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2CHRONICLES 14: 1 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet ten years.

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Asa succeeds his father Abijah, reigns piously, and has peace for ten years, 2Chr 14:1. He makes a great reformation in Judah, and builds cities of defense, 2Chr 14:2-7. His military strength, 2Chr 14:8. He is attacked by Zerah the Ethiopian, with an immense army; Asa cries to the Lord, attacks the Ethiopians, and gives them a total overthrow, 2Chr 14:9-12. He takes several of their cities, their cattle, etc., and returns to Jerusalem, laden with spoils, 2Chr 14:13-15.

Verse 1

The land was quiet ten years - Calmet thinks these years should be counted from the fifth to the fifteenth of Asa's reign.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 2 Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:

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Verse 2

Did that which was good - He attended to what the law required relative to the worship of God. He was no idolater, though, morally speaking, he was not exempt from faults, 1Kgs 15:14. He suppressed idolatry universally, and encouraged the people to worship the true God: see 2Chr 14:3-5.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 3 for he took away the foreign altars, and the high places, and broke down the pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles,

2CHRONICLES 14: 4 and commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.

2CHRONICLES 14: 5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the sun images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.

2CHRONICLES 14: 6 He built fortified cities in Judah; for the land was quiet, and he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest.

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Verse 6

Fenced cities - To preserve his territories from invasion, and strengthen the frontiers of his kingdom, see 2Chr 14:7.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 7 For he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities, and make walls around them, with towers, gates, and bars. The land is yet before us, because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought him, and he has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

2CHRONICLES 14: 8 Asa had an army that bore bucklers and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bore shields and drew bows, two hundred eighty thousand: all these were mighty men of valor.

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Verse 8

Targets and spears - Probably targets with the dagger in the center, and javelins for distant fight.

Bare shields and drew bows - They were not only archers, but had shield and sword for close fight.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 9 There came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an army of a million troops, and three hundred chariots; and he came to Mareshah.

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Verse 9

Zerah the Ethiopian - Probably of that Ethiopia which lay on the south of Egypt, near to Libya, and therefore the Libyans are joined with them, 2Chr 16:8.

A thousand thousand - If this people had come from any great distance, they could not have had forage for such an immense army.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 10 Then Asa went out to meet him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

2CHRONICLES 14: 11 Asa cried to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, there is no one besides you to help, between the mighty and him who has no strength. Help us, LORD our God; for we rely on you, and in your name are we come against this multitude. LORD, you are our God. Don't let man prevail against you."

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Verse 11

Whether with many - The same sentiment as that uttered by Jonathan, 1Sam 14:6, when he attacked the garrison of the Philistines.

O Lord our God - we rest on thee - "Help us, O Lord our God; because we depend on thy Word, and in the name of thy Word we come against this great host." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 12 So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.

2CHRONICLES 14: 13 Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar: and there fell of the Ethiopians so many that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his army; and they carried away very much booty.

2CHRONICLES 14: 14 They struck all the cities around Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came on them: and they plundered all the cities; for there was much plunder in them.

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Verse 14

There was - much spoil in them - These cities being on the rear of this vast army, they had laid up much forage in them; and to get this the Jews overthrew the whole.

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2CHRONICLES 14: 15 They struck also the tents of livestock, and carried away sheep in abundance, and camels, and returned to Jerusalem.

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Verse 15

Tents of cattle - Those which had carried the baggage of the great army, and which they had left in such places as abounded with pasture. Perhaps sheepfolds, enclosures for camels, mules, etc., may also be intended. The discomfiture was great, because God fought for the people; and the spoil was immense, because the multitude was prodigious, indeed almost incredible, a million of men in one place is almost too much for the mind to conceive, but there may be some mistake in the numerals: it is evident from the whole account that the number was vast and the spoil great.