideman Menonite Church Good Friday morning, and everyone is invited to attend the revival services in progress April 10 to 24. Mr. Truman Grove, a lifelong and respected citizen of the community was suddenly called from our midst by death. His name has been added to the roll of our elderly friends whose memory is deeply revered and whom we still greatly miss. In this time of bereavement the family has the sympathy of the neighbours. Friends calling on Mr. Anthony Hoover are pleased to see him looking so well, although he has been bedfast so many months. Planning Can Double Effect of Farm Flowers, Shrubs (continued from page 2) house from overshadowing. Largely avoid straight lines and regular or formal arrangements as these are not suitable for farmhouse surroundings. Place the shrubbery and flowers chiefly around the borders of the lawn and the base of the house and thus retain an open sweep of green lawn. Use shrubbery and hedges largely as green background for the lower growing and more brilliant flowering plants. As far as possible use such a variety of plants as will give a continuity of bloom throughout the summer. Native trees, shrubs and vines are generally most satisfactory and most convenient to obtain. These general principles will apply in all places but each place will require a somewhat different plan to fit its own special conditions, depending on the character of the house and the direction in which it faces. Other factors are type of soil, the lay of the land, and the special likes and dislikes of the family in choice of plant materials. Some women are married before they're 30, but no woman is 30 before she's married.

Opening DANCE at Cedar Beach Musselman's Lake SAT., APRIL 30 Van Walker and His Orchestra featuring Bill Jay.

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DICKSON'S HILL: Thursday, April 14, 1955. Recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Barkey include Mr. and Mrs. Coburn, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Schell and sons of Peterboro, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schell and sons of Toronto and Mr. Wilmot Wideman, Fleet, Alta. The evangelistic services conducted by the Ritchie party closed with splendid interest and the messages in music and the spoken word will long be remembered. Prior to the Easter message Sunday morning, Pastor Shantz dedicated two children, Beverley Lorraine Hoover, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hoover, and Nor-

English Yorkshires Large Whites. The complete dispersal of Kronborg Farms English Yorkshires owned by Mr. C. Christoffersen, Locust Hill, Ont. STOUFFVILLE SALES ARENA (1/4 mile north of Stouffville on No. 47 Hwy.) THURSDAY, APRIL 28th, 1955 at 1 p.m., E.S.T. 75 FEMALES — 100 HEAD — 25 BOARS. All from Imported Foundation Stock. The FEMALES include Sows With Litters & 40 Bred Sows & Gilts. Sale under the Management of. HAYS FARMS LIMITED. Box 470, Oakville, Ontario, Phone: Victor 5-0571.

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