**Being Dependent Upon the Lord/Seeking the Lord**

**Often Brings Rewards and Blessing**

The former and late president of CIU, Robertson McQuilkin, once said that if something is said once in Scripture it is important and needs our attention. But if something is said repeatedly, then we had better ***sit up*** and pay extra special attention!

This will be a broad, but not even close to being an exhaustive study, on this Biblical theme. We’re going to consider repeated illustrations and repeated teachings on how the Lord wants us to ***stay dependent*** upon Him, and to stay in an ongoing seeking relationship with Him! 🡪So, we had better sit up and pay extra special attention because this theme is woven throughout!!!

**Thesis Statement**: Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

“You will **seek** (baqas) me and find me when you **seek** (daras) me with all your heart.”

**KING ABIJAH’S SOLDIERS**

King Abijah was the grandson of King Solomon, and he was a king of Judah. He was an evil king, but his army had a desperate experience. Judah’s soldiers were hemmed in the front and in the rear by the northern enemy, the army of Israel.

Read 2 Chron. 13:13-14

When King Abijah’s soldiers realized that they had an enemy in front and in behind them, hence they were hemmed in, they **cried** (Heb sa aq) out to the Lord, and God delivered them. Even though the king’s heart was not devoted to God (1 Kings 15:3), when his soldiers cried out to God, God heard them! The soldiers were in a desperate situation.

Read 2 Chron. 13:18
Quest. Why did the soldiers prevail because they “**cried out**” and **relied** (sa an) on the Lord.

Perhaps Abijah’s son, King Asa knew about what happened with his father’s army. He may have even been one of the soldiers!

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**KING ASA**

**Asa** was a 3rd king of Judah, the great-grandson of Solomon.

Read 2 Chron. 14:2-4—This was in the first few years of Asa’s regin.

Asa, an overall godly king, commanded Judah to “**seek**” (Heb Daras) the Lord. The true nation of Israel was supposed to be a theocratic nation, and not meant to be a democracy. Quest. Do you know what the difference is? 🡪A theocratic nation is the belief in governance by divine guidance; whereas a democracy is governed by the majority of people.

Read 2 Chron. 14:8-11

Quest. What kind of odds is this? Basically 2 to 1, 🡪580,000 vs. 1,000,000. (show PP map)

But Asa **cried** (Heb qara) to the Lord and they **relied** (Heb. Sa an) on the Lord.

Because he called out to God and “**relied**” (Heb. Sa an) on Him, King Asa and his army was able to defeat an army twice his size. Illust. God was his crutch!

(In Asa’s 15th year as King)

The Spirit of God came upon a prophet the Prophet Azariah in the 15th year of Asa:

Read 2 Chron. 15:1-2 (context is the entire chapter)

The prophet Azariah said to Asa, “If you “**seek**” (Heb. Daras) the Lord, He will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you”! This is similar to Jer. 29:13, our thesis statement.

They entered a covenant with God to “**seek**” (Heb. Daras) the Lord with all their heart and soul! They sacrificed thousands of animals in dedication, celebration, and worship (v.10). They were serious (v.13) because whoever would not “**seek**” (Heb. Daras) the Lord was put to death!!!!!!

Read 2 Chron. 15:14-15—Great Celebration!

“**14**They took an oath to the Lord with loud acclamation, with shouting and with trumpets and horns. **15**All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They **sought** (baqas) God eagerly, and he was found by them. So, the Lord gave them rest on every side.”

After Asa had demanded his people to enter a Covenant to **seek** (Heb baqas) the Lord, there was revival, great celebration in the nation of Judah.

(A **BAD** reliance)

Read 2 Chron. 16:1-6—In Asa’s 36th year as king.

Quest. Was Asa still practicing (Heb. Sa an) “reliance”? Yes, but his reliance was on the wrong object. It was on the king of Syria (Aram) and NOT the Lord.

Read 2 Chron 16:7-9 Notice verse 7 especially where the word “relied” (Heb sa an) is used twice. Verse 9 is one of my favorite verses. God is looking for and promises to strengthen people with committed hearts towards Him!

2 Chron 16:12. Even when Asa had severe pain in his feet, “he did not **seek** (Heb daras) the Lord, but just the physicians.” Quest. Why do you think he lost his reliance upon the Lord?

Perhaps God was using the disease to bring Asa back to Him. It appears that King Asa “backslid” in his reliance on the Lord for final 5 years of his life!

**KING JEHOSHAPHAT**

**Read 2 Chron 17:1-4** 🡪He “sought” (Daras) the God of his father. Therefore, God established his kingdom. The principle is found in 2 Chron. 15:2 when the prophet spoke to King Asa.

 There are often times blessings or good results of seeking the Lord.

In 2 Chron. 18:1 we see that Jehoshaphat aligned himself with King Ahab of Israel. His son married Ahab’s daughter. Bad alliances can encourage us to dumb things🡪He joined Ahab in going to war against the King of Syria, even though God’s prophet said it would not be successful. **Quest**. Have bad associations even influenced you negatively?

**Illust**. elementary school friend and when to do homework!

**Read 2 Chron. 19:2**🡪see what prophet Jehu said about Jehoshaphat’s alignment
with King Ahab. That is pretty serious! The wrath of God was upon Jehoshaphat because of his union with King Ahab!

**Quest**. What were some things that Ahab did that described him as one “who hated the Lord? 🡪**Someone Read 1 Kings 16:30-33**.

**Quest**. What was Baal worship? Elijah declares to Ahab some serious judgements of God coming. **1 Kings 21:20-24**

 Notice Ahab’s response 🡪**1 Kings 21:27-28**

🡪Wicked Ahab turns to God, and we see God’s mercy.

(Show graph of Spiritual Dependency of Jehoshaphat on large Post-It Note)

**Read 2 Chron. 20:1-4** 🡪A large enemy army was in the territory of Judah. Jehoshaphat set himself to **seek** [Heb. Daras] the Lord while a great army was invading Judah. (show PP map)

**Read 2 Chron. 20:6-12** King Jehoshaphat’s dependent prayer: “For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our **eyes** [Heb. ayin] are upon you.” 🡪The pinnacle of dependency upon the Lord!!!

**Quest**. Are there times that we do not know what we ought to do? 🡪Sure, but do we put our “eyes” of dependence upon Him?? I have a tendency, when facing trouble, to ***initially*** look horizontally for help. **Read 2 Chron 20:14-23** Notice how the people of Judah believed and were depending on the Lord ***before*** their enemy was defeated. They praised God, they sang before there was victory. The battle was the Lord’s (20:15)

Key Hebrew and Greek words on “Dependence” or “relying” on in connection with the Lord:

* Hebrew—Sa an 🡪Leaning upon like a crutch
* Hebrew—Batah🡪putting one’s confidence in
* Hebrew—Nabat🡪looking with great attention
* Hebrew—Qava 🡪waiting upon (an active waiting with attention)
* Hebrew—Daras 🡪seeking, seek with care and application, consulting with
* Hebrew—Hasa 🡪seeking refuge in; flee for protection
* Hebrew—Ayin 🡪physical eye, or mental or spiritual “EYE” of seeing (See Ps. 121:1)
* Hebrew—Manos🡪flight, place of escape; a refuge from danger
* Hebrew—Mas en🡪support, staff
* Hebrew—Hul 🡪to wait longingly, to wait anxiously, to twist oneself around (this is an “active” wait)
* Hebrew—Qara🡪cry for help, utter a loud sound, call with the name of God
* Hebrew—Sa ag🡪cry for help, to cry out
* Hebrew—daman🡪to be silent, to be struck dumb
* Hebrew—amag🡪take exquisite delight in
* Hebrew—magen🡪shield, protector
* Hebrew—yada🡪to know (i.e. know the Lord), consider, recognize
* Hebrew—ezer🡪helper, one who aids
* Hebrew—Haka🡪wait for, long for (i.e. waiting for the Lord)
* Hebrew—baqas🡪to seek to find, to desire, to seek to secure
* Hebrew—kasap🡪to long for, to long after
* Hebrew—Kala🡪to be complete, to be accomplished, to faint for
* Hebrew—ranan🡪to cry out, to overcome, to ring out for joy
* Hebrew—qraba🡪a drawing near
* Hebrew—mahase🡪refuge, shelter
* Hebrew—sub🡪to turn back, to return
* Greek—meno 🡪 to remain in connection with
* Greek—pselaphao🡪touch, feel; metaphorically: mentally to seek after
* Greek—hypotasso🡪to submit to one’s control, subject oneself
* Greek—engizo🡪to bring near, to join one thing to another, to approach
* Greek—katharidzo🡪 consecrate, in a moral sense to free from defilement of sin
* Greek—tapeinoo🡪to make low; to devoid oneself of haughtiness
* Greek—zeteo🡪to seek out in order to find; to crave
* Greek—ekzeteo🡪(ek=out)to seek out God, a determined search (Wuest)
* Greek—epipotheho🡪to long for, to pursue, to long after
* Greek—epirhripto🡪to throw upon, place upon
* Greek—optanomai🡪to look at, to allow one’s self to be seen
* Greek—elpizo🡪 to hope/trust, to wait for salvation with joy and full confidence
* Greek—eusebeia🡪piety towards God, reverence, respect
* Greek—endynamoa🡪strengthen, increase in strength
* Greek—en🡪in, by, with (especially meaningful with connected with the Lord
* Greek—proserchomai🡪to come to, approach, draw near to