

# King Asa of Judah

CHARACTERS: Iddo, JJ, RR (roving reporter), Asa, Jeb and Deborah (these are old timers and should be played for comic relief), Oded, Dr. Ethan, Hanai, soldier,

PROPS: none specified

SETTING: various or bare stage

RUN TIME: 9 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Kings 15. 2 Chronicles 14-16

FK reading level: 5.5

## Scene 1

*A rise: TV news station*

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm Jehu, JJ for short, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: King Abijah AKA Abijam died today ending a short three year reign. His son Asa was crowned today in a Jerusalem ceremony. Let's go live to get some reactions from the citizens of Judah.

RR: I'm here with Jeb from Jericho. Jeb, as an old timer, what do you think about this transition in power?

JEB: No telling. I just hope he keeps Jeroboam and those Israelites out of my vineyards.

DEB: *(inserting self, pushing in)* I'm Deborah and I say good riddance to his father *(spitting to the side)* He was nothing like his great-grandfather David. I can tell you that. Now David, he was a king. With a capital K.

JEB: *(pushing back into the spotlight)* I hear he's a gonna remove the pagan altars and the high places.

DEB: *(squeezing in to get the last word)* I hope he shatters those disgusting pillars and chops down the Asherah poles. They are disgusting. With a capital D.

RR: Back to you, Iddo.

IDDO: There was mourning today in the 10 northern tribes as King Jeroboam's son passed away from illness. The boy, Abijah, had been ill for some time.

JJ: Isn't it interesting both Rehoboam and Jeroboam named their sons Abijah?

IDDO: Coincidence? Maybe.

JJ: Stay tuned for further developments, news and eyewitness reports.

## Scene 2

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: King Abijah shocked many today when he deposed the Queen Mother. Insiders confide the king chopped down an obscene idol and had it incinerated in the Kidron Valley.

IDDO: The king has embarked on a strategic building program, fortifying with walls, towers, doors and bars.

JJ: Political insiders say the king is following in the footsteps of King David by doing what is right in the sight of the Lord. In a speech today he alluded to that. [cut to]

ASA: The land is still ours because we sought the LORD our God. We sought Him and He gave us rest on every side. [cut to]

IDDO: Temple workers reported the king brought consecrated gifts of silver, gold, and utensils into the LORD's temple:

### Scene 3

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: The top story tonight is the impending Cushite invasion. Over a million troops and 300 chariots under General Zerah are massing at Mareshah. Sources inside the Judean army say King Asa has only been able to muster half that many soldiers to meet the threat.

IDDO: We take you live to the battlefield as Asa is preparing to make an address. [cut to]

ASA: LORD, there is no one besides You to help the mighty and those without strength. Help us, LORD our God, for we depend on You, and in Your name we have come against this large army. Yahweh, You are our God. Do not let a mere mortal hinder You. [Cut to]

JJ: It will take a miracle, Iddo. The enemy outnumbered our troops 2 to 1.

IDDO: Stay tuned for updates.

### Scene 4 – news flash

IDDO: We interrupt normal programming to bring you this news flash. The Cushite invasion has been stopped in its tracks. We take you live to the battlefield.

RR: Iddo, the scene here is incredible. Just an hour ago, victory seemed hopeless. But now the Cushites have crushed. *(to passing soldier)* Sir, can you tell me what's going on?

SOLDIER: Yeah! Victory! The people of Judah are carrying off a great deal of loot including many sheep and camels. Woo hoo!

RR: A prophet is making his way to the triumphant Asa. I'll see if we can get a camera in to capture the moment live. [cut to]

OED: *(loud proclamation)* Asa and all Judah and Benjamin, hear me! The LORD is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you abandon Him, He will abandon you. *(ad lib shouting and rejoicing)* But as for you, be strong; don't be discouraged for your work has a reward. *(overwhelming shouting, rejoicing)*

RR: We can't get through the crowds. I've never seen anything like this. Such joy! Back to you, JJ. [Cut to]

JJ: We bring you Dr. Solomon Ethan, a political analyst and Levite. Dr. Ethan, what do you make of these events?

DR: For many years Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without instruction, but when the people turned to the LORD God of Israel in their distress and sought Him, He was found by them.

JJ: In the past under kings Rehoboam and Abijah there was no peace for the common man who went about his daily activities. Now it all seems to have changed.

DR: Correct. The residents of the lands had many conflicts. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every possible distress.

JJ: What do speculate will happen next?

DR: People from the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon will defected from Israel in great numbers when they see Yahweh is with us. As long as Judah seeks Yahweh with all their heart, and He will be found by them. I predict the LORD will give us rest on every side.

## Scene 5

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: The city continues its celebration of victory for the third straight day. Enthusiasm for worship is at an all-time high with shouting, with trumpets, and rams' horns blasting on every corner. Here is our roving reporter covering the scene in the capital.

RR: JJ, the people here are ecstatic about the great victory! I'm here with Jeb from Jericho. Jeb, as an old timer, what do you think about this festival to the Lord?

JEB: It's about time.

DEB: *(inserting self, pushing in)* I'm his wife Deborah and they got 700 cattle and 7,000 sheep on the BBQ. With a capital B.

JEB: *(elbowing her back)* Seems like something Asa's great-grandfather David would do.

DEB: Now David, he was a king. With a capital K.

JEB: *(pushing back into the spotlight)* Everybody's taking the oath.

RR: What oath?

DEB: *(squeezing in to get the last word)* to serve Yahweh with all our hearts and minds. Just like in the good old days!

RR: Back to you, Iddo. *(pause, confused)* Iddo, are you there? Come in. *(pause)* I guess they are celebrating as well.

## Scene 6

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: Talks between Kings Asa and Ben-hadad, king of Aram are progressing as the threat from Israel's King Baasha mounts.

IDDO: Insiders say the king has cleared out the silver and gold from the temple to pay off Ben-hadad in an attempt to disrupt a peace treaty between the northern tribes and Aram.

JJ: Hanai the Seer has condemned the king's actions reminding him of the Lord's deliverance from the million strong Cushite army. [Cut to]

HANAI: Because you depended on the king of Aram and have not depended on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. When you depended on Yahweh, He handed the Cushites over to you. [Cut to]

IDDO: Palace sources say the king had the prophet thrown in prison for his warning but not before Hanai's final prophesy. [Cut to]

HANAI: The eyes of Yahweh roam throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His. You have been foolish in this matter. Therefore, you will have wars from now on. [Cut to]

JJ: The king has ordered every able bodied man, woman and child to demolish the fortifications built by the Arameans and to carry away the stone and timbers to fortify our own defenses.

## Scene 7

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news. Jerusalem is somber tonight, mourning the passing of a king who sought the Lord for most of his 41 year reign.

JJ: King Asa passed away today of undetermined causes. Court physicians had been unable to remedy the foot disease that had plagued the monarch for two years but it is undetermined at this time if the disease was the direct cause of death.

IDDO: You can't help but wonder if he'd relied on the Lord instead of doctor's if he'd still be alive today.

JJ: While preparations are being made to crown his son Jehoshaphat, a great fire has been lit in Asa's honor. Only time will tell what kind of ruler the son will be.

*DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Cut to scenes can be videotaped and played on a screen OR separate the stage into three sections. Use the center section for the news anchors and stage left and right for "live" scenes.*