

~ZERAH 6 (53)

(Ze'rah) [possibly a shortened form of Zerahiah]

- An Ethiopian, or Cushite, who led a huge army of a million men and 300 chariots into Judah during Asa's reign, in 967 B.C.E. Zerah met defeat, and his fleeing forces were pursued and slaughtered as far as Gerar.
- Finally Abijah lay down with his forefathers, and they buried him in the City of David, and Asa his son began to reign in place of him. In his days the land had no disturbance for ten years. (2 Chronicles 14:1)
- Later Zerah the Ethiopian went out against them with a military force of a million men and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. (2 Chronicles 14:9)
- Then Asa went out against him and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. (2 Chronicles 14:10)
- And Asa began to call to Yehowah his God and say; O Yehowah, as to helping, it does not matter with you whether there are many or those with no power. Help us, O Yehowah our God, for upon you we do lean, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Yehowah, you are our God. Do not let mortal man retain strength against you. (2 Chronicles 14:11)
- At that Yehowah defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians took to flight. (2 Chronicles 14:12)
- And Asa and the people that were with him kept pursuing them as far as Gerar, and those of the Ethiopians continued falling down till there was no one alive of them, for they were broken to pieces before Yehowah and before his camp. Afterward they carried off a very great deal of spoil. (2 Chronicles 14:13)
- Further, they struck all the cities round about Gerar, for the dread of Yehowah had come to be upon them, and they went plundering all the cities, for there happened to be much to plunder in them. (2 Chronicles 14:14)

- And even the tents with livestock they struck so that they took captive flocks in great number and camels, after which they returned to Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 14:15**)
- Identification of **Zerah** with any secularly known Egyptian or Ethiopian ruler remains uncertain.