

**ASA
THE MAN WHO DID WHAT
WAS RIGHT UNTIL THE END**

2 Chronicles 14-16

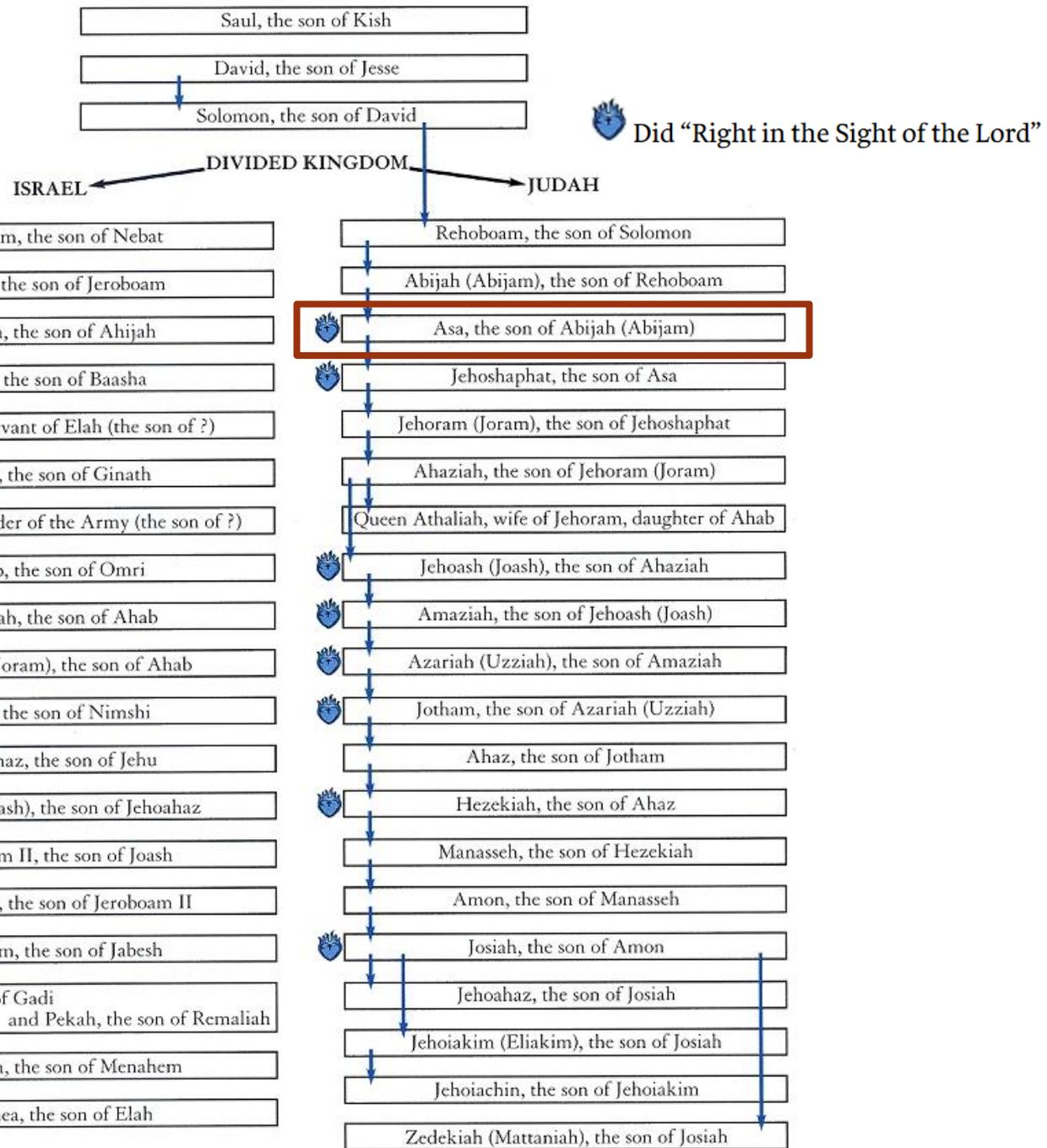
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THEME: “THE LORD IS WITH YOU WHILE YOU ARE WITH HIM”

- From the words of the prophet Azariah in 2 Chronicles 15:2
 - “and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”
- In Asa’s life we see both sides of this promise.
 - When he sought the Lord, he found Him and prospered
 - When he forsook the Lord, he was forsaken

The Lineage of the Kings of Israel and Judah

→ Direct Descendant

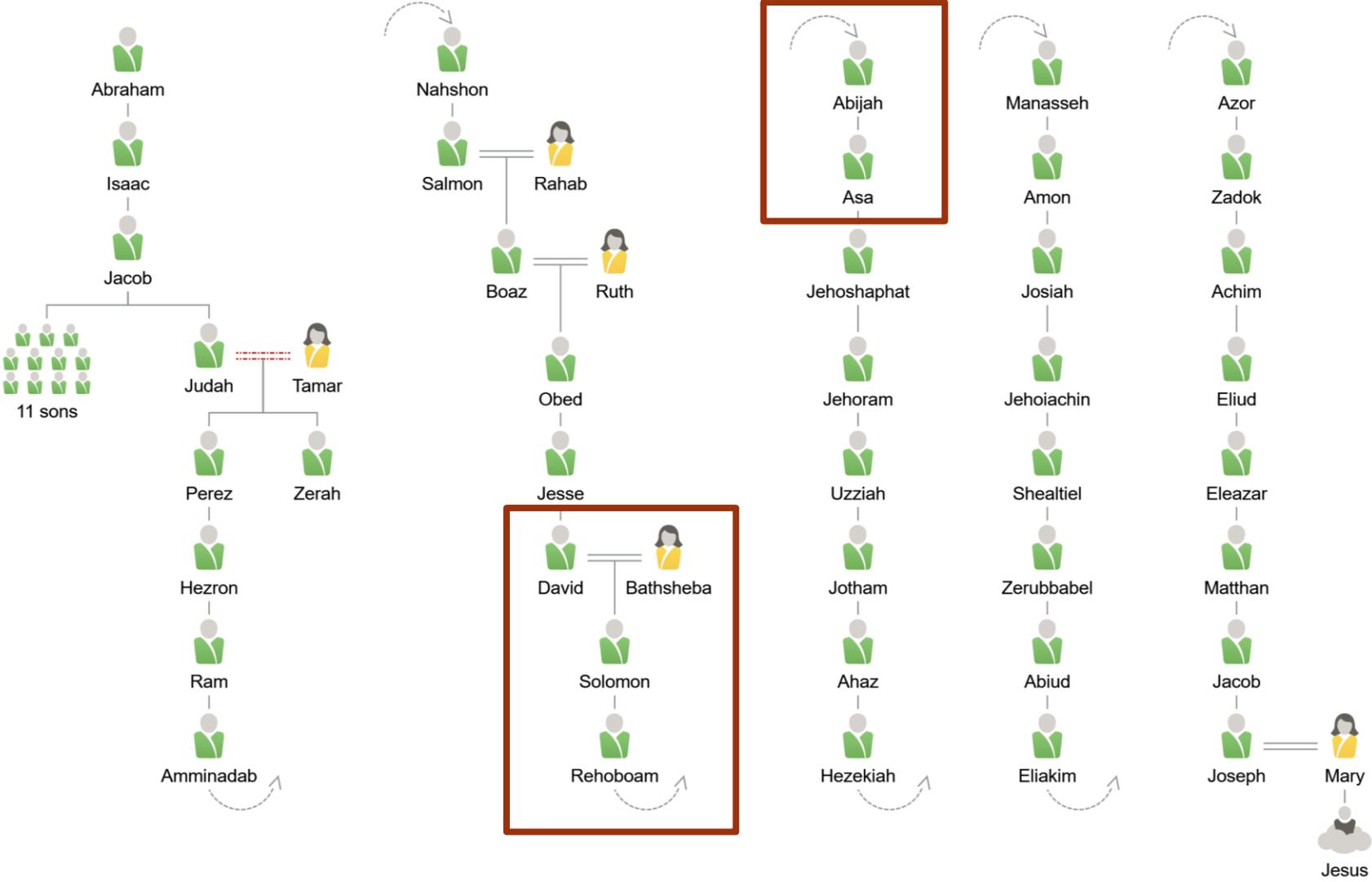


ASA'S REIGN AS KING OF JUDAH

- Asa reigned over Judah for 41 years (911 – 870 BC).
- Asa was one of Judah's most godly kings.
 - 2 Chronicles 14:2; And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.
 - He was a reformer, leading the Southern Kingdom back to God.
 - So effective were his reforms, that many from the Northern Kingdom came back to the Southern Kingdom.
- But during the last 5 years he depended more on an alliance with the pagan king of Aram than he depended on God.

OUT OF A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY COMES A GODLY KING

Jesus' Family Tree According to Matthew (Matthew 1:1-17)



REST UNDER ASA

2 CHRONICLES 14:1, 5-7

- 2 Chronicles 14:1; Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years.
- 2 Chronicles 14:5–7; He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him. ⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace. ⁷ And he said to Judah, “Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side.” So they built and prospered.
- The critical connection: “We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side.” (v. 7)

REFORMS BY ASA

2 CHRONICLES 14:2-8

- ² And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. ³ He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim ⁴ and commanded Judah to **seek the LORD**, the God of their fathers, and to **keep the law and the commandment**. ⁵ He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him. ⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace. ⁷ And he said to Judah, “Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side.” So they built and prospered. ⁸ And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

- 2 Chronicles 14:9-11
- ⁹ Zerah the Ethiopian [Cushite] came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. ¹⁰ And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.



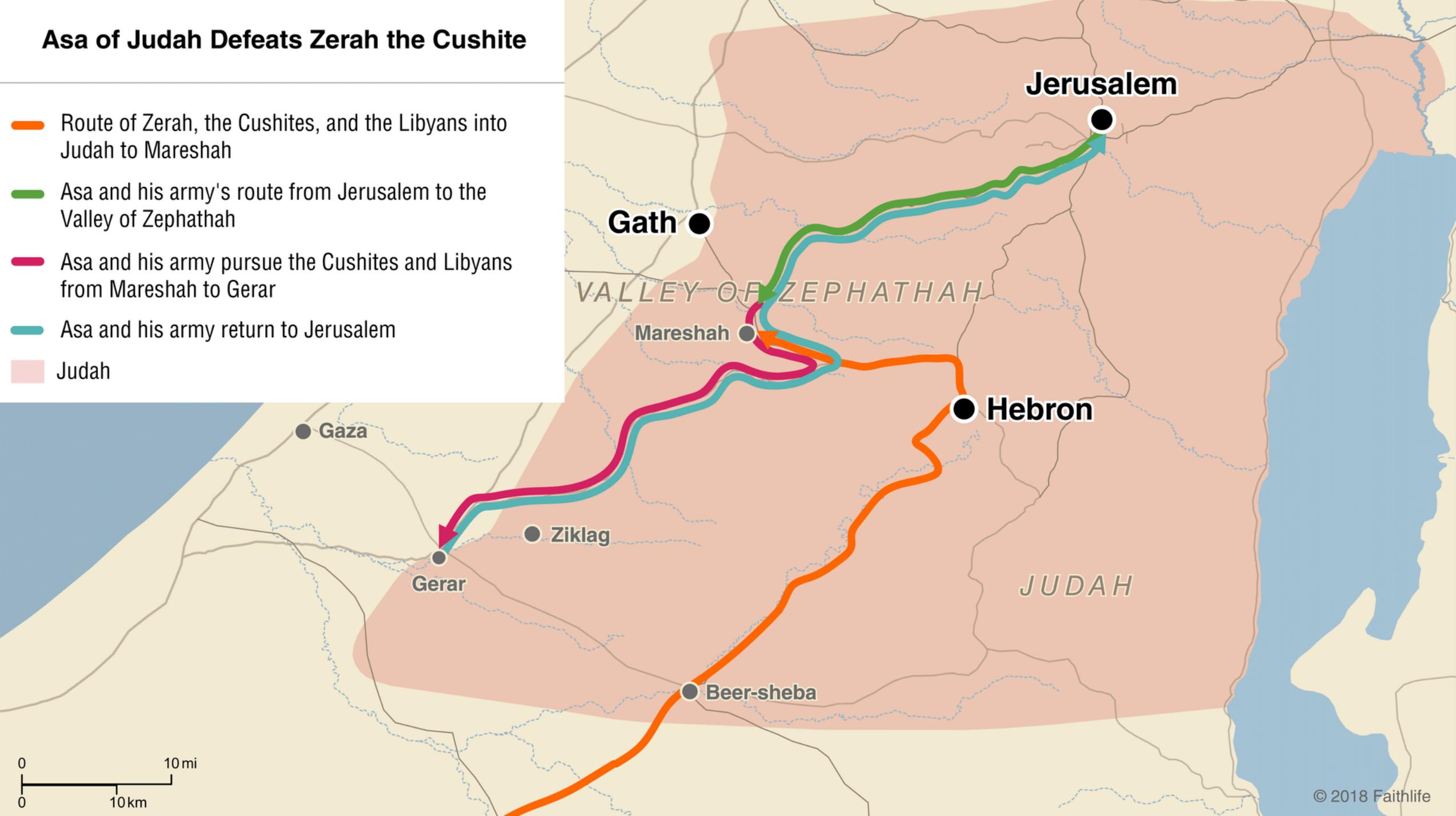
Asa of Judah Defeats Zerah the Cushite

- Route of Zerah, the Cushites, and the Libyans into Judah to Mareshah
- Asa and his army's route from Jerusalem to the Valley of Zephathah
- Asa and his army pursue the Cushites and Libyans from Mareshah to Gerar
- Asa and his army return to Jerusalem
- Judah

0 100mi
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Asa of Judah Defeats Zerah the Cushite

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FAITH IS THE VICTORY

2 CHRONICLES 14:9-15

▪ ⁹ Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. ¹⁰ And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. ¹¹ **And Asa cried to the LORD his God, “O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you.”** ¹² So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. ¹³ Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none remained alive, for they were broken before the LORD and his army. The men of Judah carried away very much spoil. ¹⁴ And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them. They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them. ¹⁵ And they struck down the tents of those who had livestock and carried away sheep in abundance and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

TRUST AND OBEY, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER WAY --

2 CHRONICLES 15:1-8

▪ ¹ The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, ² and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, **“Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”** ³ For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law, ⁴ but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them. ⁵ In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. ⁶ They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress. ⁷ But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.” ⁸ As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD.

THE EXAMPLE OF ISRAEL

2 CHRONICLES 15:3-6

- ³ For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law, ⁴ but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them. ⁵ In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. ⁶ They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress.

THE CHARGE TO ASA

2 CHRONICLES 15:7

- 2 Chronicles 15:7; “But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”
 - This refers not to courage that comes physical strength, but
 - from a right relationship with God.
 - The strength in “your hands” comes from faith in the promise of God that “your work shall be rewarded.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:58; “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
 - We need frequent reminders of this truth, for so many voices in the world tell us that it is vain to serve God or to live for God.

THE WORK OF ASA

2 CHRONICLES 15:8, 16

- 2 Chronicles 15:8; “As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD.”
 - He put away the detestable idols from all the land.
 - He repaired the altar of the Lord.
- 2 Chronicles 15:16; “Even Maacah, his mother, King Asa removed from being queen mother because she had made a detestable image for Asherah. Asa cut down her image, crushed it, and burned it at the brook Kidron.”
- 2 Chronicles 15:17; “But the high places were not taken out of Israel....”

THE ASSEMBLY BY ASA

2 CHRONICLES 15:9-15

▪ ⁹ And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. ¹⁰ They were gathered at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. ¹¹ They sacrificed to the LORD on that day from the spoil that they had brought 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep. ¹² And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul, ¹³ but that whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman. ¹⁴ They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. ¹⁵ **And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.**

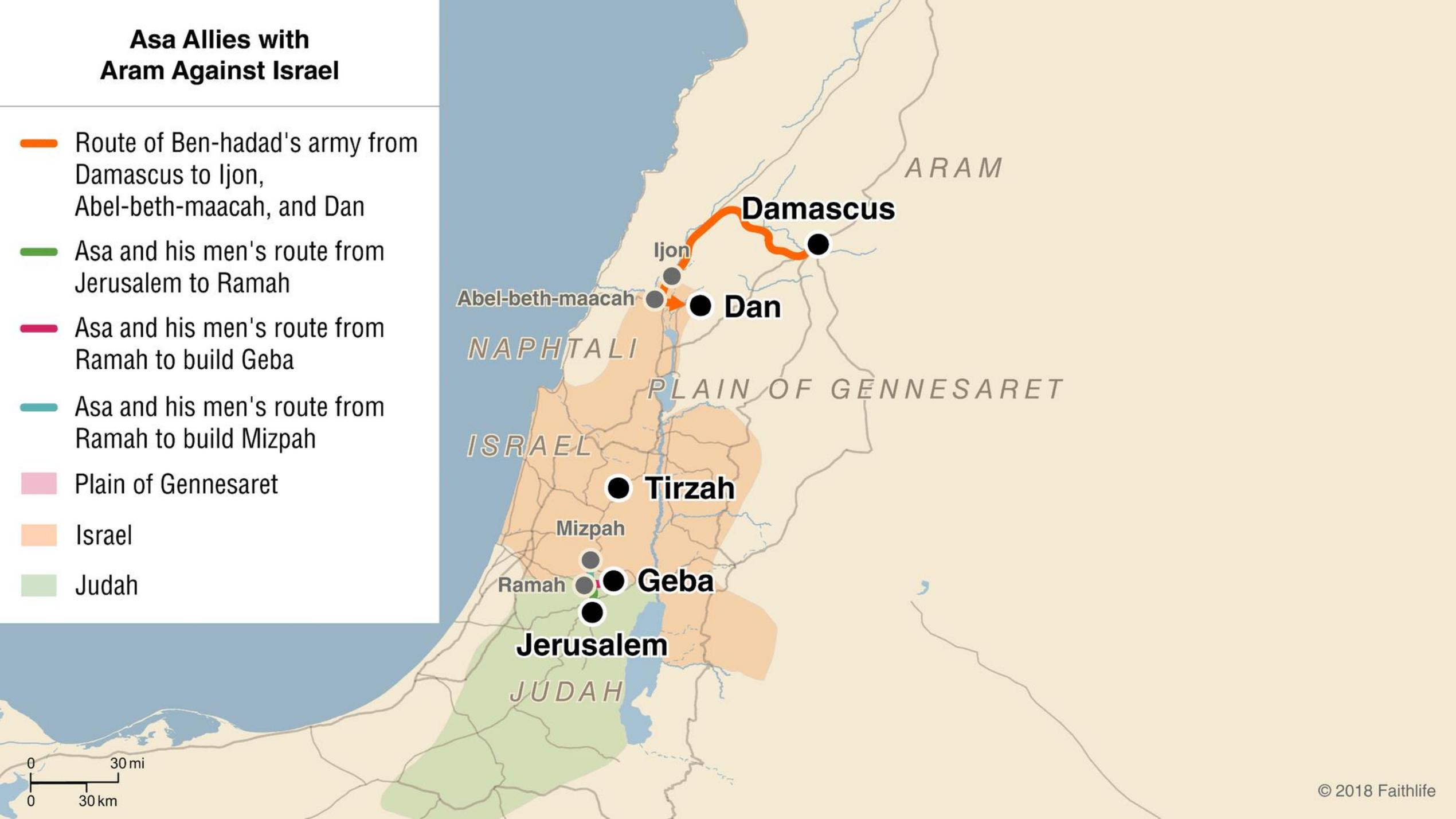
ASA'S FAILURE TO TRUST AND REPENT

2 CHRONICLES 16

- To stop people leaving the northern kingdom, Baasha, king of the northern kingdom, built Ramah (v. 1).
- Asa sent a large gift of silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the Lord and his own house to Ben-hadad king of Syria to ask (bribe) him to attack Baasha. (v. 2-3).
- Ben-hadad attacked the northern kingdom (v. 4).
- Because of the Syrian attack, Baasha stopped building Ramah (v. 5).
- Asa's army raided Ramah and carried away the building materials and with them built Geba and Mizpah.

Asa Allies with Aram Against Israel

-  Route of Ben-hadad's army from Damascus to Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, and Dan
-  Asa and his men's route from Jerusalem to Ramah
-  Asa and his men's route from Ramah to build Geba
-  Asa and his men's route from Ramah to build Mizpah
-  Plain of Gennesaret
-  Israel
-  Judah



THE CONDEMNATION OF ASA

2 CHRONICLES 16:7-9

- 2 Chronicles 16:7–9; At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, “Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. ⁸ Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand. ⁹ **For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.** You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”

THE ANGER OF ASA

2 CHRONICLES 16:10

- **2 Chronicles 16:10; Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.**
- **Asa was mad at the message and punished the messenger.**
- **He lashed out at others because he could not lash out at the sender of the message.**
- **When a ruler is not right with God, he often becomes cruel to all around him.**

HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN CONFRONTED BY SIN?

- I avoid thinking about it.
- I get angry with the messenger.
- I avoid God, church, godly friends and the Bible.
- It breaks my heart, and I turn to God for help.
- I'm upset with myself and determine to try harder.
- I compare myself to others and decide I'm not all that bad.

GOD WANTS HUMBLE DISCIPLES

- He shows us our sin, so He can show us His love and mercy.
- He wants to show us His forgiveness and get us back in fellowship following Him.
- He calls us to humble ourselves in repentance, turning to Him and His truth so we can walk in the light with Him.
- *The most revealing truth about you right now is not what you are going through, but where your heart is as you are going through it.*

THE DEATH OF ASA

2 CHRONICLES 16:11-14

- 2 Chronicles 16:11–14; The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. ¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. **Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians.** ¹³ And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign. ¹⁴ They buried him in the tomb that he had cut for himself in the city of David. They laid him on a bier that had been filled with various kinds of spices prepared by the perfumer's art, and they made a very great fire in his honor.
- We know the “Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel” as 1 and 2 Kings.

CONCLUSION: “THE LORD IS WITH YOU WHILE YOU ARE WITH HIM”

- From the words of the prophet Azariah in 2 Chronicles 15:2
 - “and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”
- May your life be filled with only seeking the Lord.
 - Seek the Lord and you will find Him and prosper
 - Forsake the Lord and he will forsake you