

Do you live in a country where you can worship Jehovah freely? If so, how are you using this period of peace? This article will help you consider how you can imitate King Asa of Judah and the first-century Christians. They made wise use of time when there was no disturbance.

**EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The term “peace” implies more than just an absence of war. The Hebrew word also conveys the thought of good health, safety, and welfare.

(2 Chronicles 14:6) He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land had no disturbance and there was no war against him during these years, for Jehovah gave him rest.

#### Paragraph 1

(Deuteronomy 6:10-12) “When Jehovah your God brings you into the land that he swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give you—great and fine cities that you did not build, 11 houses full of all sorts of good things that you did not work for, hewn cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and you have eaten and become satisfied, 12 be careful not to forget Jehovah, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

#### Paragraph 2

(1 Kings 15:14) But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless, A'sa's heart was complete with Jehovah all his life.

(2 Chronicles 14:3) He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the sacred poles.

(2 Chronicles 14:5) So he removed from all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense stands, and under him, the kingdom continued without disturbance.

(1 Kings 15:11-13) A'sa did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah, like David his forefather. 12 He expelled the male temple prostitutes from the land and removed all the disgusting idols that his forefathers had made. 13 He even removed Ma'a-cah his grandmother from her position as queen mother, because she had made an obscene idol for the worship of the sacred pole. A'sa cut down her obscene idol and burned it in the Kid'ron Valley.

#### Paragraph 3

(2 Chronicles 14:1) Then A-bi'jah was laid to rest with his forefathers, and they buried him in the City of David; and his son A'sa became king in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years.

(2 Chronicles 14:4) Further, he told Judah to search for Jehovah the God of their forefathers and to observe the Law and the commandment.

(2 Chronicles 14:6) He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land had no disturbance and there was no war against him during these years, for Jehovah gave him rest.

#### Paragraph 4

**(2 Chronicles 14:2) A'sa did what was good and right in the eyes of Jehovah his God.**

**(2 Chronicles 14:6, 7) He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land had no disturbance and there was no war against him during these years, for Jehovah gave him rest. 7 He said to Judah: “Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. For the land is still at our disposal, because we have searched for Jehovah our God. We have searched, and he has given us rest all around.” So their building was successful.**

**Paragraph 5**

(2 Chronicles 14:8) A'sa had an army of 300,000 men from Judah, equipped with large shields and lances. And out of Benjamin were 280,000 mighty warriors who carried bucklers and were armed with bows.

**Paragraph 6**

(Acts 9:26-31) On arriving in Jerusalem, he made efforts to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, because they did not believe he was a disciple. 27 So Bar'na·bas came to his aid and led him to the apostles, and he told them in detail how on the road he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he remained with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He was talking and disputing with the Greek-speaking Jews, but these made attempts to do away with him. 30 When the brothers found out about this, they brought him down to Caes·a·re'a and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 Then, indeed, the congregation throughout the whole of Ju·de'a and Gal'i·lee and Sa·mar'i·a entered into a period of peace, being built up; and as it walked in the fear of Jehovah and in the comfort of the holy spirit, it kept on multiplying.

**Paragraph 7**

(1 Corinthians 16:8, 9) But I am remaining in Eph'e·sus until the Festival of Pentecost, 9 because a large door that leads to activity has been opened to me, but there are many opposers.

**Paragraph 8**

(Acts 15:23-29) They wrote this and sent it through them: "The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to those brothers in Antioch, Syria, and

Ci·li'cia who are from the nations: Greetings! 24 Since we have heard that some went out from among us and caused you trouble with what they have said, trying to subvert you, although we did not give them any instructions, 25 we have come to a unanimous decision to choose men to send to you together with our beloved Bar'na·bas and Paul, 26 men who have given up their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We are therefore sending Judas and Silas, so that they also may report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For the holy spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you except these necessary things: 29 to keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you!"

(Acts 15:30-35) So when these men were dismissed, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the whole group together and handed them the letter. 31 After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. 32 And Judas and Silas, since they were also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many talks and strengthened them. 33 After they had spent some time there, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. 34 — 35 But Paul and Bar'na·bas stayed in Antioch, teaching and declaring, along with many others, the good news of the word of Jehovah.

(Acts 16:4, 5) As they traveled on through the cities, they would deliver to them for observance the decrees that had been decided on by the apostles and the elders who were in Jerusalem. 5 Then, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number day by day.

Paragraph 9

(Mark 13:10) Also, in all the nations, the good news has to be preached first.

Paragraph 10

**(2 Timothy 4:2) Preach the word; be at it urgently in favorable times and difficult times; reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all patience and art of teaching.**

(Proverbs 11:4) Wealth will be of no benefit on the day of fury, But righteousness is what will rescue from death.

(Matthew 6:31-33) So never be anxious and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or, ‘What are we to drink?’ or, ‘What are we to wear?’ 32 For all these are the things the nations are eagerly pursuing. Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 “Keep on, then, seeking first the Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you.

(1 John 2:15-17) Do not love either the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him; 16 because everything in the world—the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one’s means of life—does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. 17 Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Paragraph 14

(2 Chronicles 14:11) A’sa then called to Jehovah his God and said: “O Jehovah, it does not matter to you whether those you help are many or have no power. Help us, O Jehovah our God, for we are relying on you, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Jehovah, you are

our God. Do not let mortal man prevail against you.”

Paragraph 15

(2 Chronicles 14:8-13) A’sa had an army of 300,000 men from Judah, equipped with large shields and lances. And out of Benjamin were 280,000 mighty warriors who carried bucklers and were armed with bows. 9 Later Ze’rah the E·thi·o·pi·an came against them with an army of 1,000,000 men and 300 chariots. When he reached Ma·re’s·hah, 10 A’sa went out against him and they drew up in battle formation in the Valley of Zeph’a·thah at Ma·re’s·hah. 11 A’sa then called to Jehovah his God and said: “O Jehovah, it does not matter to you whether those you help are many or have no power. Help us, O Jehovah our God, for we are relying on you, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Jehovah, you are our God. Do not let mortal man prevail against you.” 12 So Jehovah defeated the E·thi·o·pi·ans before A’sa and before Judah, and the E·thi·o·pi·ans fled. 13 A’sa and the people with him pursued them as far as Ge’rar, and the E·thi·o·pi·ans continued falling until not one of them was alive, for they were crushed by Jehovah and by his army. Afterward they carried off a very great deal of spoil.

Paragraph 16

(Matthew 24:9) “Then people will hand you over to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all the nations on account of my name.

(2 Timothy 3:12) In fact, all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted.

(Revelation 12:12) On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time.”

Paragraph 17

(Matthew 24:21) for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again.

(Matthew 10:35, 36) For I came to cause division, with a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 Indeed, a man's enemies will be those of his own household.

Paragraph 18

(Matthew 24:45) “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time?

**(Hebrews 10:38, 39) “But my righteous one will live by reason of faith,” and “if he shrinks back, I have no pleasure in him.”**  
**39 Now we are not the sort who shrink back to destruction, but the sort who have faith for the preserving of our lives.**

Paragraph 19

(2 Chronicles 14:4) Further, he told Judah to search for Jehovah the God of their forefathers and to observe the Law and the commandment.

(2 Chronicles 15:1, 2) Now the spirit of God came upon Az·a·ri'ah the son of O'ded. 2 So he went out to meet A'sa and said to him: “Hear me, O A'sa and all Judah and Benjamin! Jehovah is with you as long as you remain with him; and if you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you abandon him, he will abandon you.

(Matthew 11:28) Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you.

Paragraph 20

(1 Chronicles 28:9) “And you, Sol'o·mon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for Jehovah searches through all hearts, and he discerns every inclination of the thoughts. If you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will reject you forever.