

Reflecting on the accounts of Kings Asa and Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 14 and 17, I find profound lessons that resonate deeply with my personal journey of faith.

Asa's commitment to righteousness is evident as he **"did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God"** (2 Chronicles 14:2). He courageously removed foreign altars and high places, shattered sacred pillars, and cut down Asherah¹ poles (2 Chronicles 14:3). This decisive action against idolatry, despite its deep entrenchment in the culture, challenges me to examine my own life for modern-day 'idols'—those distractions or priorities that may subtly take precedence over my relationship with God. Asa's reforms remind me of the importance of actively eliminating influences that hinder my spiritual growth.

Furthermore, Asa commanded Judah to **"seek the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and to observe the law and the commandment"** (2 Chronicles 14:4). This directive underscores the significance of not only seeking God individually but also encouraging my community to pursue a collective commitment to His teachings. It prompts me to reflect on how I can inspire and support those around me in their spiritual journeys.

Jehoshaphat's reign offers additional insights. He **"walked in the ways of his father David"** and did not seek the Baals, demonstrating a steadfast dedication to God's path (2 Chronicles 17:3). His initiative to send officials and Levites throughout Judah to teach the Book of the Law (2 Chronicles 17:9) highlights the transformative power of immersing oneself and others in Scripture. This encourages me to prioritize regular engagement with the Bible and to share its wisdom within my circles, fostering a deeper understanding and application of God's Word.

Both kings experienced peace and prosperity as a result of their faithfulness. Asa's reliance on God during the Cushite invasion, exemplified by his prayer, **"Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you"** (2 Chronicles 14:11), illustrates the strength found in surrendering to God's guidance. Jehoshaphat's reforms led to surrounding kingdoms fearing the LORD, preventing war against Judah (2 Chronicles 17:10). These narratives remind me that trusting in God's sovereignty and aligning my actions with His will can lead to profound peace and stability in my life.

In essence, the stories of Asa and Jehoshaphat inspire me to:

1. Identify and remove personal 'idols' that may divert my focus from God.
2. Encourage communal seeking of God, fostering an environment where collective spiritual growth is prioritized.
3. Immerse myself in Scripture and actively share its teachings, recognizing its role in guiding and transforming lives.
4. Trust in God's provision and protection, understanding that true peace comes from reliance on Him.

¹ Asherah poles—see attached

14-Bible Reading Study Notes

2nd Chronicles Chapter 14

By internalizing these lessons, I aspire to cultivate a life that mirrors the devotion and faithfulness exemplified by these righteous kings.