



### **RCC Phoenix – 4.3.22 – King Asa**

It is important that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves or current events onto the Scriptures.

This leads to misinterpretation and \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to read Scripture and take it for what it says, not what we \_\_\_\_\_ it to say.

KING ASA

#### **1 Samuel 8:6-9 NLT**

“Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. “Do everything they say to you,” the Lord replied, “for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer. Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them.”

#### **1 Samuel 8:19-20 NLT**

“But the people refused to listen to Samuel’s warning. “Even so, we still want a king,” they said. “We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle.”

The nation of Israel was divided into 2 regions during King Ishbosheth’s reign:

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **APPLICATION 1:**

Trying to be like those who don’t follow God always leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **1 Peter 2:9 NLT**

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

#### **2 Chronicles 14:2-5 NLT**

“Asa did what was pleasing and good in the sight of the Lord his God. He removed the foreign altars and the pagan shrines. He smashed the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles. He commanded the people of Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his law and his commands. Asa also removed the pagan shrines, as well as the incense altars from every one of Judah’s towns. So Asa’s kingdom enjoyed a period of peace.”

**Baal:**

- The pagan god of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Typically represented as a \_\_\_\_\_ shaped idol made of bronze or bronze color.
- Baal was used as the basis for other false gods including the Greek pagan gods \_\_\_\_\_ & Jupiter.

**Asherah:**

- She was believed to be Baal's \_\_\_\_\_ & the goddess of \_\_\_\_\_, sensuality and sex.
- Asherah \_\_\_\_\_ were made as idol statues in her honor & were placed on physically \_\_\_\_\_ locations (high places, mountains, etc.)
- They were either made of \_\_\_\_\_ or her image was carved into trees as a form of worship to her.

*APPLICATION 2:*

Baal and Asherah are still being \_\_\_\_\_ today.

**2 Chronicles 15:1-8 NLT**

“Then the Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded, and he went out to meet King Asa as he was returning from the battle. “Listen to me, Asa!” he shouted. “Listen, all you people of Judah and Benjamin! The Lord will stay with you as long as you stay with him! Whenever you seek him, you will find him. But if you abandon him, he will abandon you. For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach them, and without the Law to instruct them. But whenever they were in trouble and turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him out, they found him. “During those dark times, it was not safe to travel. Problems troubled the people of every land. Nation fought against nation, and city against city, for God was troubling them with every kind of problem. But as for you, be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded.” When Asa heard this message from Azariah the prophet, he took courage and removed all the detestable idols from the land of Judah and Benjamin and in the towns he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. And he repaired the altar of the Lord, which stood in front of the entry room of the Lord’s Temple.”

*APPLICATION 3:*

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## **2 Chronicles 15:9,12-16 NLT**

“Then Asa called together all the people of Judah and Benjamin, along with the people of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them. For many from Israel had moved to Judah during Asa’s reign when they saw that the Lord his God was with him...

Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul. They agreed that anyone who refused to seek the Lord, the God of Israel, would be put to death—whether young or old, man or woman. They shouted out their oath of loyalty to the Lord with trumpets blaring and rams’ horns sounding. All in Judah were happy about this covenant, for they had entered into it with all their heart. They earnestly sought after God, and they found him. And the Lord gave them rest from their enemies on every side. King Asa even deposed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother because she had made an obscene Asherah pole. He cut down her obscene pole, broke it up, and burned it in the Kidron Valley.”

### *APPLICATION 4:*

Seek God with your entire \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### *APPLICATION 5:*

Put to death anything that would try and draw your \_\_\_\_\_ away from God.

### *APPLICATION 6:*

Lead your \_\_\_\_\_ to do right before God.

## **2 Chronicles 16:1-3,7-9 NLT**

“In the thirty-sixth year of Asa’s reign, King Baasha of Israel invaded Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from entering or leaving King Asa’s territory in Judah. Asa responded by removing the silver and gold from the treasuries of the Temple of the Lord and the royal palace. He sent it to King Ben-hadad of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus, along with this message: “Let there be a treaty between you and me like the one between your father and my father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Break your treaty with King Baasha of Israel so that he will leave me alone...”

At that time Hanani the seer came to King Asa and told him, “Because you have put your trust in the king of Aram instead of in the Lord your God, you missed your chance to destroy the army of the king of Aram. Don’t you remember what happened to the Ethiopians and Libyans and their vast army, with all of their chariots and charioteers? At that time you relied on the Lord, and he handed them over to you. The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.”

### *APPLICATION 7:*

There will always be a temptation to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and our own abilities.

*APPLICATION 8:*

God is looking to \_\_\_\_\_ people who are committed to Him.

**2 Chronicles 16:12 NLT**

“In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a serious foot disease. Yet even with the severity of his disease, he did not seek the Lord’s help but turned only to his physicians.”

*APPLICATION 9:*

The people we admire for how they follow Jesus are still \_\_\_\_\_.