

A person in a red boat is seen from behind, floating on a dark, stormy sea. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds and bright, jagged lightning bolts. The sun is setting on the horizon, creating a shimmering path of light across the water. The overall mood is one of calm amidst a turbulent environment.

Rest

On Every Side

2ND CHRONICLES 1-15

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MORNING READING

Psalm 16: 1-11 NLT

1 Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge. **2** I said to the LORD, “You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you.” **3** The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them! **4** Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods. I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood or even speak the names of their gods.

5 LORD, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine.

6 The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!

7 I will bless the LORD who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

9 No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. [b] My body rests in safety.

10 For you will not leave my soul among the dead [c] or allow your holy one [d] to rot in the grave. **11** You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

MAIN READING

2 Chronicles 14:1-15 ESV

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** 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.

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.

2nd Chronicles 14 details the main events in King Asa's reign, and the Good that he decided to do to bring the Nation close to God.

Deuteronomy 6:4

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD thy God is one
LORD.**

Mark 12: 28-29

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[e]

Mark 12: 30-31

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’[f]

31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[g] There is no commandment greater than these.”

2 Asa did what was pleasing and good in the sight of the Lord his God.

3 He removed the foreign altars and the pagan shrines. He smashed the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles.

2nd Chronicles 14:4

4 He commanded the people of Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his law and his commands.

2nd Chron 14: 5

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.

2nd Chronicles 14: 6

6 During those peaceful years, he was able to build up the fortified towns throughout Judah. No one tried to make war against him at this time, for the Lord was giving him rest from his enemies.

2nd Chronicles 14: 7

7 Asa told the people of Judah, "Let us build towns and fortify them with walls, towers, gates, and bars. The land is still ours because we sought the Lord our God, and he has given us peace on every side." So they went ahead with these projects and brought them to completion.

2nd Chron 14: 8

8 King Asa had an army of 300,000 warriors from the tribe of Judah, armed with large shields and spears. He also had an army of 280,000 warriors from the tribe of Benjamin, armed with small shields and bows. Both armies were composed of well-trained fighting men.

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