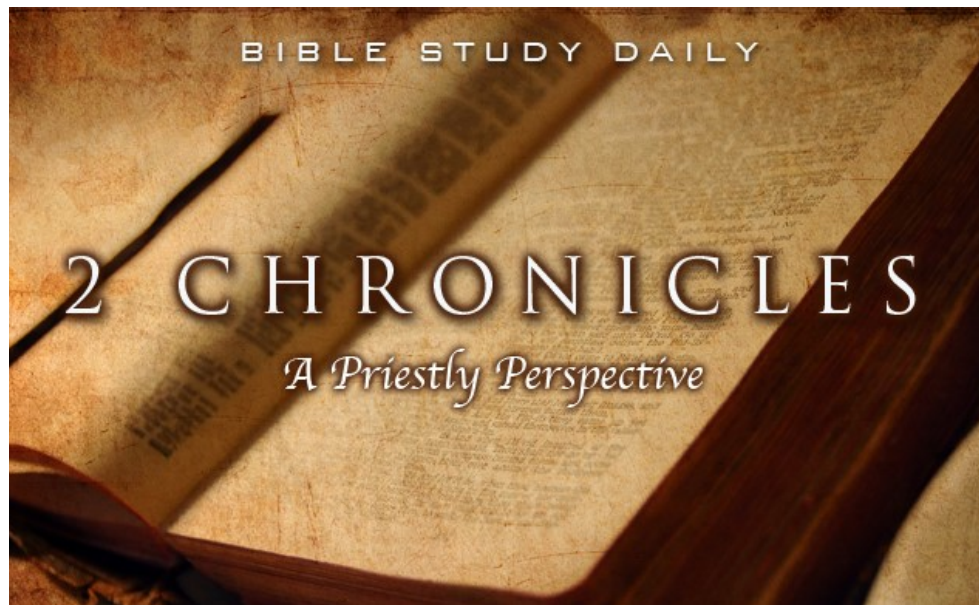




# BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of 2 Chronicles as well as my study notes for the book.

## Name

The title “Chronicles” in Hebrew means an on-going account or record. At one time Chronicles was thought to be one book, but was split into two when it was translated into Greek (the Septuagint).

## Author

The authorship of 1 & 2 Chronicles is ascribed to Ezra. As further evidence pointing to Ezra, the last two verses of 2 Chronicles are the same as the first two verses of Ezra. However, since Ezra does not specifically claim to be the author the term “Chronicler” is often used to describe the author.

## Genre

History, also often referred to as ‘Writings’

## Literary Form

Historical Record in the form of Genealogies

## Time Frame

Aside from the genealogies from Adam to David, the record of 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles covers a period of approximately 400 years from David to Zechariah.

## Emphasis

The four books of 1 & 2 Chronicles along with Ezra and Nehemiah provide a history of the priests of Israel from Adam to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The emphasis of 1 & 2 Chronicles is on:

- God’s connection to the people of Israel.
- The preservation and continuity of the royal line of David.
- The importance of the temple in focusing the people’s worship on God.
- The important role of music in the worship of God.
- The people’s success and prosperity when they obeyed God.
- The inevitable judgment of God when the people disobeyed God.

## Outline

- The Reign of Solomon 1:1 – 9:31
- The Reigns of Solomon’s Successors 10:1 – 36:23

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 1-3)

## 2 Chronicles 1-9

The reign of Solomon.

## 2 Chronicles 1

Solomon asks God for wisdom.

In verses 1-13 the first thing we see in 2 Chronicles 1: 1 is that the Lord was with Solomon and it was the Lord who made Solomon exceedingly great.

- As Solomon established his reign he journeyed to Gibeon where the tent of meeting had been left when David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
- The bronze altar that Bezalel made for Moses (Exodus 38:1-3) was there and Solomon sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings on it.
- That night God appeared to Solomon and asked him what he desired and Solomon, only about 20 years old, wisely asked for wisdom in governing the Lord's people.
- God was so impressed with Solomon's answer that he granted him wisdom, and promised him riches and honor beyond all kings as well.

In verses 14-17 Solomon may not have been known as a man of war like his father David, but Solomon amassed a huge army of chariots and horsemen which he stationed strategically around Israel.

**Note:** This seems like a brilliant act, but it was in direct violation of Deuteronomy 17:16-17 which forbade kings from amassing horses, especially from Egypt.

## 2 Chronicles 2

In 2 Chronicles 2 Solomon began the process of securing additional materials and specialized workmen from Hiram, king of Tyre to build the temple.

In verses 1-10 Solomon decided to build the temple for the Lord and his own royal palace.

- He assigned 70,000 men as porters, 80,000 men as stonecutters, and 3,600 men as supervisors.

**Note:** Imagine, 153,600 men all working on building the Lord's temple and Solomon's palace!

- Solomon sent a letter to Hiram, king of Tyre asking him to send

craftsmen skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, iron, and yarn. He also asked Hiram to supply timber (cypress and algum wood).

- In return, Solomon promised to send Hiram 100,000 bushels of barley, 110,000 gallons of wine, and 110,000 gallons of oil.

**Note:** Tyre was a Phoenician city on the Mediterranean coast. They were excellent traders, depending on other nations to supply food.

In verses 11-16 Hiram responds to Solomon's request:

- Hiram wrote a letter back to Solomon agreeing to supply the workers and timber.
- In his letter, Hiram referred to the Lord God of Israel who loves His people and set Solomon over them as having created the heavens and earth.

**Note:** Hiram's response seems to indicate that Hiram believed in God. However, in those days, people believed each country had a god that oversaw affairs in their own country. So Hiram probably recognized the God of the Israelites without considering that as a non-Israelite God would have anything to do with him.

**Note:** It is interesting that Solomon asked Hiram for a man skilled in working with metals, as though there was no one among the Israelites with those skills. Regardless, the man Hiram sent was the son of an Israelite woman whose father was from Tyre.

In verses 17-18 Solomon completed a census of the men assigned to working on the Lord's temple and his royal palace.

- A total of 153,600 resident aliens (non-Israelites) living in Israel were assigned to build the temple under the supervision of Israelites.


## 2 Chronicles 3

Solomon begins to build the Lord's temple.

**Note:** The temple was built on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. It is an especially holy site to the Israelites. It was here that Abraham started to offer his son, Isaac as a sacrifice to God (Genesis 22). It is also the location of the threshing floor of Araunah that David purchased as a site to offer sacrifices to the Lord after the census (1 Chronicles 2).

In verses 1-14 it took time to assemble all the people and materials to begin construction of the temple. In the second month of Solomon's fourth year, the construction of the temple began. The temple was constructed according to the plans given to him by his father, David.

- The foundation was set in place first. The portico was built across the front entrance to the temple.
- The larger room was paneled with cypress and overlaid with gold.

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- The Holy of Holies was built next. The entire room including the ceiling was overlaid with 45,000 pounds of gold. Even the nails were made of gold.

**Note:** 45,000 pounds of gold, 720,000 ounces, is worth nearly a Billion dollars at today's prices (\$1,300/ounce).

- Two cherubim were made and overlaid with gold. Each of the cherubim had a wingspan of 15 feet. They stood on their feet facing the larger room.
- The veil between the Holy of Holies and the larger room of the temple was made of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen with cherubim woven into it.

In verses 15-17 two pillars were placed on either side in front of the temple.

- These pillars were 35 cubits tall (approximately 52.5 feet), and on top of the pillars were capitals five cubits tall (7.5 feet).

**Note:** The total height of the pillars was 60 feet. That is roughly the height of a six-story building!

- One pillar he named 'Jachin' which means 'He will establish', and the other he named 'Boaz' which means 'Strength is in Him.'

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *Solomon's heart was devoted to God as he began his reign. He saw his role as a servant to God charged with the responsibility of leading and caring for God's people. His request to God for wisdom in governing makes this very clear.*
- *It seems though that Solomon's wisdom did not extend to all aspects of his reign because he begins amassing great numbers of chariots and horses from the Egyptians in direct violation of God's command. Perhaps Solomon was relying on his wisdom alone to protect the people, rather than on trusting in God.*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 4-6)

## 2 Chronicles 4

2 Chronicles 4 lists some of the major elements that went into furnishing the temple.

In verses 1-6 Solomon had the bronze altar and the bronze sea made (some Bibles say “reservoir”). The large sea held 3,000 baths (about 18,000 gallons, more than the average backyard swimming pool), was placed on top of four bronze oxen.

In verses 7-11 there were golden lampstands, tables, pots, shovels, and basins all made of pure gold or cast bronze.

**Note:** The “priest’s courtyard” referred to in verse 9 would be the “inner courtyard” described in 1 Kings 6:36. The “large courtyard” was the “great courtyard” described in 1 Kings 7:12.

In verses 12-18 Hiram (see 2 Chronicles 2:13) made all the cast bronze elements for the Lord’s temple in the Jordan Valley (about 35 miles north of the Dead Sea).

In verses 19-22 all the items Solomon had made for the Lord’s temple in gold or bronze are summarized again.

## 2 Chronicles 5

2 Chronicles 5 describes Solomon gathering all the elders and leaders of Israel to bring the Ark of the Covenant and install it in the temple.


In verse 1 Solomon had all the consecrated elements of the Lord’s temple that had been made and had them placed in the temple treasury.

In verses 2-14 Solomon assembled all the leaders of Israel in Jerusalem to witness bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the Lord’s Temple.

- The Levites carried the Ark and all the temple furnishings and placed them inside the temple.
- Solomon and the people sacrificed animals to dedicate the temple.
- Musicians sang praises of thanksgiving to the Lord.
- When everything was in place the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

## 2 Chronicles 6

2 Chronicles 6 is comprised of Solomon’s prayer of blessing over the people of Israel, and his prayer of dedication of the temple.



In verses 1-11 Solomon blessed the people of Israel by retelling the story of how God had selected the Israelites from among all the peoples, brought them out of Egypt, and how God had chosen Jerusalem in which to build His house. Now, Solomon stood before them having fulfilled God's promise to allow him to build the Lord's house.

In verses 12-42 Solomon continued with a prayer to dedicate the temple.

- He humbled himself before all the people by kneeling on a platform with his hands raised to heaven (vv. 12-13).
- Solomon asked God to fulfill his covenant promises made to his father, David, and to help the people through various trials and to forgive them when they sinned (vv. 14-31).
- Solomon asked God to even hear the prayers of the gentiles so that Israel could be a blessing to all nations (vv. 32-39).
- Finally, Solomon prayed for God to forgive the future sins of the nation Israel (vv. 40-42).

**Note:** I counted six times in this chapter when Solomon asked God to hear the prayers of His people and forgive them when they repented of their sins.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *God's house was finished, with all the fixtures dedicated and in place, but it was still empty until the singers praised the Lord, and only then did God's glory fill His house. God's presence today does not depend on the physical building but on the hearts of His people who come before him in worship. It saddens me that many of God's children today see little value in worshipping God. They come late to the service, just in time to hear the pastor's message, but miss the opportunity to prepare their hearts to be in the presence of the Lord.*
- *It is a beautiful thing when a leader humbles himself before the Lord in public and prays for the nation, the people, and for himself as their leader. I wish there were leaders today who had the courage to stand before the people today, humble themselves and offer prayers to the Lord on behalf of the nation!*



# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 7-9)

## 2 Chronicles 7

The dedication of the Temple of the Lord.

**Note:** The temple was built on the same ground where David had sacrificed on the threshing floor of Ornan (1 Chronicles 21:25).

In verses 1-10 when Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down, consumed the offerings, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

- The people bowed down and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord.
- Huge numbers of oxen and sheep were sacrificed to dedicate the temple.
- The people fasted seven days, held an assembly on the eighth day, dedicated the altar for seven days, and then feasted for seven days. After these celebrations, the people returned home.

In verses 11 Solomon completed the construction of the Lord's Temple and His palace.

**Note:** While the author summarized the completion of the Temple and Solomon's palace in one sentence, their actual construction took approximately 20-years (1 Kings 6:38-7:1)!

In verses 12-22 the Lord appeared to Solomon at night:

- God promised Solomon that when the people sinned He would forgive them if they would repent and turn back to Him.
- God promised David that if he would follow Him faithfully He would establish his throne as He had promised David.
- However, warned God, if Solomon or the people turn away from Me then I will cast you from My sight.

## 2 Chronicles 8

2 Chronicles 8 recounts the cities that Solomon rebuilt over a period of 20 years.

In verses 1-11 Solomon rebuilt the 20 cities that his father, David had given to Hiram, king of Tyre.

**Note:** Hiram was displeased with these cities and had apparently given them, back to Solomon who then rebuilt them.

- The non-Israelites who lived in the land were drafted as forced labor. This included the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.



- It is interesting that Solomon makes note of moving his Egyptian wife, the daughter of Pharaoh, out of the city of Jerusalem to a house he had built for her because his wife should not live in a place where the Ark of the Lord had been because these places were holy.

**Note:** The Chronicler does not say how the daughter of Pharaoh came to be Solomon's wife. Pharaoh must have considered Solomon to be his equal, an important ally, or both, to having given his daughter to Solomon in marriage.

In verses 12-16 Solomon obeyed the Lord, fulfilling all the requirements of the daily offering, and the annual festivals and celebrations. The Levites and priests carried out their ministry tasks according to Solomon's commands.

In verses 17-18 Solomon aligned with Hiram, king of Tyre to conduct trade across the Mediterranean.

- On a trip to Ophir, they took 450 talents of gold (17 tons) and gave it to Solomon (to store in his palace, 2 Chronicles 9:15).

**Note:** The location of Ophir is unknown.

**Note:** Hiram had ships, but no easy access to the Mediterranean Sea. Solomon had access to the sea but no ships or experienced sailors.

## 2 Chronicles 9

2 Chronicles 9 recounts the visit from the Queen of Sheba.

In verses 1-12 the Queen of Sheba had heard about Solomon's wisdom and the wealth in the kingdom and she wanted to see and hear for herself.


**Note:** Solomon's wisdom is referenced six times in this passage.

- Having seen all Solomon's palace and the Lord's temple Sheba concluded his success was a sign that the Lord loved Israel and He had made Solomon king to reign over the people.
- Sheba gave Solomon 4-1/2 tons of gold, rare spices, and precious stones. Solomon reciprocated by giving her more than she had given him.

In verses 13-28 the later part of the chapter details the wealth of Solomon's kingdom:

- All the shields, implements drinking cups, and other items made of pure gold are listed (this passage mentions gold 16 times).
- Kings from all over the world came to Solomon to hear his wisdom and bring him gifts.
- Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. He stationed them in chariot cities throughout Israel and with him in Jerusalem.

**Note:** Solomon's accumulation of horses and chariots was a violation of



Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

In verses 29-31 Solomon reigned over Israel from Jerusalem for 40 years. After he died his son, Rehoboam reigned in his place.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *Solomon was very careful to observe the statutes given by God in his prayers and by observing the daily sacrifices, yet he married an Egyptian woman, which as we shall see, ultimately led to Solomon participating in idolatrous ceremonies himself. God had warned Solomon what would happen if he turned away, yet Solomon brought the idolatry into the country himself.*
- *How we need to be careful as we accept God's blessings that we follow Him faithfully in all aspects of our lives.*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 10-13)

## 2 Chronicles 10-12

The reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam.

## 2 Chronicles 10

Rehoboam begins his reign and the nation of Israel divides.

**Note:** Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king when he was 41 years old.

In verse 1 Rehoboam went to Shechem in northern Israel to be coronated as king of Israel.

**Note:** Shechem was the unofficial capital of northern Israel. It is where Joshua had reconfirmed the Mosaic covenant (Joshua 24:1-28).

In verses 2-11 Jeroboam, who had fled to Egypt from Solomon, returned to Israel when he heard that Solomon had died.

- Jeroboam and the people confronted Rehoboam asking that hard labor and taxes imposed by Solomon be reduced.
- Rehoboam told Jeroboam and the people of Israel to return to him in three days for an answer.
- Rehoboam consulted with the elders (some translations say "old men") and they told him that if he would lighten the load on the people they would love him and be loyal to him.
- Rehoboam also consulted with the young men (actually his peers, men in their 40's) who said to tax the people even more.
- Rehoboam rejected the counsel of the elders in favor of the counsel of his friends.
- He told the people my father disciplined you with whips but I will discipline you with barbed whips (some translations say "scorpions," but "barbed whips" is more accurate).

In verses 12-16 when Rehoboam rejected the counsel of the elders, the people of the ten tribes of northern Israel sided with Jeroboam and abandoned Rehoboam.

In verses 17-19 Rehoboam was now king of only Judah. Rehoboam sent Hadoram (also spelled Adoniram) to talk to the Israelites but they stoned him to death. When Rehoboam realized he had lost control of the tribes of Israel he fled back to Jerusalem.

## 2 Chronicles 11

In verses 1-4 Rehoboam gathered the army and was ready to set out against Jeroboam but God told him “no.” Rehoboam obeyed God and returned home with his army.

In verses 5-12 Rehoboam began rebuilding and strengthening 15 of the cities in Judah and Benjamin.

In verses 13-17 the priests of Israel returned to Jerusalem because Jeroboam refused to let them worship Yahweh.

- Jeroboam turned away from God by building high places and making golden calves for the people to worship.
- He even appointed his own priests.
- The Levites abandoned their lands in Israel (the northern kingdom), and fled to Judah (the southern kingdom) to be with Rehoboam and the temple of God in Jerusalem.

In verses 18-23 Rehoboam married Mahalath and Maacah:

- Mahalath bore him three sons.

**Note:** Mahalath was from the Davidic line on both her father and mother’s side.

- Then Rehoboam married Maacah, daughter of Absalom (possibly a granddaughter).
- Rehoboam had 18 wives and 60 concubines and fathered 28 sons and 60 daughters.

**Note:** The accumulation of wives was a violation of Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

- Rehoboam appointed his son, Abijah, son of Maacah, leader planning to make him king.
- Rehoboam sent his other sons throughout the region of Judah and Benjamin and provided for them.

## 2 Chronicles 12

Egypt attacks Jerusalem.

In verses 1-4 by his fifth year, Rehoboam was well established as king and he turned away from God as the people of Israel had done.

- Shishak, the king of Egypt, came up against Rehoboam and conquered many of the southern cities of Judah.
- God warned them through the prophet Shemaiah, that if you abandon me I will abandon you.

- The people repented and humbled themselves so the Lord did not allow Shishak to destroy them but they became his servants.
- Shishak pressed on into Jerusalem and took all the treasures in the house of the Lord and the king's house, but left the people there.

In verses 13-16 Rehoboam reigned a total of 17 years, died when he was 58-years old, and his son Abijah reigned in his place.

## 2 Chronicles 13

Abijah, the son of Rehoboam reigns in Judah.

In verses 1-2 Abijah became king over Judah in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Israel's king Jeroboam.

- Abijah reigned only three years from Jerusalem.

In verses 2b-12 during that time, there was a war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

- Although outnumbered 2:1 Abijah called out to God for help.
- Abijah asserted God's promise of the Davidic line and the rebellion of Jeroboam.
- Abijah recalled how Jeroboam had rejected God and turned away the Levites and priests to appoint his own priests and made golden calves to worship.

In verses 13-20 Jeroboam ambushed the army of Rehoboam but Rehoboam cried out to God for help.

- God defeated Jeroboam. 500,000 men of Israel were killed in the battle.
- Abijah pursued Jeroboam and recovered some of the northern cities of Judah.
- Jeroboam was unable to maintain his power during the reign of Abijah. The lord struck Jeroboam and he died.
- Meanwhile, Abijah grew strong, acquired 14 wives and had 22 sons and 16 daughters.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *So often we see these kings and other leaders who begin with a faithful heart following God, turn away when they have achieved some measure of success. We see the same progression today. God's people are happy to have God help them achieve some measure of success but after a while, they turn away from God. Inevitably their fall is not far behind.*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 14-17)

## 2 Chronicles 14-16

The reign of King Asa in Judah.

## 2 Chronicles 14

In verses 1-2a Abijah died and his son, Asa, became king in Judah. During his 10-year reign, the land had peace.

In verses 2b-7 Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord for many years and in that time the Lord prospered him.

- Asa removed the foreign altars, the high places and commanded Judah to worship the Lord.
- He built up fortified cities and the army and had peace for many years.

In verse 8 Asa's army included 300,000 soldiers bearing large shields from Judah. There were also 280,000 soldiers from Benjamin with regular shields and bows.

In verses 9-15 Zerah the Cushite (modern day southern Egypt, Sudan, and northern Ethiopia) came up against Asa with an army twice their size.

- Asa marched out to battle and cried out to the Lord for help. Using Asa, God defeated the Cushites.
- The Cushites fled to Gerar. Asa caught up with the Cushites he plundered Gerar and the surrounding villages and returned to Jerusalem.

## 2 Chronicles 15

In verses 1-7 Azariah, a prophet, came to Asa to encourage him to remain faithful to the Lord.

- Azariah admonished Asa to seek the Lord (2 Chronicles 15:2), to trust the Lord (2 Chronicles 15:4), and to be courageous because the Lord rewards obedience (2 Chronicles 15:7).

In verses 8-18 upon hearing Azariah's words Asa enacted reforms:

- Asa got rid of all the idols in Judah and Benjamin.
- He repaired the altar of the Lord.
- He brought the people together to offer sacrifices.
- He entered into a covenant with the people to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul.

- Asa went so far as to remove Maacah, his own grandmother from the position of queen mother because she had made an idol of Asherah.
- Asa brought consecrated gifts of gold and silver to the Lord's temple.

In verse 19 there was peace in the land until the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Asa's reign (876 B.C.).

## 2 Chronicles 16

King Asa establishes a treaty with Baasha, King of Damascus.

In verses 1-6 in Asa's 36<sup>th</sup> year Baasha, king of Israel came up against Asa.

- Instead of relying on the Lord, Asa bought the support of the pagan king Ben-hadad by sending him silver and gold from the Temple treasury.
- Ben-hadad broke his treaty with Israel and supported Judah.
- While Asa's strategy worked, God was not pleased that Asa had not turned to Him.

In verses 7-10 Hanani, the seer, came to Asa and told him that because he had relied on the Syrian king instead of God he would have wars the rest of his days.

- Asa was so angry hearing this that he put Hanani, the seer in prison and punished some of the people.

In verses 11-14 Asa was stricken with a disease in his feet and rather than turning to God he turned to the physicians.

**Note:** The sin was not that he used the physicians, but that he stubbornly refused to turn to God.

- Asa died in the 41<sup>st</sup> year of his reign and was buried in Jerusalem.

## 2 Chronicles 17-20

The reign of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

### 2 Chronicles 17


In verses 1-6 when Asa died, Jehoshaphat, his son, reigned in his place.

- The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the ways of David.
- He sought the Lord, removed the high places and Asherim in Judah, and the Lord was with him.

In verses 7-11 Jehoshaphat mobilized Levites and sent them into the cities with copies of the Law to teach the people about God.

- The terror of the Lord was on the kingdoms that surrounded Judah, so they did not come up against them.
- The Philistines and Arabs even brought gifts of tribute to Jehoshaphat.





In verses 12-19 Jehoshaphat also fortified the cities and increased the size of the army.

- There were 780,000 soldiers from Judah and another 380,000 soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin.
- In addition to these soldiers, Jehoshaphat had soldiers stationed throughout Judah in the fortified cities.

**Note:** Jehoshaphat sought the ways of the Lord (17:3), he was courageous in his walk with God (17:6), and he led the people into a greater relationship with the Lord (17:7-9).

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *Asa started out strong, faithful to the Lord, but ended his life stubbornly refusing to turn to God. His example is a reminder to us all as we grow older in the Lord, not to become complacent and think that our faith is solid. We are all susceptible to sins that would turn us away from God.*
- *Jehoshaphat established a powerful model for us as leaders today: he began with a strong personal relationship with God, he was courageous and steadfast in his faith, and he led the people into a deeper understanding of God. Leaders like that seem to be in short supply today!*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 18-20)

## 2 Chronicles 18

Jehoshaphat made some huge mistakes! God had been with him, prospering him, and protecting him and the people of Judah for years.

In verses 1-11 Jehoshaphat entered into a marriage alliance with Ahab, the king of Israel between his son Jehoram and Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel!

**Note:** Ahab had made Samaria the capital of Israel and made Baal worship the official state religion.

In verses 3-11 Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to join with him in battle against the Arameans at Ramoth-gilead:

- Jehoshaphat agreed to go to war if they inquired of the Lord first. So Ahab brought 400 priests together and asked them and they said God would hand the Arameans over to them.

**Note:** These priests of Ahab's were not Levitical priests; they were the persists he had appointed.

- Jehoshaphat wanted to inquire through a priest of God. The only one left in the region was Micaiah, who was brought to them.

In verses 12-27 Micaiah came before Jehoshaphat and Ahab.

- Micaiah was warned to tell king Ahab what he wanted to hear because all the other prophets he prophesied success in the battle.
- Micaiah at first told them to go to battle and win. But when pressured to prophesy in the name of the Lord Micaiah said they would be defeated and scattered.
- Micaiah even spoke of a vision he had that God had put a lying spirit in the mouths of the other prophets in order to entice Ahab into a war with the Arameans.
- Ahab was angry with Micaiah and ordered him to be put in prison until he returned.

In verses 28-34 Ahab and Jehoshaphat marched with their armies to Ramoth-gilead.

- But Ahab put Jehoshaphat at risk by telling him to enter into battle wearing his royal robes while Ahab went into battle in ordinary clothes.
- The idea was that the Arameans would see the royal robes, assume it was Ahab and end up killing Jehoshaphat.

- The plan backfired on Ahab when he was killed, and Jehoshaphat called on the Lord who gave them the victory.

## 2 Chronicles 19

In verses 1-3 Jehoshaphat returned home to Jerusalem.

- Jehu son of Hanani, the prophet, confronted Jehoshaphat telling him that God was not pleased that he had entered into this alliance with Ahab, and now the wrath of the Lord would be upon him.
- However, said Jehu, there was some good in Jehoshaphat; he had removed the Asherah poles and decided to seek God.

In verses 4-11 Jehoshaphat instituted several important reforms.

- He toured the country bring the people back to God.
- He appointed judges and gave them detailed instructions for carrying out God's law.
- He also appointed Amariah as the chief priest to judge the people regarding aspects of the Law and Zebadiah to be the judge over civil matters.

## 2 Chronicles 20

Jehoshaphat defeats the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites.

In verses 1-4 the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites came up against Jehoshaphat.

- When he heard about the approaching army, Jehoshaphat proclaimed and fast and sought the Lord (v. 3).

In verses 5-12 Jehoshaphat stood in front of the assembly at the Lord's temple and prayed.

- He recognized God's power (v. 6),
- He reflected on what God had done for them in the past (v. 7), and
- He remembered God's promises for the future (v. 8-9).
- Finally, he summarized the current situation and asked God what to do.

In verses 13-19 all of Judah came out before the Lord and the Spirit of God told the people not to be afraid as they would prevail in the battle.

- Jehoshaphat and the people fell down before the Lord and worshiped Him.
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahazeil, a Levite who gave the assembly an encouraging message from the Lord. He told them the next day they would go to battle but the Lord would fight the battle for them.
- The assembly worshiped and gave praise to the Lord.



In verses 20-30 the next day Jehoshaphat and the singers led the way to the battle in the wilderness of Tekoa.

**Note:** Tekoa was 12 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

- The Lord set an ambush for their enemies and they were defeated
- When Jehoshaphat arrived at the battlefield all they saw were the corpses of the enemy.
- They took plunder for three days.
- The people returned home full of joy worshipping the Lord and giving God thanks.
- The terror of God was on all the surrounding nations and Jehoshaphat had peace because God had given him rest.

In verses 31-34 Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he became king of Judah and he reigned from Jerusalem for 25 years.

- Although he walked in the way of his father Asa, the high places were not all removed and the people had not fully turned their hearts to the Lord.

In verses 35-37 Jehoshaphat made an alliance with Ahaziah, the wicked king of Israel, to build ships and go to Tarshish. This upset the Lord, the ships were wrecked, and Jehoshaphat was unable to go to Tarshish.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *What an up and down life! Jehoshaphat did so much that was right in that he restored the people's worship of God, and took action with judges and Levites to teach the people about worshipping God. Yet in his own decisions about the marriage alliance with Ahab, and the later alliance with Ahaziah he acted against God. The marriage alliance with Ahab became especially hurtful to the people of Israel as we shall see in 2 Chronicles 21. Often what seems like a good alliance turns out to be a disastrous decision when it is outside of God's will.*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 21-24)

## 2 Chronicles 21

In verses 1-4 Jehoshaphat died and his son, Jehoram reigned in his place.

- Once he had established himself as king, he killed all of his brothers as well as some of the princes of Israel.

**Note:** Jehoram was the fifth king of Judah. He was a bad king who promoted Baal worship in Judah.

In verses 5-11 Jehoram was 32-years old when he became king and he ruled eight years over Judah from Jerusalem.

- Jehoram walked in the evil ways of the kings of Israel because Ahab's daughter, Athaliah was his wife.

**Note:** Jehoshaphat may have thought that having the marriage alliance with Ahab and Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah would bring the nation of Israel and Judah back together, but just the opposite happened, Baal worship spread throughout Judah.

- The Edomites rebelled against Jehoram's rule, as did Libnah (a Levitical city) because he had abandoned God.
- Jehoram built high places and caused the people of Judah to prostitute themselves by worshiping other gods.

In verses 12-15 Elijah, the prophet, sent a letter to Jehoram rebuking him for the same sins as Ahab, the king of Israel, for killing his brothers, and leading the people of Judah away from the Lord.

In verses 16-20 when Jehoram failed to repent after receiving Elijah's letter, the Lord allowed the Philistines and Arabs to attack Jehoram.

- They carried off all of the king's possessions, wives, and sons (except for Jehoahaz his youngest, only a year old).
- After this the Lord afflicted Jehoram with an intestinal disease. He died after two years. He was buried in Jerusalem but not in the tombs of the kings.

## 2 Chronicles 22

In verses 1-6 after Jehoram died, his son Ahaziah (previously called Jehoahaz) became king when he was 22-years old. Ahaziah's mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri.

- Ahaziah followed his mother's advice and was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.

- He reigned one year in Jerusalem.
- Ahaziah went with Israel's king Joram (aka Jehoram) to do battle against Hazael, king of Aram in Ramoth-gilead (see 2 Chronicles 18:34).
- Ahaziah went to Jezreel to visit Joram who had been wounded in the battle.

In verses 7-9 Ahaziah and Jehoram went out to meet Jehu.

**Note:** Jehu was the military officer the Lord had chosen to be the next king of Israel (2 Kings 9:1-13).

- Jehu killed Jehoram (2 Kings 9:24) and Ahaziah's brothers.
- Jehu chased after and captured Ahaziah and killed him.
- No one from the house of Ahaziah had the strength to rule the kingdom.

In verses 10-12 Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah killed all the remaining royal heirs, except for Joash who was hidden away in God's temple by Jehoshabeath, the king's daughter and her husband, Jehoiada the priest. Athaliah then installed herself as queen ruling over Judah.

## 2 Chronicles 23

In verses 1-7 in Athaliah's seventh year (835 B.C.), Jehoiada made a covenant with the commanders and Levites and installed Joash as king.

**Note:** This was the first of three covenants Jehoiada made.

- Jehoiada gathered the Levites from all of Judah and came to Jerusalem.
- He divided the priests and Levites into three groups. He stationed a third of them at the temple, a third at the palace, and a third at the Foundation gate (aka Sur gate in 2 Kings 11:6).

**Note:** Jehoiada's second covenant was between himself, the priests and Levites, and leaders to declare Joash as king.

In verses 8-15 the commanders did everything Jehoiada the priest commanded.

- Jehoiada took the spears and shields from the temple and gave them to the men.
- He stationed the men around the altar and brought Joash, the king's son and anointed him as king.
- When Athaliah heard the commotion she realized what had happened and shouted treason!
- Jehoiada then had men capture Athaliah and put her to death at the Horse's gate to the king's palace.

In verses 16-21 Jehoiada then made a third covenant between himself, the king, and the people that they would be the Lord's people.

- They tore down the temple of Baal and killed the priest of Baal.
- Jehoiada then ordered the Levitical priests to assume responsibility for the temple and for offering sacrifices to God.
- Then Jehoiada took the commanders and Joash down from the temple and seated the king on his throne in the palace.

## 2 Chronicles 24

In verses 1-3 Joash was seven years old when he became king over Judah and he reigned 40 years from Jerusalem.

- Throughout all the years of Jehoiada the priest, Joash did right in the eyes of the Lord.

**Note:** Joash was the seventh king of Judah.

In verses 4-7 as Joash grew older he ordered the Levites to go out into the country and collect money to repair the temple (a restoration of the temple tax imposed by Moses (Exodus 30:14)).

**Note:** Joash's order to rebuild the temple may have been 23-years into his reign (2 Kings 12:6)

- The Levites did not carry out the king's order quickly.
- So Joash had a chest placed at the entrance to the temple, and whenever the chest got full the money was given to workman to repair the damage done to the temple.
- Repairs were made to the Lord's temple and when they were finished, the rest of the money was used to make utensils of gold and silver for use in ministering before the Lord.

In verses 15-22 Jehoiada the high priest, and Joash's counselor died at 130 years old.

- Rulers from around Judah came to Joash and persuaded him to abandon the worship of God and return to the worship of Asherah and idols.
- The Lord sent them prophets to admonish them but the people would not listen.
- Then the Spirit of the Lord took control of Zechariah, son of Jehoiada the priest.
- Zechariah told the people the Lord had abandoned them because they had abandoned Him.
- Joash and the people stoned Zechariah in the temple courtyard.

In verses 23-25 the Arameans went to war against Joash. They entered Judah and killed all the leaders of Judah and plundered the land.

In verses 26-27 Joash was wounded, but killed by his own servants because





he had killed Zechariah.

**Note:** The servants that killed Joash were gentiles; an Ammonite and a Moabite. Even these gentile servants could not stand the fact that Joash had killed Zechariah.

- Joash was buried in Jerusalem but not in the tombs of the kings.
- Amaziah, the son of Joash succeeded him as king over Judah.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *The decline of these many kings is apparent when they abandon the Lord. The people rebelled against Jehoram because of the Baal worship. Ahaziah reigned only one year because he was wicked. Athaliah, a Baal worshipper, killed her own family in order to secure her place as queen. Joash began his reign as a very good king, but when Jehoiada the high priest died, Joash abandoned God and reverted to idol worship.*
- *Jehoiada, the high priest, was faithful to God at a time when that was in direct opposition to the rulers. He had the courage to stand up to the false worship of the rulers and even put his own life at risk to hide young Joash until he was old enough to become king. Then he remained a faithful counselor to Joash throughout his life, and all during this time Joash and the people faithfully followed God.*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 25-27)

## 2 Chronicles 25

In verses 1-4 following Joash's assassination, Amaziah, his son, became king.

- Amaziah became king when he was 25 years old and he ruled Judah for 29 years from Jerusalem (796-767 B.C.).
- Amaziah started out as a good king doing right in the eyes of the Lord.
- As soon as the kingdom was his he executed the servants who had murdered his father Joash.

**Note:** Amaziah did not execute the children of the servants who murdered his father because it was forbidden by Moses (see Deuteronomy 24:16).

In verses 5-10 Amaziah assembled his army and prepared for war, and decided to hire 100,000 additional troops from Israel.

- A man of God came to him and told him not to take the Israelites into battle with him, so he paid them and let them return home.
- This angered the Israelites so they raided cities of Judah, killed 3,000 people and took much spoil (v. 13).

In verses 11-16 Amaziah went into battle against Seir (Edomites) and won a significant victory.

- Amaziah's army struck down 10,000 Edomites in the battle. They also captured 10,000 Edomites and killed them by throwing them off a cliff.
- For some unknown reason when Amaziah returned, he abandoned the Lord and turned instead to worship the gods of the Edomites whom the Lord had just help him defeat!
- When a prophet confronted Amaziah he threatened the prophet and told him to be quiet.

In verses 17-24 full of pride from having defeated the Edomites, Amaziah challenged the Israelites in battle.

- King Jehoash of Israel defeated Amaziah, tore down some of the wall surrounding Jerusalem, seized treasures from the king's house, and took the plunder and hostages back home to Samaria.

In verses 25-28 Amaziah lived 15 years after the death of king Jehoash of Israel.

- Amaziah was so disliked by the people of Judah after he turned away

from the Lord that he fled from Jerusalem and lived in Lachish (30 miles southwest of Jerusalem).

- Amaziah was eventually assassinated like his father Joash.

## 2 Chronicles 26

In verses 1-5 Amaziah's son, Uzziah, reigned in his place.

- Uzziah became king of Judah when he was 16-years old and he reigned 52 years from Jerusalem.

**Note:** Uzziah was the tenth king of Judah and was a good king. He was called Azariah in 2 Kings 15.

- Uzziah rebuilt the seaport city of Eloth, which allowed Judah to increase trade.
- He did right in the eyes of the Lord as long as the prophet Zechariah was alive, and the Lord prospered him.

In verses 6-8 when Uzziah went into battle the Lord helped him against the Philistines, Arabians, and Meunites.

- The Ammonites gave tribute money to Uzziah and his fame spread all the way to Egypt.

In verses 9-15 Uzziah rebuilt the Jerusalem city wall and the towers and fortified them.

- He built cisterns to help provide water to farmers and built up herds of animals.
- He built up the army and built up military machinery to help defend the city.


In verses 16-23 however, as Uzziah became strong he wasn't satisfied with just being king and decided to take on a role of the priests by offering incense in the temple.

- Azariah the priest, along with the other priests stopped him, but the Lord struck Uzziah with leprosy.
- Uzziah lived the rest of his life isolated from the Lord's temple because of his leprosy.
- Uzziah died and was buried in the king's cemetery, and his son Jotham became king in his place.

## 2 Chronicles 27

Jotham's reign in Judah.

In verses 1-8 Uzziah's son, Jotham became king of Judah when he was 20-years old and he reigned 16 years from Jerusalem.



**Note:** Jotham governed the people of the land while his father had leprosy, and became king after his father, Uzziah died.

- Jotham was a good king, doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord, even though the people still followed corrupt practices of idol worship.
- Jotham rebuilt the city gates and fortified cities in Judah.
- Jotham became powerful because he was faithful to God and God was with him.
- Jotham reigned 16 years and when he died his son, Ahaz reigned in his place.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *Over and over again we see the kings start out good, become strong and powerful because they are faithful to God and God prospers them. Then, when they are secure in their power, they become prideful, turn away from God, and lose everything they gained.*
- *The distance of time allows us to see clearly the reason for their failure is tied to turning away from God. Yet, here we are today, with whole nations turning away from God, yet we wonder why God does not bless us as we would expect.*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 28-30)

## 2 Chronicles 28

In verses 1-4 Ahaz became king of Judah after his father, Jotham died. He reigned 16 years (731-715 B.C.) in Jerusalem.

**Note:** Ahaz reigned as coregent with his father Jotham for 4 years.

- Ahaz was an evil king who did not do right in the eyes of the Lord.
- He turned completely away from the example of his father and grandfather.
- Ahaz walked in the ways of the Israelites, made images for Baal worship, and even burned his own sons as offerings.

In verse 5 the Lord gave Ahaz into the hands of the Syrians (Aramites) who defeated Judah and took a number of captives to their capital city of Damascus.

In verses 6-8 the Lord also gave Ahaz into the hands Pekah, king of Israel, who killed half of Ahaz's army, took 200,000 people hostage, and plundered the land.

In verses 9-15 a prophet in Samaria, named Oded, warned the Israelites that it was wrong to take their brothers hostage and that Israel was already facing God's wrath.

- The leaders in Israel obeyed Oded and sent the captives home to Judah.

In verses 16-18 Ahaz, now desperate, asked the king of Assyria for help in defending Judah against the Edomites and the Philistines who had attacked Judah.

- Rather than helping, Tiglath-pileser, the king of Assyria came against Judah and oppressed Ahaz.

In verses 22-25 Ahaz stubbornly refused to turn to God.

- Rather, he turned to the gods of the Syrians (Damascus) who had defeated him, thinking their gods were stronger than the Lord.
- Ahaz desecrated the temple of the Lord, shut the doors of the temple, and made high places to worship false gods all over Judah.

In verses 26-27 Ahaz died and was buried in Jerusalem but not in the tombs of the kings. His son Hezekiah began to reign in Judah.

## 2 Chronicles 29

In verses 1-2 Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became king of Judah and he reigned 29 years from Jerusalem (715-686 B.C.)

**Note:** Hezekiah also reigned as coregent with his father for 14 years (729-715 B.C.).

- Hezekiah was a good king, who did right in the eyes of the Lord.

In verses 3-9 the first thing Hezekiah did in his first month was to begin the process of restoring the people to worshipping the Lord.

- He began by assembling the priests and Levites and commanded them to consecrate themselves and begin the process of cleansing and restoring the temple of the Lord. After 16 days the temple was cleansed.

In verses 10-19 Hezekiah announced his intention to renew the Mosaic covenant between the people and the Lord.

- The heads of the Levite families came together with their brothers and began the process of cleansing the Lord's temple.
- It took 8 days to cleanse the temple and consecrate all the utensils in preparation for making offerings to the Lord.

In verses 20-36 next, Hezekiah gathered the officials of the city of Jerusalem together to present offerings to the Lord as they restored temple worship.

- Hezekiah began by having the priests make a sin offering of seven bulls, seven rams, and seven lambs.
- Hezekiah then commanded the burnt offering to be made.
- Finally, the whole assembly presented their offerings, sang, and worshiped the Lord.


## 2 Chronicles 30

In verses 1- 12 Hezekiah then reinstated the celebration of Passover, which had not been practiced for many years.

- Hezekiah sent messengers throughout the land telling people to prepare themselves to celebrate the Passover.
- Some people laughed and refused, but others humbled themselves and prepared to celebrate the Passover.

**Note:** Hezekiah told the people to return to the Lord (2 Chronicles 30:6), to not be like their stubborn fathers (v. 7-8), and promised that if they did return to the Lord, He would have compassion on them (v. 9).

In verses 13-21 in addition to assembling to celebrate the Passover, the people gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread (which follows the Passover celebration).

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- The people removed the high places and altars that had been built around Jerusalem.
  - The people celebrated the Passover for a week and then decided to celebrate for another week.
  - There was great joy in the city of Jerusalem, the priests blessed the people, and God heard their prayers.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *It is hard to understand how Ahaz, who had a faithful father and grandfather, could so completely turn away from the Lord. Despite his failures he turned himself and the people of Judah further and further from the Lord.*
- *Just as surprising, is how Hezekiah could be so completely devoted to the Lord considering the example of his father Ahaz. Hezekiah did everything he could, in exactly the right order, to encourage the people to return to worshipping the Lord by choice. The result was those who returned to the Lord did so joyfully!*



# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 31-33)

## 2 Chronicles 31

The people removed idols in Judah and Hezekiah reestablished freewill offering to support the priests and Levites.

In verse 1 after celebrating the Passover, the people of Judah went throughout the cities and destroyed the Asherim, high places, and articles of idol worship.

In verses 2-13 Hezekiah reinstated the worship of God in the temple through the priests and Levites.

- To set an example for the people, he contributed the first offerings to the priests.
- Then he told the people living in Jerusalem to contribute to the priests and Levites so they could devote all their energy to serving the Lord.
- Word of the offering spread throughout the land and the people brought a tithe into Jerusalem for four months from the third month through the seventh month.
- Hezekiah told the Levites to store all the surplus in the temple.

**Note:** The third month would correspond with the grain harvest, and the seventh month would correspond to the grape and fruit harvests.

**Note:** Hezekiah organized the priests differently than David. David had established a rotation among the priests where they would serve one month in the temple and then go home. Hezekiah ordered the people to provide a tithe to the priests so that the priests could serve full-time. The people responded enthusiastically. They gave so much that the Levites had more than enough to meet their needs.

In verses 14-21 Kore, the Levite along with his six associates was responsible for the freewill offerings

- They distributed the offerings to the priests and Levites who lived outside of Jerusalem.
- Levites received their portions only when they were over 20-years old, but priests received a portion of the freewill offering when they were only 3-years old.

## 2 Chronicles 32

Sennacherib, king of Assyria invaded Judah.

In verses 1-8 after a period of peace Sennacherib, the king of Assyria,



invaded Judah and surrounded many of the fortified cities.

- Hezekiah re-routed the water in Jerusalem so Sennacherib would not have access to it.
- He rebuilt the city walls, built towers, and had weapons and shields made to prepare for battle.
- He gathered the people together and encouraged them saying the Assyrians only had human strength but they had the Lord fighting for them.

In verses 9-19 Sennacherib's messengers stood outside the city walls of Jerusalem taunting the people to shake their confidence in God.

- This is another good example of how the people of that time believed each country had its own gods, and that battles between nations were actually battles between their gods.
- The Assyrians had been victorious in previous battles so they assumed their gods were stronger than others and would give them victory.

In verses 20-23 Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah prayed to God and the Lord sent an angel who annihilated the Assyrian army.

- Sennacherib returned home in disgrace and his own sons killed him.
- The Lord gave Hezekiah rest from his enemies and he was exalted in the eyes of other nations.

In verses 24-26 at some point later, Hezekiah became sick.

- He had no sons as heirs so he prayed to God and God healed him giving him 15 more years.
- But Hezekiah became prideful and did not thank God or give God credit for all that God had done for him (2 Kings 20:12-19).
- This angered God, but Hezekiah humbled himself, so God did not bring destruction upon him.

In verses 27-31 Hezekiah's wealth and great works are recounted:

- Hezekiah had accumulated great wealth because the Lord prospered him.
- He made treasuries to store the gold and silver and built warehouses to store the grains wine, and oil.
- He built stables for all the cattle and flocks.

In verses 32-33 Hezekiah died and was buried with honor in Jerusalem among the kings of Judah.

- His son Manasseh became king in his place.

## 2 Chronicles 33

The reign of Judah's king Manasseh.

In verses 1-9 Hezekiah had a son, Manasseh who began to reign when he was only 12 years old after his father, Hezekiah died. He reigned for 55 years in Jerusalem.

- Manasseh began as a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- He rebuilt the high places, erected altars to Baal, and made Asherah and worshiped them.
- He even placed altars in the Lord's house, burned his own sons in fire, and consulted with spiritists.
- Manasseh led the people of Judah astray, doing more evil than the people the Lord had displaced before the people of Israel.

In verses 10-17 the Lord spoke to Manasseh, but he refused to listen so the Lord allowed the king of Assyria to capture him and take him to Babylon in chains.

- In his distress, Manasseh humbled himself and cried out to the Lord.
- The Lord heard him and brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem.
- Manasseh took away the high places, altars, and idols, and resumed sacrifices to the Lord in the temple.


In verses 18-20 Manasseh died and his son, Amon, ruled in his place.

In verses 21-24 Amon was 22 years old when he became king and he reigned Judah for two years from Jerusalem.

- Amon worshiped idols and sacrificed before carved images like his father had done.
- But unlike his father, Amon did not humble himself.
- Amon's servants conspired against him and killed him in his own house.
- Then the people rose up and killed the men who assassinated Amon.
- The people made Amon's son, Josiah king in his place.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *Hezekiah is a picture of a well-organized and strategic leader who was faithful to God. His great success and wealth made him prideful, but he repented of his pride, humbled himself, and the Lord continued to bless him.*
- *Hezekiah and the people's devotion to God following their Passover celebration impressed me. They had worshiped God, but now they took the additional steps of cleansing the land of idols and gave generously supporting the priests and Levites through their tithes and offerings.*

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- *Manasseh was too young to have seen how the Lord had been faithful to his father when he himself became king. Unlike most of the kings we have studied who started out good and fell, or those who were always bad, Manasseh started out bad, but humbled himself and turned to God later in his life.*
  - *God's grace in hearing Manasseh's prayer encourages me. Manasseh had done everything he could to lead the people away from worshipping the Lord, yet in his distress, he cried out to the Lord and the Lord heard his prayer! God's grace in action!*

# What I Noticed Today (2 Chronicles 34-36)

We're closing out the book of 2 Chronicles today. The reign of Josiah, son of Amon.

## 2 Chronicles 34

There is one good king left, Josiah, son of Amon.

In verses 1-2 Josiah was only eight years old when he became king and there is no advisor mentioned for him as there was for Joash. He reigned over Judah for 31 years (640-609 B.C.) from Jerusalem.

In verses 3-7 in Josiah's eighth year when he was 16 years old, he decided to seek the Lord.

- When he was 20 years old he began the process of removing the high places, Asherim, and idols out of Judah.

**Note:** 2 Chronicles 34:4-7 mention Josiah's personal involvement in this cleansing four times.

In verses 8-13 in Josiah's 18<sup>th</sup> year when he was 26 years old when he ordered the temple to be restored.

- Josiah sent Shaphan, Maaseiah, and Joah to repair the temple. They bought money that had been collected from the people to Hilkiyah the high priest.
- The money was given to the workers who completed the work of repairing the temple.

In verses 14-21 during the restoration, Hilkiyah the high priest, found a copy of the book of the Law given to Moses (probably a number of scrolls of the entire Pentateuch).

- Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan the secretary, and Shaphan read it to Josiah.
- When Josiah heard the words of the Lord he tore his clothes (a sign of mourning/grief) and called for someone to inquire of the Lord concerning the Word of the Lord.

In verses 22-28 Hilkiyah the high priest along with Ahikam, Shaphan, Abdon, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah.

- Huldah the prophetess prophesied disaster for the kingdom, but not during Josiah's lifetime because Josiah had humbled himself and wept before the Lord.
- In verses 29-33 Josiah gathered together all the leaders, the priests, and

the Levites and read the book of the Law to them.

- Josiah read the law to the people (probably Deuteronomy),
- Josiah made a personal covenant with the Lord at that time and encouraged all the people to join him.
- The people joined him in a covenant with God and then proceeded to remove all the idols from throughout the land including Israel.
- Throughout the reign of Judah, the people did not turn aside from worshipping the Lord.

## 2 Chronicles 35

In verses 1-4 in Josiah's 18<sup>th</sup> year when he was 26-years old Josiah instituted a Passover celebration and the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the fourteenth day of the first month.

In verses 5-19 He appointed the priests, the Levites, the musicians, and the gatekeepers to their specific roles.

- Every detail of the celebration was followed exactly as God had ordained.

**Note:** 2 Chronicles 35:18 says that no celebration had been kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel (400 years!).

In verses 20-27 Neco king of Egypt marched toward Carchemish (in Mesopotamia)

**Note:** Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt were the superpowers of the day. Egypt came out to battle with Babylon.

- Josiah decided to go out against Egypt. Pharaoh Neco told Josiah that he had no fight with the Judeans.
- Neco explained that God had told Pharaoh to fight the Babylonians, but Josiah did not listen to Neco's warning.
- Josiah engaged in battle with Neco and was killed.
- Josiah was buried with his fathers and all of Judah mourned his death.

**Note:** The author of Chronicles does not indicate that Josiah consulted with the Lord before going out to do battle with Egypt, or after he met with Neco, king of Egypt.

## 2 Chronicles 36

In verses 1-4 Josiah's son, Jehoahaz was made king by the people but reigned only three months before Neco deposed him and brought him to Egypt.

- In his place, Neco made Josiah's brother, Eliakim king in Judah.
- Neco changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim.
- In verses 5-8 Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he became king of Judah

and he reigned eleven years from Jerusalem.

- He was a bad king who did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon defeated Jehoiakim, bound him in chains and took him to Babylon.

In verses 9-10 Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, was made king when he was 18 years old and reigned just over three months when Nebuchadnezzar brought him to Babylon.

- He was a bad king who did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's brother king of Judah.

In verses 11-14 Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king of Judah and ruled eleven years from Jerusalem (597-586 B.C.).

- He was a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- He refused to humble himself despite the prophet who spoke against him numerous times.
- During his reign, even the priests were unfaithful, polluting the house of the Lord.

In verses 15-21 this angered the Lord so greatly that he gave the people into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Chaldeans.

- The temple was stripped of all its riches, the walls of the city were broken down, and all the palaces were burned.
- All the people of Judah were taken captive and brought to Babylon (586 B.C.).

**Note:** All the great work of Josiah in restoring the people to worship God was short-lived. The kings that followed him were evil and refused to honor God. As a result, God allowed the people to be dispersed, losing the Promised Land, and fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah 25:11-14.

In verses 22-23 the decree of Cyrus king of Persia (559-530 B.C.).

- In his first year over Babylon (538 B.C.), Cyrus issued a proclamation asserting the Lord had appointed him to build a temple to the Lord in Jerusalem.
- All the people of the Lord who wished to do so were allowed to return to Jerusalem.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *It seems every king who started out good became prideful and made huge mistakes. The kings that started out bad were stubborn, refusing to humble themselves before the Lord and lost everything. The lessons of their history stand as a warning to leaders today.*