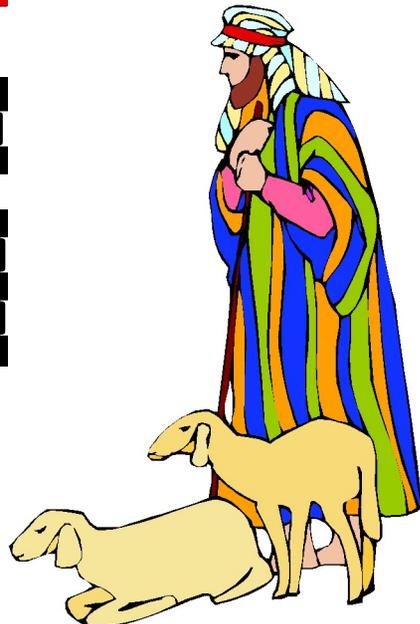


LESSONS FROM

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS



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In our day and age it is easy to think that the crowd is always right. If the majority of people think something is okay, then it is alright. The problem with that thinking is that the Bible gives evidence that the majority is wrong in almost every circumstance.

CALEB STANDS AGAINST THE CROWD

Numbers 13:26-30

Where had the Israelites been (vs 26)?

What did they bring back with them (vs 26)?

What report did the majority of the spies give (vs 28-29)?

What was Caleb's response (vs 30)?

How can we you like the 10 spies?

How can you be like Caleb?

Numbers 14:1-24

What was the reaction of the people after the spies had finished their report (vs 1-4)?

How can you act like the Israelites?

How did Caleb react when the people spoke against Moses (vs 6)?

What did Caleb and the others encourage the people to do (vs 7-8)?

What does this show you about His trust in God?

What warning did he give to the people (vs 9)?

What are some lessons you can learn from Caleb?

What did the people want to do to Moses, Caleb and Joshua (vs 10)?

What stopped them (vs 10)?

What can you learn from this?

****In verses 11-19 God threatened to destroy the Israelites, but Moses pleaded with Him to pardon their sins.*

What punishment would the Israelites face for their rejection of God (vs 20-23)?

What was God going to do for Caleb (vs 24)? Why?

What lesson can you learn from this?

How can you be like Caleb and stand alone for what God wants?

THE CHARACTER OF CALEB

Numbers 26:64-65

What do these verses show us about the character of God?

Could your life be described like that?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Why is it easy to act on your human emotion instead of having faith in God?

How can you avoid this?

The emphasis from today's reading is very clear. Caleb received special blessings from God because He chose to be obedient and to take a stand for the truth. God wants to bless you abundantly, but your blessings will not come unless you choose to obey.

CALEB INHERITS THE LAND PROMISED BY GOD

Joshua 14:5-15

What were the Israelites doing in this passage (vs 5)?

What did Caleb remind Joshua of (vs 6)?

Why was he supposed to receive a reward (vs 7-9)? What was the reward?

How old was Caleb? How did he live to be that old (vs 10)?

What can you learn from the attitude of Caleb?

How had God blessed Caleb (vs 11)?

What can you learn about God from this?

What did Caleb think he had the strength to do?

****Go and drive the giants out of the land. — Deuteronomy 2:10
The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims;*

What do these verses show you about the character of Caleb?

What did Joshua do for Caleb (vs 13)?

Why did Caleb get the land (vs 14)?

Why was that point emphasized?

What can you learn from this?

CALEB DEFEATS THE GIANTS

Joshua 15:13-19

What did Caleb do with the land (vs 14)?

What does this show us about Caleb's character?

*****God had commanded the Israelites to clear the land of any one who didn't want to worship the God of the Israelites.**

What promise did Caleb make to the men who were with him(vs 16)?

Who won the challenge (vs 17)?

Who was Othniel?

*****Eventually became a judge over the land of Israel**

What did Caleb's daughter ask him for (vs 18-19)? How did he respond?

What can we see about the character of Caleb in this passage?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Why is it so important to choose to obey God?

What are some of the biggest hindrances to your obedience?

How can God help you overcome those hindrances?

Sometimes Christians get the idea that they need to be popular or have great abilities in order to accomplish great things for God. From the life of Eleazar we are going to see that there was nothing flashy about him, but every time he is mentioned in Scripture He is practicing humble obedience.

DAVID AND HIS MEN PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES

Exodus 6:23-25

What is known about Eleazar's family (vs 23-25)?

*****Phineas was his only son and was a great servant of God**

Exodus 28:1-4

What responsibility was given to Eleazar, his father and his brothers (vs 1-4)?

Why was this an important responsibility?

*****Aaron was the first high priest of Israel and his responsibility was to lead the people of God in proper worship.**

Leviticus 10:1-20

What did Nadab & Abihu do (vs 1)?

What does it mean that they offered a "strange fire"?

*****They didn't follow God's guidelines for offering the incense**

What did God do to them (vs 2)?

Why did God do this (vs 3)?

What can you learn about the character of God through this?

What did Moses command Aaron, Eleazar & Ithamar not to do? Why (vs 6-7)?

What can we see about the character of God?

*****God hates sin and sin needs to be viewed at seriously**

What do these verses seem to infer about Nadab and Abihu's actions (vs 8-9)?

What can be seen about the character of God in verses 10-11?

How can you apply this practically to our lives?

Numbers 3:32

What position was given to Eleazar (vs 32)?

Why do you think he was given that position?

Numbers 16:36-39

****Background: Korah led 250 of Israel's leaders against Moses and there was a showdown where each was to get a golden censor and God was to burn the censors of who He wanted to be the leader of Israel. God proved that He wanted Moses & Aaron to lead. Korah and followers swallowed up by the ground and the only thing left of them was their pans (censers).*

What did God command Eleazar to do (vs 37)? Why (vs 38)?

What did Eleazar do (vs 39)?

What can you learn from this example?

Numbers 20:25-29

Why position did God give to Eleazar?

Numbers 27:18-21

Why was Joshua to stand before Eleazar (vs 19)?

What can you learn from this?

What responsibility did Eleazar have (vs 21)?

How do you have a similar responsibilities?

Numbers 31:21-24

What was Eleazar's task in this passage?

What can we see about the character of Eleazar in these verses?

How can you have this character in your own life?

Joshua 17:4

What role did Eleazar play in the nation of Israel (vs 4)?

How do you think he contributed to the success of Joshua?

What can you learn from this?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How are you living your life in humble obedience?

Why is obedience so important in your Christian walk?

Phinehas

It is very easy to let Satan slowly draw us away from God and into a mind set that not longer brings glory to God. This is why the example of Phinehas' zeal for righteousness is so good for us to follow.

PHINEHAS HAS A ZEAL FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Numbers 25:1-9

Where was Israel at the time of this event (vs 1)?

****They had wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years waiting to enter into the promise land.*

What did the Israelites do (vs 1)?

How did God respond to this (vs 3)?

What command did God give to Moses (vs 4)?

What can you learn about the character of God from this?

How is God's mercy displayed through this judgement?

What happened shortly after God gave the command to Moses (vs 6)?

What did Phinehas do when he saw this (vs 7)?

What does this show you about the character of Phinehas?

What did Phinehas save the Israelites from (vs 8)?

How does this show you the importance of you living a righteous life?

How many people died for their sin (vs 19)?

Phinehas

Why does God record examples like this? – See I Cor 10:6-13

How did God describe Phinehas (vs 11)?

How are you zealous for righteousness?

What is the “covenant of peace”?

****The Everlasting priesthood through Aaron to Eleazar to Phinehas and his descendants.*

Numbers 31:1-6

Why did Phinehas go to war and what did he go with (vs 6)?

Why was the position of Phinehas important?

****God wanted them to understand that He was their leader.*

Joshua 22:11-30

What did the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh do (vs 11)?

What was the response of the rest of Israel (vs 12)? Why?

****They thought they were trying to establish own kingdom and have their own god.*

Who did they send to talk to the tribes (vs 13)? Why?

How did Phinehas confront them (vs 16)?

What did he remind them of (vs 17)?

****This was reference to those who died by committing adultery with the people of Moab.*

What did he ask them not to do (vs 19)?

What can you learn from this?

Phinehas

What had the tribes realized about God (vs 22)?

Why did the tribes build the large altar (vs 23-25)?

What was their purpose for the altar (vs 26)?

What are things that you can do in your life to help you remember the mighty works of God?

How did Phinehas respond (vs 30)?

What character lessons can we learn from Phinehas?

Why do people often have a hard time listening to the facts and reason while they are angry?

How can you be like Phinehas?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How do you respond when you see others sinning? Do you confront them in order to get them to come back to God or do you criticize them for their failures? Explain.

Why was the example of the Phineas' zeal for righteousness so important?

What do you plan to do in your life to help you remember the works of God?

Othniel

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OTHNIEL

Judges 1:11-15

What did Caleb promise to the person who would lead the charge and defeat the inhabitants of Debir (vs 12)?

Who led the charge (vs 13)?

What relation was Othniel to Caleb (vs 13)?

What can be seen about the character of Othniel from these verses?

Where did Othniel and Achsah settle (vs 14-15)?

Judges 3:5-8

How did the Israelites choose to live (vs 5-6)?

Why did their failure to remove evil out of the land result in the Israelite's idolatry?

What lesson can you learn from this?

What did the children of Israel do (vs 7)?

How do you think the Israelites ended up forgetting what God had done for them (vs 7)?

How can you be like the Israelites?

What was God's attitude towards their sin (vs 8)?

What can you see about God from this?

What did God choose to do because of their sin (vs 8)?

How long did they live in servitude (vs 8)?

Why do you think God did this? – See Joshua 24:14-26

****God doesn't like to hurt His children, but there are times where pain is necessary to bring them back to Him.*

Joshua 2:14-26

****Joshua was going to die soon and wanted to challenge the Israelites to continue to live for the Lord.*

What four things were the Israelites challenged to do (vs 14)? How can you do those same things today?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What two choices were the Israelites given (vs 15)?

How did the people respond (vs 16)?

What did the people realize about God (vs 17-18)?

How have you come to this conclusion in your life?

What did Joshua tell the people (vs 19)? Why?

What did Joshua say God would do if the Israelites turned against God (vs 20)?

What did the people say they would do (vs 21)?

What did Joshua tell the people (vs 22)? Why?

What did Joshua say the people needed to do (vs 23)?

What are “strange gods” that can enter your life?

How can you “incline your heart” unto the Lord?

What did Joshua do after they made a covenant (vs 26)? Why?

What are ways the you can have reminders of your commitments to God?

What can you learn about God from his actions when he chose to punish the Israelites?

Judges 3:9-11

What did the Israelites do (vs 9)?

Why do you think it took them eight years to call out to the Lord?

Why do people choose to live in the misery of their sin?

How can you do this without even knowing it?

Who did God raise up to deliver the children of Israel (vs 9)?

How was Othniel able to have the power to defeat the foreign king (vs 10)?

How can you have the power do defeat the temptations and forces of Satan? – See James 4:6-10

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How do you seek God's wisdom for choices in life?

There are times in your life where God will direct you to do something that is humanly impossible. These are times where God will be most glorified.

GOD LEADS DEBORAH & BARAK TO VICTORY

Judges 4:1-24

What was the condition of Israel (vs 1-2)?

How powerful was Sisera's army (vs 3)?

What did the children of Israel do (vs 3)?

Who was the judge at that time and what do we know about her (vs 4-5)?

Who did Deborah send for and why (vs 5-6)?

What was God's plan (vs 7)?****River Kishon – Dry river bed*

What was Barak's response (vs 7)?

Why do you think he responded this way?

How can you be like Barak?

What did Deborah say she would do and what would be the result (vs 9)?

What did Barak do next (vs 10)?

How did Sisera find out about Barak (vs 11-12)?

Was this a mistake?

What can we see about the working of God?

What did Sisera do (vs 13)?

What did Deborah tell Barak (vs 14)?

Why do you think that Deborah had to tell him?

What did Barak do (vs 14)?

What did God do for Barak (vs 15)? – See Judges 5:20-22

Where did Sisera run to (vs 17)?

What did Jael do for him (vs 18)?

What did Sisera ask for (vs 19)?

What did he tell Jael to do (vs 20)?

What did she do when he was sleeping (vs 21)?

What did Jael do when Barak came by (vs 22)?

What was the end result of the war (vs 23)?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What are some positive and negative characteristics that you can learn from Barak?

How do you seek God's wisdom for choices in life?



Mt. Tabor

MANAOAH RESPONDS TO A HOLY GOD

Judges 13:1-23

What was the condition of the nation of Israel (vs 1)?

What did God do because of their sin(vs 1)?

What difficulty did Manoah's wife have (vs 2)?

Have you read about this problem elsewhere in Scripture? What do you often find when you read about this difficulty?

What can you learn from this?

What did the angel first tell Manoah's wife (vs 3)?

What characteristic of God can you learn from this?

What did the angel tell her would happen (vs 3)?

What did the angel tell her not to do (vs 4)?

****Unclean thing: The Law given by God through Moses declared what was clean and unclean food for the Israelites to eat.*

What was the child to be (vs 5)?

****A Nazarite was one who took a vow to not shave their head, touch a dead body, abstain from wine and unclean animals. In the New Testament, people would practice this vow for a period of time (Acts 21:14-26).*

What did God have planned for her son (vs 5)?

What did Manoah's wife tell Manoah (vs 6)?

What hadn't she done (vs 6)?

Did she think that the man was an angel?

What are ways that you have a hard time recognizing messages from God? Why?

What did Manoah do (vs 8)?

What can you learn from this?

What can you learn about prayer from verse 9?

How did God answer (vs 9)?

What did Manoah's wife do (vs 10)?

Why do you think Manoah responded by saying, "Now let thy words come to pass"? (vs 12)?

What did Manoah want to know (vs 12)?

**** "Order the child"(KJV) - Manoah wanted to know how God wanted them to raise their child.*

How can you apply this type of Godly character to your life?

What did Manoah want to do (vs 15)?

What does this show about the character of Manoah?

What can you learn from this?

Why did the angel say that Manoah needed to offer a sacrifice to the Lord (vs 16)?

What didn't Manoah realize about the angel (vs 16)?

Manoah

What did Manoah want to know? Why (vs 17)?

****In those times, God would often use prophets to proclaim his Word. It appears that Manoah and his wife thought that this man of God was a prophet.*

How did the angel respond (vs 18)?

Where did Manoah place the offering (vs 19)?

What did the angel do (vs 20)?

How did Manoah and his wife respond (vs 20)?

What did Manoah realize (vs 21)?

What did he think would happen? Why (vs 22)?

How did Manoah's wife respond (vs 23)?

What can you learn from the respect that Manoah had for a holy God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you ever responded to God the way Manoah did? Explain.

What are some trials that you have faced in life? How has God revealed to you his greatness through these trials?

Rehoboam -1

Because all men are prideful, we normally want to trust in ourselves rather than the wisdom of others. Rehoboam failed to trust wise counselors and did what they younger foolish men told him to do.

REHOBAM SPLITS THE KINGDOM

****Rehoboam was the son of Solomon. Though Solomon began his rule in Godliness, he ended it in sin. He strayed from the Lord and married many foreign wives in a political move for Israel. His lack of trust in God had allowed evil to come into the land through his pagan wives and their gods. He also highly taxed the people so that he could lavishly afford to take care of his palaces and his family.*

II Chronicles 10:1-18

What was Rehoboam doing in Shechem (vs 1)?

Where was Jeroboam at the time (vs 2)? Why?

****Jeroboam was one of Solomon's senior officers that rebelled against the king. This rebellion against the king was initiated by the prophet Ahijah who told Jeroboam God was going to judge Solomon for his idolatrous sins by allowing the nation to be torn in two. Jeroboam went to Egypt to hide until the death of Solomon (I Kings 11:26-40).*

What did Jeroboam and many of the other Israelites want (vs 3-4)?

What did Jeroboam tell them to do (vs 5)

Who did Rehoboam take counsel from (vs 6)?

What counsel did they give him (vs 7)?

Was this good counsel? Why or why not?

What did Rehoboam do with the counsel he was given (vs 8)?

Rehoboam -1

Whose counsel did he listen to (vs 8)?

What lesson can you learn from this?

What counsel did the young men give Rehoboam (vs 10-11)?

****Loin - the thigh*

Why do you think they gave this type of counsel?

What did Rehoboam do (vs 12-14)?

Did this response take God by surprise (vs 15) – See I Kings 11:29-40

What can you learn from this?

What did the Israelites do when they heard what Rehoboam had to say (vs 16)?

Who did Rehoboam reign over (vs 17)?

Who did Rehoboam send to the children of Israel (vs 18)?

****Rehoboam sent him to gather slaves to come and work for him if they refused to pay their taxes.*

What did they do to him (vs 18)?

How did Rehoboam respond (vs 18)? Why?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you avoid the type of mistakes Rehoboam made?

Reheboam -2

One of the mistakes that many Christians make is the failure to do all that God wants them to do. Rehoboam obeyed God, but not to the full extent that God wanted him to. Because he allowed a low level of sin to exist in the nation, they once again turned from God.

REHEBOAM DISPLAYS GOOD AND BAD

II Chronicles 11:1-23

What did Rehoboam do when he arrived back in Jerusalem (vs 1)?

How many men did he have to fight (vs 1)?

Who was Shemaiah (vs 1)?

****Little is known about Shemaiah apart from his work as a prophet in this passage.*

What did God want Rehoboam to do (vs 4)?

Did they obey God (vs 4)?

What do you think would have happened if they disobeyed?

What did Rehoboam do (vs 5)?

What else did Rehoboam do (vs 12)? Why?

****The tribe of Benjamin was known for its strong warriors.*
Who else joined Rehoboam's side (vs 13)? Why (vs 14)?

What did Jeroboam do in the north (vs 15)?

Was all of Israel evil (vs 16)? Explain.

How did this help Rehoboam's nation (vs 17)?

How long did it continue this way (vs 17)?

Why do you think it only continued for three years?

****Whenever sin is allowed to co-habitate with righteousness without being removed, you will find that those who are righteous will eventually be taken over by that sin.*

What lesson can you learn from this?

What are ways that you can allow sin to dwell in your life?

What sin of David and Solomon did Rehoboam continue in (vs 18-20)?

What do you think this caused in the family (vs 21-22)?

What wise thing did Rehoboam do (vs 23)?

What foolish thing did he do (vs 23)?

How can you be like Rehoboam?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you see that God still works through you in spite of all your faults and failures?

How are you removing all sin from your life and not allowing it to co-habitate with righteousness?

What are some areas where many believers can let sin exist and edge out righteousness?

REHEBOAM ENDS HIS LIFE IN FAILURE

I Kings 14:21-24

How old was Rehoboam when he became king? How long did he reign (vs 21)?

What did the nation of Judah do (vs 22)?

How did God react to their sin (vs 22)?

What can you learn about God from this?

How had they done evil (vs 23)?

How can you commit this type of evil today?

What else existed in the land (vs 24)?

****These were male prostitutes that served false gods and sold their bodies for those gods.*

What did they allow to come back into the nation (vs 24)?

How can you allow evil to come back into your life after God has removed it?

II Chronicles 12:1-16

According to verse 1, why do you think Rehoboam turned away from God?

****Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*

How can pride lead to the destruction of your spiritual life?

What can you do to guard yourself from this?

What happened after Rehobaom had reigned for five years (vs 1)?

Why did this happen (vs 1)?

What can you learn about God from this?

How strong was the Egyptian army (vs 3)?

What did he do to all the strongholds that Rehoboam had spent the last five years building (vs 4)?

What can you learn about the importance of laying up treasures in heaven from this?

What did God do for Rehoboam (vs 5)?

How did Rehoboam and the other leaders react (vs 6)?

What do you think they declared, “The Lord is righteous”?

What did God do in response to their humility (vs 7)?

Did God immediately stop the invasion (vs 7)?

What can you learn from this?

What punishment were the Israelites going to have to face (vs 8)? Why?

Why is it important that you don’t allow sin into your life?

What did the king of Egypt do (vs 9)?

What were the golden shields (vs 9)? – See II Chronicles 9:15-16

****These were a symbol of the wealth and power God had given Solomon and Israel*

What did Rehoboam replace the shields with (vs 10)? Why?

****Israel had sacrificed what was best (the wonderful golden shields) and had replaced them with their selfishness (bronze shields).*

How does sin cause you to miss out on God’s best for your life?

What did Rehoboam have to do to guard the bronze shields from being stolen (vs 11)?

What did God do as a result of Rehoboam’s humility (vs 12)?

What can you learn from this?

Why did Reheboam have evil in his life (vs 14)?

What lesson can you learn from this?

How have you “prepared your heart to seek the Lord”?

How can you avoid having this type of eulogy?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you seen Christians around you act like Reheboam? How can you avoid those same actions in your life?

The Old Testament is full of examples of those who did what was right and were blessed by God, but also contains many examples of those who did wrong and were punished by God. Today, we are going to see how Asa helped turn Israel to God.

ASA TURNS JUDAH TO GOD

I Kings 15:8-10

****After the death of Solomon, Israel had great civil wars and split into two separate nations. Jereboam reigned over the northern 10 tribes called Israel and Reheboam reigned over the southern 2 tribes called Judah. Asa was the third king of Judah.*

What can we learn about Asa from these verses?

****Maachah was actually his grandmother the wife of Reheboam.*

II Chronicles 14:2-15

What are some positive things you can see about Asa's rule (vs 2-5)?

How can you learn from the positive characteristics of Asa?

How had God rewarded him for his righteousness (vs 6-7)?

What did he decide to build? Why was this important?

****They hadn't had time to build protective walls and cities because they had been constantly at war.*

What lesson can you learn from this?

ASA TRUSTS GOD

What two nations made up the southern tribe of Judah (vs 8)?

How many were in Asa's army (vs 8)?

Who came to fight against them and how many soldier did he have (vs 9)?

What did Asa realize about the battle odds (vs 11)?

What did he do (vs 11)?

What did God do?

What can you learn from this?

Why is it easier to worry than to turn to God when tough circumstances arise in your life?

What does it mean that the "fear of the Lord" came upon the cities that surrounded Judah (vs 14)?

What was the result for Judah (vs 14-15)?

What can you learn about God from this passage?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Why is it so important to remove evil from your life?

As a believer, God doesn't take away your problems, but He helps you through them. How can God help you through different problems that you face in your life?

Why is it important to trust in the character of God?

You have not only read about David's great victories, but you have read about his great failures as well. Keep in mind that David was described as a man after God's own heart. God doesn't expect you to be perfect, but He wants you to be humble.

ASA MAKES A COVENANT WITH GOD

II Chronicles 15:1-19

What Azariah the prophet tell Asa (vs 1-7)?

Why do you think God sent Azariah to give this warning?

What can you learn from this warning?

What are some things Asa did as a response to this (vs 8)?

Why did people defect to Judah (vs 9)?

What can you learn from this?

What did they do at Jerusalem (vs 10-11)?

What covenant did they make (vs 12-13)?

What do you think made them willing to make a covenant like this?

What type of occasion was this (vs 14-15)?

What was the result of their commitment (vs 15)?

Who did Asa remove from a position of leadership (vs 15)?

What does this show us about his character?

What can you learn from this?

What did he fail to do (vs 17)?

****High places were places of worship to foreign Gods. He removed the idols, but didn't completely destroy the worship places.*

What can you learn from this?

What does verse 18 show about Asa's character?

How did the Lord bless him (vs 19)?

ASA LOOKS TO MAN RATHER THAN GOD

II Chronicles 16:1-12

What did Baasha build (vs 1)? Why?

****Jereboam had died and Baasha was now king of Israel*

How did Asa decide to beat Baasha (vs 2-3)?

Why do you think Asa failed to trust God as he did before?

What lesson can you learn from this?

What was the result of Asa's actions (vs 4-6)?

Who came to visit Asa & what did he tell him (vs 7)?

What was the consequence of Asa's action (vs 7)?

What did Hanani want Asa to understand about God (vs 8-9)?

What can you learn from this?

What did Asa do with Hanani and others (vs 10)?

Why did Asa act as he did?

How can you be tempted to act as Asa did?

What did God do because of Asa's actions (vs 12)?

How did Asa's life end (vs 12)

What can we learn from this sad ending?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Why is it so important to listen to the warnings that God gives you?

Why do people often fail to listen to the warnings?

Why is it often easier to trust in human power than it is to trust in the power of God?

How can you safeguard your life to keep you from trusting in yourself?

Why is this so dangerous?