

thou hast done foolishly; therefore henceforth thou shalt have wars.' And Asa was wroth with the seer and put him in the prison-house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time. And behold the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. And Asa in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, was diseased in his feet until his disease was exceeding great. Yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers and died in the forty-first year of his reign. And they buried him in his own sepulchres which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odors and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecary's art and they made a very great burning for him." What a tragedy is this life of Asa. "They made a very great burning for him". You can well imagine his funeral and all the people gathering around and the great ceremony and the eulogy of King Asa. And I am sure they told of all the great things that Asa had done. And they pointed out how he had led in driving back the Ethiopians, driving back this terrific attack ~~XX~~ against them, and how he had led in taking away the stones and the timber from Ramah and putting an end to this menace right north of them. I imagine they said very little about his league with Ben-hadad. And probably they passed over these latter years of his life without saying much about it, and dwelled on the great deeds of his early days. There was a very great burning for him. Well I am sure in the hearts of many of the people there was sadness to see this great man, this good man, this man who had accomplished so much, and how his life had degenerated so greatly - and why did it degenerate? I think the evidence is very clear in the passage. In the early life of Asa he trusted in the Lord. He looked to the Lord for help in the face of almost impossible situations and the Lord gave him help. In the latter days he looked to earthly means for help. He looked to this league with this wicked king of Syria and then we find a note just touched on at the very end - in his sickness, his disease was exceeding great, yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord but to the physicians. He lost his courage toward the end of his life. His faith degenerated. He was putting his