

SECOND CHRONICLES SIXTEEN, NINE

Intro: King Asa was one of the good kings of Judah. Cf. 2 Chron. 14:1, 2. The reasons are given in vv. 3-5.

His prayer when the Ethiopians came against him is one of the great prayers of Scripture. See 2 Chron. 14:11.

As a result Judah had peace during his days. Cf. 2 Chron. 14:6; 15:17.

But, in the 36th year of his reign a change took place.

The king of Israel came against and started to build Ramah so as to cut him and Judah off from the other nations. Instead of turning to the Lord as he had done previously, Asa turned to Ben-hadad, the king of Syria.

He was successful, but the price, spiritually, was great.

Note the words of Hanani, the seer in 2 Chron. 16:7-9, and then Asa's reaction in v. 10.

The pattern of Asa's former faith seems to have been broken, as we see in 2 Chron. 16:12, 13. For about two years he was sick, and yet during that time "he sought not the Lord, but the physicians."

The words of our text tonight were spoken by Hanani, the seer, to Asa, the king, as a rebuke for seeking help from Syria, and not from the Lord.

Asa surely knew this truth, but for some reason he did not act on it. Why, we do not know! But it comes as a warning to people in their later years--not ever to stop walking with the Lord or trusting Him.

Hanani speaks to Asa about . . .

I. "THE EYES OF THE LORD."

Seven times in Gen. 1 it is stated that "God saw."

Note what God "saw" in Noah's day. Cf. Gen. 6:5.

Do you remember the circumstances under which God found Hagar and she said, "Thou, God, see'st me" (Gen. 16:13)

Prov. 15:3, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Prov. 5:21, "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings."

Psa. 34:15, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
and his ears are open unto their cry."

Peter quotes this in 1 Pet. 3:12--so it must still have been true in his day!

Cf. also Mark 6:48. (Read vv. 45-52.)

SO IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NOT A THING TAKING PLACE UPON THE EARTH, IN THE LIFE OF ANY MAN, SAVED OR UNSAVED, BUT WHAT THE LORD KNOWS ALL ABOUT IT.

Cf. Heb. 4:13, "Neither is there any creature . . ."

In our text the application can be made to Jew and Gentile alike.

But the verse itself and the context make it clear that the primary meaning of this passage has to do with those who are the people of God.

What is God looking for?

II. THE REASON HE IS CONTINUOUSLY SCANNING THE WHOLE EARTH:  
"to show Himself strong."

We have the idea that we are always coaxing God to do things for us. But if we were reading our Bibles carefully we would soon see that this is not true. HE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE HIS POWER IN BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE IN THEIR NEED. This is one reason they have needs!

Asa had seen God do this. Cf. 2 Chron. 14:9-15.

What if Asa had only remembered the story of the exodus from Egypt?

And what about the conquests under Joshua when they entered the land of promise?

The life of David will forever be down in the records as an evidence of the mighty power of God. Take all of the Sauls, and the Philistines, and the Abners, and the Absaloms, and put them together. **THEY ARE AS NOTHING BEFORE GOD!**

The verb which is used here, **פִּיַן**, is the same verb used in 1 Sam. 30:6b, "But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." He bound himself in faith to his God. In our text tonight we have the same truth from the divine point-of-view. **GOD WANTS TO BIND HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE SO AS TO BE THEIR STRENGTH!**

Cf. John 10:27, 28.

The Word is full of promises from God that He will meet our needs. He may not save us from trial, but He will keep us in it, and bring us through it!

Cf. Isa. 41:10.

However, it is important for us to note that there is . . .

III. A CONDITION: "whose heart is perfect toward him."

God is waiting for some inner conditions to be set up; we are always waiting for outer conditions to change. "Whose HEART is perfect toward Him."

Cf. Prov. 3:5, 6; 4:23.

What does Hanani mean, "perfect"?

Interestingly enough, this is the same root <sup>from which</sup> we get the Heb. word, peace. It means to have enough, to be complete.

Just a moment's thought will convince you that you are peaceful when you feel that you have enough. This is the reason our peace is threatened when we feel that we do not have all that we need.

Asa lost his peace for this <sup>very</sup> reason. He did not feel that he had what it would take to deal with Israel! And so he went to the Syrians for help!

The Lord wants us to know that we can not only have peace, but that we have every reason to have peace when our trust is in Him!

I mentioned Psa. 23:1 this morning.

Take two other illustrations tonight: one from the OT; one from the NT. Cf. Isa. 26:3, 4; Phil. 4:6, 7.

A perfect heart is one that is trusting in the Lord, and in Him alone!

Concl: What is it tonight that causes you anxiety? Have you trusted the Lord before in even greater difficulties, but you find it hard to trust Him now. Do not make the mistake that Asa made. God has not changed. His Word is still the same. All that He could ever do, He can still do. Peace will come, and so will the blessing you seek, if you trust in Him--and in Him alone!