

Talks For Growing Christians

2 Chronicles

Study Guide for

Growing Christians Ministries
Box 2268, Westerly, RI 02891
growingchristians.org

Lesson 1

King Solomon's Request for Wisdom 2 Chronicles 1

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Believers are blessed when they make right choices.
2. Believers are hurt when they make wrong choices.

practical application

What you want is essentially what you get!

questions

1. How do 1 and 2 Chronicles in our English Bible differ from the Hebrew Bible?
2. Chronicles covers the same time period as which other books of the Old Testament?
3. If these books cover the same time period, how do they differ?
4. Why did Saul go up to Gibeon to sacrifice and worship the Lord?
5. Why is it significant that Solomon amassed horses and wealth for himself?

answers

- 1) In the Hebrew Bible they are one book, Chronicles. The division of Chronicles into 1 and 2 Chronicles came later when it was translated into Greek.
 - 2) Although the Hebrew Bible has the same content as our English Bible, the books are in a different order. In the Hebrew Bible, Chronicles comes last.
2. 1 Chronicles covers the same time period as 2 Samuel, while 2 Chronicles parallels 1 and 2 Kings.
3. The perspective of 2 Chronicles is different from that of 1 and 2 Kings. 1 and 2 Kings give a political history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, whereas 2 Chronicles gives more of a religious history. It traces only the kings of Judah because they were in God's chosen line of kings through David and Solomon.
4. The Tabernacle and bronze altar were located at Gibeon, about seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. Here is where sacrifices to the Lord took place in accordance with the Law. The Ark of the Covenant, however, was at this time in a tent David had prepared in Jerusalem.
5. Solomon certainly would have known the warning of Deuteronomy 17:16-17, which warned a king not to accumulate horses, wealth, and wives for himself. God may have blessed him with these things, but Solomon took it upon himself to amass these signs of status.

discuss\ consider

1. Solomon made the right choice when he asked for wisdom – and God blessed him. What daily choices can you make as a believer that will bring positive results in your life and God's blessing? In other words, what simple choices will have big results?
2. After Solomon began accumulating wives and wealth it wasn't long before false prophets and false gods came into the kingdom. Recall a time in your life when you made what seemed like a small big choice, but the consequences quickly escalated. Have you allowed the Lord to redeem that bad decision?

challenge

Sometimes God gives us exactly what we want, although it is not for our best. Let's make choices that are pleasing to God, because what you want is essentially what you get.

memorize

"Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly." 2 Chronicles 1:1

"Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life – but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king – wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like." 2 Chronicles 1:11-12

Lesson 2

Solomon's Preparations and Construction of the Temple of the Lord 2 Chronicles 2-3

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. There are spiritual lessons in the Temple's preparation.
2. There are spiritual lessons in the Temple's construction.

practical application

Use your business deals as opportunities to witness for the Lord!

questions

1. Review the simple definitions for knowledge and wisdom.
2. The Bible teaches both the transcendence and immanence of God. Define these words.
3. What spiritual lesson can we draw from 2 Chronicles 2:8?
4. How are the deity and humanity of Christ illustrated in the construction of the Temple?
5. What spiritual lesson can we draw from the two pillars described in 2 Chronicles 3:17?

answers

1. Knowledge is the accumulation of truth in one's mind, whereas wisdom is the application of truth to one's life.
2. When we say that God is transcendent we mean that He is above, beyond, independent of, and not confined to this material universe that He created. When we say that God is immanent we mean that He is present and continually involved in His creation. He dwells in the midst of His people.
3. Solomon told Hiram, king of Tyre, that Jews and Gentiles would be working together in harmony on the house of the Lord. This is a prophetic picture of the Church, the body of Christ, made up of all believers – Jews and Gentiles united together in Christ.
4. We can see the deity and humanity of our Lord pictured in the gold-covered wood of the Temple. As in the Tabernacle, the Temple gives us many types or spiritual pictures of Christ.
5. One pillar is named Jachin meaning "He will establish," the other is named Boaz "in Him is strength." These two great truths should be the support of every believer in this life. As you look to the Lord He will establish you and give you strength.

discuss\ consider

1. Further discuss the transcendence and immanence of God. Which of these truths ministers to you most in your life right now? Are you comforted by the thought of the greatness of God or the nearness of God?
2. Review the significant history of Mount Moriah. This mountain has had long-term significance to the Jewish people. This insight may help you understand the Jewish people's passion and longing for the Temple Mount today.

challenge

Solomon could have kept his interactions with Hiram, king of Tyre, "strictly business." But he was not ashamed to testify regarding his intentions with the Temple (2 Chronicles 2:4-5). A faithful, honest, and non-hypocritical testimony in the business world carries a lot of weight. Use your business deals as opportunities to witness for the Lord!

memorize

"The temple which I build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods." 2 Chronicles 2:5

"Hiram also said: Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal house for himself!" 2 Chronicles 2:12

"Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite." 2 Chronicles 3:1

Lesson 3

The Construction of the Furnishings of the Temple & The Dedication of the Temple 2 Chronicles 4-5

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The furnishings of the Temple were a reminder to the Lord's people of the continuing grace of God.
2. The dedication of the Temple is a foreshadowing for the Lord's people of the coming glories of Christ.

practical application

Let's all pitch in and help on special occasions!

questions

1. How did the furnishings of the Temple differ from the furnishings of the Tabernacle?
2. How does 1 Chronicles 28:19 relate to this passage?
3. Why did the Lord want the Temple furnishings to be bigger, better, and more elaborate?
4. Hebrews 9:4 describes the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle as containing Aaron's rod that budded, a pot of manna, and the tablets of the covenant. What was in the Ark in the Temple?

answers

1. The Temple furnishings were much bigger, more elaborate, and more in number than the Tabernacle furnishings.
2. In that verse, David tells Solomon that the bigger and more elaborate features of the Temple furnishings were not his creative imagination, but were detailed directions from God Himself.
3. Not only did this all contribute to the beauty, grandeur, and glory of the Lord's house, but it was a continued reminder of God's grace to His people.
4. 2 Chronicles 5:10 says only the tablets from Moses were in the Ark. We don't know what happened to the other items.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the truth that the Temple sacrifices could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). But God provided the way of sacrifice as the way of worship. Discuss how gracious God was to want to dwell in the midst of His people.
2. Discuss how the Ark of the Covenant is a picture of Christ as the Savior and leader of His people. Discuss the stages involved in bring the Ark up to Jerusalem and installing it in the Temple. What stages has Christ endured?

challenge

Normally the priests only worked when their division was on duty, but during the dedication of the Temple and installation of the Ark all the priests pitched in and worked. Do you make yourself available on special occasions to do something that may not be your regular job? This applies to church, Christian service, or even your home.

memorize

"And Solomon had all these articles made in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze was not determined." 2 Chronicles 4:18

"So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God." 2 Chronicles 5:1

Lesson 4

Solomon's Prayer for the Nation at the Dedication of the Temple 2 Chronicles 6

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. There are spiritual lessons in Solomon's address to the nation.
2. There are spiritual lessons in Solomon's prayer for the nation.

practical application

Never forget that the foundation for our prayers is the cross.

questions

1. During which feast did Solomon choose to install the Ark and dedicate the Temple?
2. In verses 4 and 10, what fulfilled promises is Solomon referring to?
3. How did Solomon begin his prayer (the longest recorded in the Bible)?
4. Verse 21 has become the foundation for what long-standing Jewish tradition?
5. What is the structure of verses 22-39?

answers

1. During the Feast of Tabernacles. King Solomon not only offered innumerable sacrifices to the Lord, but as the king of Israel, he addressed the nation and then prayed for the nation.
2. Solomon is specifically speaking of the Davidic covenant, God's promise to build David a house of the Lord and a dynasty.
3. He began his prayer for the nation with praise and worship for God (verses 14-15).
4. Based on this verse Orthodox Jews around the world continue to pray toward Jerusalem. Remember Daniel prayed toward Jerusalem as a captive in Babylon.
5. Here Solomon mentioned seven specific situations in his prayer and requested that the Lord hear and intervene with justice and forgiveness. Walk through these seven requests.

discuss\ consider

1. People cannot just come to God in any way they choose. But God is willing to come to the people if they are willing to approach Him in the right way. In the Old Testament it was the way of sacrifice. Discuss the only way to come to God today. This is not a popular teaching.
2. In verses 16-17, Solomon reminded the Lord of His covenant with David and requested that the Lord would continue to confirm His Word. Praying through God's promises is an excellent technique to enhance your prayer life. What are some of the promises of God that you could use in prayer?

challenge

If we realized the power of prayer, perhaps we would be inclined to pray more for our families, fellowships, and nation. Will you commit to be more diligent in prayer this week?

memorize

"Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel." 2 Chronicles 6:6

"You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day." 2 Chronicles 6:15

"Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers." 2 Chronicles 6:24-25

Lesson 5

Continuation of the Dedication of the Temple & Solomon's Successes Listed 2 Chronicles 7-8

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God will bless the nation that seeks the Lord.
2. God will bless the leader that seeks the Lord.

practical application

Don't play with fire.

questions

1. How did God show His approval and acceptance of the sacrifices at the Temple dedication?
2. What type of offerings were most of the sacrifices in verse 5?
3. Summarize the Lord's message from His second appearance to Solomon (verses 12-22).
4. Who became the labor force for Solomon's building projects?
5. Explain how Solomon was "playing with fire" in 2 Chronicles 8:11.

answers

1. He sent fire from heaven that consumed the sacrifices (verse 1), just as He had done at the dedication of the Tabernacle.
2. We know from the parallel passage in 1 Kings 8:63 that most of the 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep were peace offerings. That meant that a portion of these sacrifices could be used as food for both the priests and the many people gathered in Jerusalem for this great time of worship and celebration.
3. God would bless His people in every way if they followed Him, but would have to discipline His people if they forsook Him – even to the point of removing them from the land that He had given them.
4. Israel failed to eliminate all the foreigners in the Land at the time of the conquest. So God provided these people to Solomon for his labor force (8:7-10).
5. Solomon knew from God's law that God's people should not intermarry with foreign pagans. But he played with fire and married Pharaoh's daughter, to strengthen political ties.

discuss\ consider

1. 2 Chronicles 7:14 is probably the best known verse in this book. In the context it is given to Israel, but in application, based on the rest of Scripture, this is the key to blessing for any nation – to seek the Lord and turn from evil. Discuss how this truth and its inverse have been true in our nation's history.
2. The Lord blessed Solomon in the beginning of his reign because of his firm determination to carry out all the directions that David had given him, which was the will of God. You may not be a king, but the principle holds true: God will bless the leader that seeks the Lord. In what sphere of influence are you a leader? Discuss how you can seek the Lord in that leadership position.

challenge

Solomon played with fire and 1 Kings 11 shows that he got burned – his foreign wives turned his heart away from the Lord. You don't walk into sin blindly. So don't play with fire.

memorize

"Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house." 2 Chronicles 7:11

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Lesson 6

The Queen of Sheba Visits Jerusalem & The Wisdom and Wealth of King Solomon 2 Chronicles 9

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Queen of Sheba is typical of the Church in her wonder and worship.
2. King Solomon was typical of Christ in his wealth and wisdom.

practical application

Bring your difficult questions to the Lord.

questions

1. Who was the Queen of Sheba?
2. Explain the possible connection between Ethiopia and the Ark of the Covenant.
3. What was the Queen's reaction when she saw Solomon's greatness with her own eyes?
4. What is a type?
5. How is Solomon a type of Christ in verses 22-24?

answers

1. The Queen of Sheba was probably the ruler of the Sabeans who are mentioned as early as the book of Job in the Bible. The Sabeans lived in southern Arabia, a 1200 mile camel trip from Jerusalem.
2. Extra-biblical sources claim that the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon produced a child who became King Menelaus of Ethiopia. Some sources go further to claim that Solomon sent the Ark of the Covenant to King Menelaus for safekeeping before Israel was conquered by her enemies. The Bible is silent about these matters.
3. She was awestruck. From 2 Chronicles 9:5-6 we get the expression, “the half has not been told.”
4. A type is an Old Testament person, place, event, or other item that pictures New Testament truth.
5. King Solomon is typical of Christ as glorious king. As Solomon’s wealth and wisdom are extolled, so it will be in a coming day when our Lord is exalted on this earth as King.

discuss\ consider

1. The Queen of Sheba had heard of the fame of Solomon, but she was awestruck when she saw it with her own eyes. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9. Discuss how the Church will respond to the glory and greatness of our King when we meet Him in person.
2. The Queen of Sheba brought her difficult questions to King Solomon. What sort of difficult questions do you have that you need to bring to the Lord? Why are people sometimes hesitant to bring their hard questions to God? Turn to Him and His wisdom.

challenge

The Queen of Sheba made a long journey by camel to visit King Solomon. Are you willing to make time and effort to meet with your Lord?

memorize

“Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on His throne to be king for the LORD your God! Because your God has loved Israel, to establish them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness.” 2 Chronicles 9:8

“So he reigned over all the kings from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.” 2 Chronicles 9:26-27

Lesson 7

The Division of the United Kingdom of Israel 2 Chronicles 10-12

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Unwise decisions result in division.
2. Unwise decisions result in decline.
3. Unwise decisions result in discipline.

practical application

Do the right thing regardless of the cost!

questions

1. Summarize the history of the kingdom of Israel up to this point in 2 Chronicles.
2. Who was Jeroboam?
3. What critical decision did Rehoboam make that led to the division of the kingdom?
4. Explain how the division of the kingdom was “a turn of events from God” (10:15, 11:4).
5. List a few of the wise decisions King Rehoboam made.

answers

1. After 120 years of a united kingdom under kings Saul, David, and Solomon, the kingdom divides into two kingdoms when King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon comes to power.
2. From 1 Kings 11 we learn that Jeroboam was a valiant warrior under King Solomon and Solomon rewarded him with a high position in the kingdom. The prophet Ahijah dramatically prophesied that Jeroboam would become king over the ten northern tribes of Israel. But the tribes of Judah and Benjamin would be left to Solomon's son, Rehoboam, for David's sake. When Solomon heard this, he tried to kill Jeroboam, who escaped to Egypt. Now Jeroboam returns from Egypt after Solomon's death and becomes the spokesman for the northern ten tribes of Israel.
3. The wise elders who had served with King Solomon advised Rehoboam to go easy on the people, lighten their load, and not overtax them. But Rehoboam followed the unwise counsel of his young friends who advised him to come down harder on the people and tax them heavier.
4. God had determined that the United Kingdom of Israel was going to be broken up because of its idolatry.
5. He wisely built up cities of defense in Judah (11:5-12)
He wisely allowed the priests, Levites, and godly Hebrews from the north to migrate south to be near the Lord's temple in Jerusalem (11:13-18)
He wisely spread his sons out around the country for good communication and to avoid family friction (11:23)

discuss\ consider

1. Think back to an unwise decision that caused division in your family, ministry, church, or nation. Can you pinpoint when the leader stopped seeking the Lord and began following unwise counsel?
2. When you ask the Lord to forgive you for a mistake you made His forgiveness is always there. Read Isaiah 38:17 and Nehemiah 9:17. God is ready to forgive. This truth however does not negate the principle that "Unwise decisions result in discipline." Think of a time when you had to undergo the consequences of your choices, even when you knew you were forgiven.

challenge

The Levites and the godly people in the north did the right thing and separated themselves from the false system of worship that Jeroboam had set up. At great cost, they migrated south to be near to the Temple. Are you willing to do the right thing regardless of the cost?

memorize

"Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, 'Thus you should speak to the people who have spoken to you, saying... "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!"'" 2 Chronicles 10:10

"Now it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, that he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel along with him." 2 Chronicles 12:1

"And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days." 2 Chronicles 12:15

Lesson 8

The Reigns of King Abijah and Asa, Kings of Judah 2 Chronicles 13-14

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. It is right to denounce false systems of worship.
2. It is right to destroy false items of worship.

practical application

1. Let's trust the Lord and blow the trumpets.
2. Pray, for God's sake!

questions

1. What happened to the United Kingdom of Israel after the death of Solomon?
2. What was the religious condition in the northern kingdom?
3. What was the religious condition of the southern kingdom?
4. How many kings ruled over the kingdom of Judah? How many of them were good kings?
5. What acts qualified Asa as a good king of Judah?

answers

1. The kingdom split with the southern kingdom of Judah following Solomon's son, King Rehoboam, and the northern ten tribes of Israel following Jeroboam I.
2. Jeroboam had set up two golden calf idolatrous shrines for worship. The true priests of the Lord had been driven out and replaced with anyone who was willing to go along with the false system of worship (12:8-9).
3. True worship of the one true God was taking place at the Temple in Jerusalem. This true worship was in line with the Law of God (2 Chronicles 13:10-11).
4. Twenty kings ruled over the kingdom of Judah, but only eight are listed as good kings.
5. Asa not only followed the Lord, but in his reform he destroyed the false items of worship.

discuss\ consider

1. Even though Abijah and the army of Judah were outnumbered two to one, they successfully defeated Jeroboam. They trusted the Lord and blew the trumpets. Blowing the trumpets was in line with the Law of God (Numbers 10:9). Has there been a time when you "blew the trumpets" by having a bold and clear testimony for the Lord? This is a key to victory in spiritual warfare.
2. Discuss some false items of worship that people may have today. Sometimes these may be decorative items that people have around their home, but demons can still be associated with these items. Be diligent to rid your home of false items of worship.

challenge

How often do you pray for things to happen in your life so that God would be glorified? Pray, for God's sake.

memorize

"For we keep the command of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken Him." 2 Chronicles 13:11

"Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God... He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment." 2 Chronicles 14:2,4

Lesson 9

The Continuing Record of King Asa of Judah 2 Chronicles 15-16

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. There is reward for your work.
2. The Lord looks for those He can support.

practical application

1. Remember God's mirror image rule.
2. Let's finish strong.

questions

1. What did King Asa do in the early years of his reign (2 Chronicles 14)?
2. What message did the prophet Azariah bring to Asa?
3. What does Asa do in 2 Chronicles 15:16 that shows how seriously he took his reform?
4. King Baasha of Israel fortified the border city of Ramah to prevent the defectors of the northern kingdom from coming down to Judah. How did King Asa respond?
5. What was the result of Asa's reliance on something other than God?

answers

1. In his reform Asa destroyed the false items of worship. He also had a great victory over the Ethiopians who had attacked the kingdom of Judah.
2. The Lord sent Azariah to confirm that as long as King Asa continued to follow the Lord, he and the nation of Judah would be blessed. But if he and his kingdom were to forsake the Lord, then the Lord would have to forsake them.
3. He removed his mother or grandmother from being Queen Mother because of her idolatry.
4. King Asa turned to Israel's enemy Ben-hadad of Syria for help. He took money from the Lord's treasury to pay this pagan king. When the plan worked and Baasha stopped his building, Asa took the building materials and used them to fortify his own border cities.
5. He faced wars for the remainder of his reign (16:9).

discuss\ consider

1. As a result of Asa's reform work, he and his kingdom were rewarded with rest and peace from war. What work are you doing for the Lord? How do you preserve and not grow weary in this work? Be encouraged by 1 Corinthians 15:58.
2. Asa relied on a pagan king instead of relying on the Lord. In what ways are you looking to the Lord to support you? In what ways are you looking to the world or other sources for your well-being? Every day you face two choices: rely on God or rely on something other than God.

challenge

King Asa did not finish strong. He was bitter against the Lord and angry toward His prophet. Don't end your life embittered towards God. Let's finish strong.

memorize

"Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." 2 Chronicles 15:2

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9

Lesson 10

Good King Jehoshaphat's Early Years 2 Chronicles 17

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Spiritual revival demands separation from evil.
2. Spiritual revival involves teaching God's word.
3. Spiritual revival has widespread effects.

practical application

Why not send out teaching teams!

questions

1. Who was king before Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 16)? Briefly summarize his reign.
2. List a few spiritual lessons for older Christians from Asa's life.
3. What were the high places (verse 6)? What were the asherim?
4. Describe the teaching teams Jehoshaphat sent out in verses 7-9.
5. What two effects of spiritual revival do we see in verses 10-11?

answers

1. Good King Asa started out well, bringing reform to the kingdom. Later he made an alliance with a pagan king rather than relying on the Lord. Asa died angry and bitter towards the Lord.
2. Older Christians who served the Lord faithfully should aim to finish strong.
Older Christians need to graciously accept criticism.
Older Christians should refrain from getting angry and hurting people.
Older Christians should not be bitter towards the Lord when life does not go as expected.
3. The high places were the hilltops around the country where idolatry was practiced. The asherim were wooden images to a Phoenician goddess associated with Baal worship.
4. Jehoshaphat sent out teams of priests and Levites who knew God's Word along with government officials to give the teaching teams authority and organization.
5. 1) The unbelieving world will see that something supernatural is happening.
2) God will raise up support from unexpected sources.

discuss\ consider

1. Tolerance for all people's choices, lifestyles, and religion is the emphasis in our society today. Where is the place for tolerance in the Christian life? When God's people allow sinful activity and evil to exist in their lives and fellowship, it is not a sign of tolerance, but evidence of a hardened conscience.
2. Discuss the difference between a spiritual awakening and a spiritual revival. Refer to Romans 10:17 and Hosea 4:6. Which is more needed in your community- an awakening or a revival?

challenge

Do you desire to see a spiritual revival in your own life, your church, or your nation? Revival involves teaching God's Word! Dig in for yourself and be bold to share with others. The Word of God is powerful to bring revival.

memorize

"And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah." 2 Chronicles 17:6

"So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people." 2 Chronicles 17:9

Lesson 11

The Wrong Alliance between Jehoshaphat and Ahab 2 Chronicles 18

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Believers sometimes are persuaded by others to make stupid decisions.
2. Believers sometimes are rescued from the consequences of their stupid decisions.

practical application

Remember our random is not God's random.

questions

1. What wrong decision was made by King Jehoshaphat of Judah?
2. When did Jehoshaphat seek the Lord's will on his alliance with Ahab?
3. Who was Micaiah?
4. What stupid decision did Jehoshaphat make next?
5. Did the Lord rescue Jehoshaphat from his stupid decision?

answers

1. Good King Jehoshaphat made a bad decision. He allied himself with wicked King Ahab of the northern kingdom of Israel to go against the Syrians.
2. Jehoshaphat sought confirmation from the Lord after he had made the alliance with Ahab. Ahab rounded up 400 prophets to confirm this was God's will, but they were false prophets.
3. Micaiah was a true prophet of the Lord whom Ahab despised, because he never said good things about Ahab! At first Micaiah told Ahab exactly what he wanted to hear, but later told him the truth that Israel would be totally defeated.
4. King Jehoshaphat kept his wrong alliance with wicked King Ahab. Then he foolishly followed Ahab's advice to go into battle dressed as king, while Ahab disguised himself so he wouldn't get shot at.
5. Yes, at the last minute Jehoshaphat realized that he was a target and he cried out to the Lord, who delivered him (verse 31).

discuss\ consider

1. Micaiah did not water down the truth when he prophesied before King Ahab. He could have continued telling Ahab only good things for his own wellbeing, but he revealed the whole counsel of God, that Ahab was going to be defeated. Have you ever been tempted to soften the truth when you were teaching God's Word? Have you skipped over the less-pleasant sections of Scripture? Discuss how to have boldness when teaching the whole counsel of God.
2. Sometimes the Lord is gracious to rescue us from our stupid decisions, as He did Jehoshaphat. Recall a time when you were persuaded by others to make a bad decision, whether through praise, flattery, or pressure. How did that decision play out? Did you turn to the Lord for rescue from that stupid decision, or did you "reap what you had sown" and face the consequences?

challenge

The stray arrow that killed King Ahab may have seemed like a random event, but nothing is random from the divine perspective. Remember Ephesians 1:11.

memorize

"There is still one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil." 2 Chronicles 18:7

"The battle increased that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening; and about the time of sunset he died." 2 Chronicles 18:34

Lesson 12

Good King Jehoshaphat's Further Reforms & Great Military Victory 2 Chronicles 19-20

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The godly believer listens to rebuke from the Lord.
2. The godly believer looks for guidance from the Lord.

practical application

Learn to say, "No!"

questions

1. What terrible mistake did King Jehoshaphat make in 2 Chronicles 18? What was the result?
2. How did King Jehoshaphat respond to the rebuke from the prophet Jehu?
3. In 2 Chronicles 20, which nations came to attack the Kingdom of Judah? How did Jehoshaphat respond?
4. What battle plan did the Lord give Jehoshaphat in verse 17?
5. How did King Jehoshaphat repeat his mistake near the end of his life? What was the result?

answers

1. Good King Jehoshaphat made a terrible mistake by making an alliance with wicked King Ahab to go to war together against the Syrians. God graciously protected Jehoshaphat and delivered him from the consequences of his foolish decision.
2. King Jehoshaphat did not get angry or bitter about being rebuked. Instead he was motivated to actively follow the Lord and lead the nation of Judah in further reform.
3. The Moabites, the Ammonites, and probably some of the Edomites- all from the east side of the Dead Sea came up against King Jehoshaphat and the Kingdom of Judah. Jehoshaphat was afraid, as we would be, but he did the right thing – he looked to the Lord.
4. The people of Judah would not have to fight, but just stand still and see the salvation of the Lord! We don't know whether God used angels or other inhabitant of the land to ambush the enemy, but before it was all over, the coalition of enemy forces destroyed themselves.
5. King Jehoshaphat made another wrong alliance- this time with Ahab's son, Ahaziah, who was also a wicked king like his father. God rescued Jehoshaphat from this commercial venture by having the ships break up.

discuss\ consider

1. Think back to a time when you've been rebuked for a foolish decision. What a humbling and unpleasant experience! But how did you respond to this rebuke – with anger and bitterness, or with a repentant heart?
2. 2 Chronicles 20:5-12 records King Jehoshaphat's great prayer of faith in the face of enemy attack. Read through this prayer and observe the structure:
 - Promises
 - Power
 - Glory
 - Guidance

challenge

Good King Jehoshaphat seemed to have trouble saying "No!" to bad alliances. He was easily manipulated by the kings of the north. What about you? Do you know when to say "No"?

memorize

"Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart." 2 Chronicles 19:9

"Nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." 2 Chronicles 20:12

"Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's." 2 Chronicles 20:15

Lesson 13

King Jehoram of Judah 2 Chronicles 21

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Bad decisions result in bad fallout.
2. Bad decisions result in God's judgment.

practical application

Don't die like Jehoram.

questions

1. How did King Jehoram of Judah begin his reign?
2. What key to Jehoram's wickedness do we find in verse 6?
3. In light of all this wickedness, why didn't the Lord simply destroy the kingdom of Judah?
4. Who sent a warning letter to King Jehoram?
5. Describe King Jehoram's death.

answers

1. He killed all six of his brothers in order to secure the throne (verse 2). He killed some other high ranking officials as well (verse 4).
2. King Jehoram was married to Athaliah, the daughter of wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. As Jezebel influenced Ahab to turn the northern kingdom of Israel away from the Lord, so Athaliah influenced Jehoram to turn the kingdom of Judah away.
3. Because as verse 7 explains, God made a covenant with David. He would not let the dynasty of David end, despite Jehoram's wickedness.
4. Elijah the great prophet from the northern kingdom of Israel sent a letter to Jehoram denouncing his wicked ways (verses 12-15). The letter went unheeded, and God allowed Jehoram to reap what he had sown.
5. Jehoram not only died in great pain under the judgment of God, but he also died with no one's regret (verse 20).

discuss\ consider

1. In 2 Chronicles 18:1 we learn of King Jehoshaphat promoting the marriage between his son Jehoram and Athaliah for political purposes. Discuss the bad fallout that resulted from this decision. When else have you seen bad fallout from poorly motivated decisions?
2. One of God's universal principles is that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). Watching this principle in practice can be a powerful learning tool for us and for our children. Are you letting your children reap what they sow? Are you tempted to "protect" them from the consequences of their actions and circumvent God's principle?

challenge

Who you decide to marry is a major decision- just look at the life of Jehoram! Don't underestimate the influence your spouse will have on you, for good or for evil.

memorize

"Yet the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever." 2 Chronicles 21:7

"He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed." 2 Chronicles 21:20

Lesson 14

The Reign of King Ahaziah & The Usurping of the Throne by wicked Queen Athaliah 2 Chronicles 22

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Mortal men cannot alter the sovereign will of God.
2. Satanic strategy cannot thwart the sovereign will of God.

practical application

Remember, the converse of Proverbs 22:6 is also true.

questions

1. Review the scribal mistake regarding the age of King Jehoram.
2. Why was Ahaziah chosen to be king?
3. Review and clarify the kings and kingdoms in this chapter.
4. What was God's sovereign will regarding wicked kings Ahaziah of the south and Jehoram of the north?
5. How was baby Joash's life endangered and how was he rescued?

answers

1. Verse 2 records Ahaziah beginning his reign at the age of 42. But 2 Chronicles 20:21 reports his father Jehoram died at 40 years of age. It seems there was a scribal mistake in copying the Hebrew text and Ahaziah's proper age should be 22 years, as confirmed in the parallel passage in 2 Kings 8.

2. Because all his older brothers were killed by the Arabian raiders in 2 Chronicles 21:16-17.

3. At this time there were two kingdoms in Israel. There was the northern kingdom of Israel with the capital city of Samaria and the retreat city of Jezreel. There was also the southern kingdom of Judah with its capital of Jerusalem where the Temple of the Lord was located. The Omri dynasty of the northern kingdom included four kings – Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, and Jehoram. Ahaziah and Jehoram were brothers. There was also a Jehoram and Ahaziah in the southern kingdom of Judah, only in the reverse order.

King Ahab of the north and King Jehoshaphat of the south arranged a political marriage between Athaliah the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat. Thus Athaliah is the sister of both Ahaziah and Jehoram of the north, the wife of Jehoram in the south, and thus the mother of Ahaziah in the south.

So when Ahaziah (verse 5) wrongly made a military alliance with King Jehoram of the north, he was making the alliance with his uncle.

4. It was His will that both these wicked kings be removed in judgment. He used Jehu, one of Jehoram's military commanders, to carry out this plan. (See 2 Kings 9 for more details.)

5. Athaliah, the queen mother of the southern kingdom, saw her chance to usurp the throne when her son Ahaziah was killed. She killed off all the remaining royal offspring, which included her own grandchildren. Her grandson baby Joash, however, was rescued by his aunt Jehoshabeath who was married to Jehoiada the priest. He was hidden and raised in the Temple courts for 6 years.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the doctrinal point "Mortal men cannot alter the sovereign will of God." What thoughts and emotions do you have in response to this statement?

2. Discuss how satanic strategy was at work in Athaliah's murderous rampage. Can you think of other times in history when Satan has attempted to terminate the Davidic line? How does his strategy continue today?

challenge

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 Parents, what kind of counsel are you giving your children? And to what kind of counselors are you sending your children? You are responsible for the spiritual development of your children.

memorize

"[Ahaziah] also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother [Athaliah] advised him to do wickedly." 2 Chronicles 22:3

"[Joash] was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land." 2 Chronicles 22:12

Lesson 15

The Removal of Wicked Queen Athaliah & The Account of Good King Joash of Judah 2 Chronicles 23 & 24

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Spiritual leaders can greatly influence the course of a nation.
2. Spiritual leaders can greatly influence the conduct of an individual.

practical application

Surround yourself with good spiritual leaders.

questions

1. What was the relationship between Athaliah and Joash? How did they each come to power?
2. What prophetic implications of the end time could be portrayed in these events?
3. Who was Jehoiada?
4. What good did Joash accomplish while Jehoiada was alive?
5. What changed for Joash after Jehoiada died?

answers

1. In 2 Chronicles 22, Queen mother Athaliah usurped the throne of the kingdom of Judah and sought to put to death any royal offspring, including her own grandchildren. But baby Joash was rescued from the massacre and hidden in the Temple precincts for six years. Here in chapter 23, Joash is brought out of hiding and crowned as the rightful king.
2. According to Luke 21:24, throughout the Time of the Gentiles, Jerusalem is to be under foreign oppression. Athaliah usurping the throne of David and wrongly reigning as a wicked queen may prophetically represent these times. Meanwhile, as Joash was hidden away in the Temple awaiting the right time to be revealed as the rightful king in the line of David, so Christ today is hidden, as it were, awaiting to be revealed as the rightful king and establish His kingdom.
3. Jehoiada, the high priest of the Temple, was married to Jehoshabeath, Joash's aunt. Jehoiada was very influential in Joash's spiritual upbringing.
4. Joash encouraged the people of Judah to give freewill offerings which were used to repair the House of the Lord. The surplus was used to benefit the Temple as well.
5. When Jehoiada died, King Joash turned away from the Lord because of bad counsel. The leaders wanted to bring idolatry back into Judah and were able to lead Joash astray.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss spiritual leaders, past or present, which God has used to influence the course of our nation. Are you praying for Him to raise up more of such men?
2. If you've been a Christian for any length of time, you should be a spiritual leader. You may not be an upfront preacher or teacher, but you are a spiritual leader because younger and less mature believers are looking at you and to you and directly or indirectly patterning their lives after you. Have you sought out any younger believers to disciple?

challenge

How are you surrounding yourself with good spiritual leaders whose lives challenge you and hold you accountable?

memorize

"Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people." 2 Chronicles 23:16

"Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest." 2 Chronicles 24:2

"His own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed [Joash] on his bed." 2 Chronicles 24:25b

Lesson 16

King Amaziah of Judah 2 Chronicles 25

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Partial obedience results in judgment and loss.
2. Preposterous idolatry results in judgment and loss.

practical application

Remember, the Lord has much more to give you than this!

questions

1. How do we know that King Amaziah only practiced partial obedience to the Lord?
2. List some of the right acts of Amaziah.
3. What additional insight does 2 Kings 14:3-4 give us into Amaziah's partial obedience?
4. What preposterous act did Amaziah perform after slaughtering the Edomites?
5. Amaziah's heart was lifted up with pride because of his victory over the Edomites. What was his next foolish act?

answers

1. 2 Chronicles 25:2 tells us *“he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.”*
2. He maintained the Temple of the Lord and did not allow worship of foreign gods in the Temple area.
He did not execute the children of his father’s murderers (see Deuteronomy 24:16).
He listened to the Lord and did not rely on mercenary soldiers to fight the Edomites.
3. Amaziah may not have allowed idolatry in the Temple area, but he did allow it outside of Jerusalem. Sacrificing even to the Lord outside of the Temple area was not allowed under the Law. In fact, Amaziah stooped to practice idolatry himself.
4. Amaziah took some of the idols from the Edomites and set them up, probably with the idea of appeasing the gods of the Edomites. It was ridiculous to honor the gods that were helpless against your God – the one true God of Judah.
5. He challenged the northern kingdom of Israel to war. This ended in defeat and humiliation when Amaziah was paraded as a captive in his own capital city.

discuss\ consider

1. Partial obedience results in judgment and loss. Recall the most recently time you partially obeyed, rather than fully following the Lord. What did you think the result would be? What was the result?
2. When Amaziah’s heart was lifted up with pride because of his victory over the Edomites, he foolishly challenged the northern kingdom of Israel to war. Why are victories often followed by foolish choices? What can you learn from Proverbs 16:18?

challenge

When Amaziah was told by the prophet of God to release the mercenary soldiers, he asked about all the silver he had paid out (7,500 pounds!) The prophet replied *“The Lord is able to give you much more than this.”* Don’t ever let money get in your way of doing what is right.

memorize

“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.” 2 Chronicles 25:2

“Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?” 2 Chronicles 25:15

Lesson 17

Good King Uzziah of Judah 2 Chronicles 26

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Believers will be surely prosperous when they live for the Lord.
2. Believers may be severely disciplined when they rebel against the Lord.

practical application

Watch out for negative “buts” in your life!

questions

1. What other name for Uzziah do we find in Scripture?
2. In what ways was Uzziah prosperous?
3. What was the secret to Uzziah’s success?
4. What major mistake did Uzziah make in the temple of the Lord?
5. What was the consequence of Uzziah’s rebellion?

answers

1. In the parallel passage in 2 Kings 15, he is referred to as Azariah.
2. He was successful in his wars against Judah's enemies. He was politically and financially prosperous. Everything he put his hand to prospered- whether it was building strong defenses and advanced war machines or farming, cattle ranching, and more.
3. 2 Chronicles 26:5 says, "*As long as [Uzziah] sought the LORD, God made him prosper.*"
4. Uzziah entered the Temple to burn incense on the altar of incense. This was in deliberate disobedience to the clear teaching of the Word of God (Numbers 16:40).
5. He was struck with leprosy for the rest of his life.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the "prosperity gospel" that claims every Christian should have health, wealth, and material prosperity. Is that what is being taught here? Discuss the difference between material prosperity and spiritual prosperity. Refer to Psalm 1:3 and 2 Peter 1:10-11.
2. Uzziah committed the sin of rebellion when he refused to submit to God's authority and stay in the role that God had given him. Why is rebellion such a serious sin? Read 1 Samuel 15:23. When do you most often find rebellion welling up in your heart?

challenge

Uzziah will be in heaven, but what could have been – a full life of bringing glory to God – will never be, because there was a negative "but" in his life. What about you?

memorize

"As long as [Uzziah] sought the LORD, God made him prosper." 2 Chronicles 26:5

"While he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar." 2 Chronicles 26:19

Lesson 18

Good King Jotham of Judah & Wicked King Ahaz 2 Chronicles 27 & 28

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Believers who order their lives before the Lord receive approval from the Lord.
2. Unbelievers who depart from the ways of the Lord provoke the Lord to anger.

practical application

1. Let's practice Philippians 2:15 as King Jotham did!
2. Which way do you turn in your day of trouble?

questions

1. How many good kings ruled over Judah?
2. What does it mean to order your life before the Lord?
3. How was King Ahaz the opposite of King Jotham?
4. List some of the ways Ahaz departed from the ways of the Lord.

answers

1. Eight. Jotham was one of them.
2. It means that your whole walk of life takes God into account.
3. King Ahaz, the wicked king of Israel, not only went along with his corrupt surroundings, he promoted unrighteousness.
4.
 - He made molten idolatrous images (verse 2)
 - He burned incense to the foreign idols (verses 3-4)
 - He actually practiced child sacrifice (verse 3)
 - He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus (verse 23)
 - He gave away temple treasures (verse 24)
 - He closed the Temple to the worship of the one true God (verse 24)
 - He set up pagan altars in every city of Judah (verse 25)

discuss\ consider

1. What percentage of your life is subject to the Lord? In what ways have you structured your whole walk of life to take God into account? Can you think of areas you've been "keeping to yourself"?
2. When Ahaz found himself in a day of trouble he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him. Which way do you turn in your day of trouble? Do you turn to draw closer to the Lord to find your strength and comfort in Him? Or do you turn away from the Lord, become bitter and blame God, stay away from the fellowship of other believers, and try other gods to help you?

challenge

Jotham and Ahaz are contrasts in how they were affected by the people surrounding them. Even though the people all around him were acting corruptly, Jotham did what was right. While Ahaz not only went along with his corrupt surroundings, he promoted unrighteousness. In what ways have you been a Jotham? In what ways have you been an Ahaz?

memorize

"...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." Philippians 2:15

"For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD." 2 Chronicles 28:19

Lesson 19

Good King Hezekiah's Reign 2 Chronicles 29

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Revival is preceded by a determination to change.
2. Revival is preceded by a dedication to holiness.
3. Revival is preceded by a desire to worship.

practical application

Don't think that rapid revival can't happen.

questions

1. What major prophet ministered in Jerusalem during the days of King Hezekiah?
2. What is the main topic of 2 Chronicles 29?
3. What was the first act recorded during Hezekiah's reign?
4. How did the priests and Levites carry out Hezekiah's charge in verse 5?
5. How does 1 Corinthians 6:19 relate to this passage?

answers

1. Isaiah
2. This chapter records the groundwork being laid for one of the major revivals of God's people.
3. He opened and repaired the doors of the Temple so that the priests and Levites could go back to the important work that God had called them to do.
4. The priests and Levites first consecrated themselves by going through a ceremonial washing and separating from anything defiling. To cleanse the Temple, everything unclean from the days of wicked King Ahaz was carried out and buried in the Kidron Valley (verse 16). Then the proper sacrifices were made.
5. 1 Corinthians 6:19 teaches that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. As the priests and Levites removed what was unclean from the Temple in Hezekiah's day, so we must remove what is unclean in our lives.

discuss\ consider

1. Revival, whether corporate or personal, will not happen without a commitment to change. No one drifts into godliness. If your heart is in need of revival, what steps can you determine to make toward change?
2. In 2 Chronicles 29, the people not only brought the proper sacrifices, but their hearts were in it as well. Consider this definition of worship, "having your mind's attention and your heart's affection focused on the Lord." Do you have a desire to worship?

challenge

The revival of God's people in Hezekiah's day happened overnight, as it were. The same thing can happen today, in our personal lives or in the life of our fellowship. Have you met the prerequisites for revival?

memorize

"Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us." 2 Chronicles 29:10

"Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly." 2 Chronicles 29:36

Lesson 20

The Celebration of the Passover & Other Results of the Revival under King Hezekiah 2 Chronicles 30-31

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Revival results in obedience.
2. Revival results in invitation.
3. Revival results in separation.
4. Revival results in celebration.
5. Revival results in organization.
6. Revival results in contribution.
7. Revival results in distribution.

practical application

Have a heart like Hezekiah's!

questions

1. What was Hezekiah's first step in leading the people to national revival?
2. Who was invited to come celebrate the Passover? What was the condition of the nations at this time?
3. What was the response of the Jews in the northern kingdom to the invitation to come to the Passover?
4. Why did the people celebrate the Passover in the second month (verses 13-15)?
5. How did Hezekiah ensure the spirit of revival would continue after the people returned home?

answers

1. He sent word to all Israel to come and celebrate the Passover. They had not celebrated the Passover as a nation for a long time – perhaps as much as 250 years.
2. The invitation went out to all Judah, but was also sent by special courier to what was formerly the northern kingdom of Israel. The northern kingdom had already falling to the Assyrians who had taken some of the people into captivity.
3. Some mocked the couriers, laughed at them and scorned (verse 10). But others responded with humility and faith and came to Jerusalem.
4. Normally the Passover was celebrated in the first month of the Hebrew calendar, but according to the Law in Numbers 9, if people were not ceremonially clean they could celebrate the Passover in the second month. See 2 Chronicles 30:3.
5. Hezekiah organized the priests and Levites in line with their respective divisions and responsibilities so that proper worship of the Lord would continue (31:32).

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the doctrinal point “Revival results in invitation.” Do you find it easier to talk to people about your new diet, new haircut, or the latest movie than your relationship to Christ? Discuss why this might be. How can you increase your fervor for inviting people to join you in the abundant life?
2. Discuss the doctrinal point “Revival results in contribution.” Have you made giving to the Lord a priority in your personal budget? If so, what has been the result of this commitment?

challenge

“Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before the LORD his God. ²¹ And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.” 2 Chronicles 31:20-21. This was the commendation at the end of Hezekiah’s life. Do you want the praise of men or the praise of God?

memorize

“Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.” 2 Chronicles 30:6

“Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance.” 2 Chronicles 31:9

Lesson 21

King Hezekiah's Miraculous Victory & Miraculous Recovery 2 Chronicles 32

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Trusting in the Lord does not exclude training.
2. Trusting in the Lord does not exclude threatening.
3. Trusting in the Lord does not exclude testing.

practical application

Set your sights on an honorable discharge!

questions

1. Describe the setting and occasion for the great miracle of 2 Chronicles 32.
2. What is one benefit mentioned of studying the Old Testament history and battles?
3. In what ways did Hezekiah prepare for the upcoming siege of Jerusalem (verses 2-8)?
4. What were the "high places"?
5. Is this miraculous destruction of the Assyrian army recorded anywhere besides 2 Chronicles?
6. What was the cause of Hezekiah's pride in verse 25?

answers

1. The northern kingdom of Israel with its capital of Samaria had fallen to the Assyrians in 722 BC. Now the Assyrian army under Sennacherib turned its attention toward the southern kingdom of Judah with its capital of Jerusalem. Sennacherib wanted total surrender. But with the encouragement of the prophet Isaiah, Hezekiah did not surrender, but trusted in the Lord and continued to fortify Jerusalem.
2. All the battles of the Lord's people in the Old Testament contain lessons and principles for the Lord's people today concerning spiritual warfare.
3. He fortified and repaired the walls of Jerusalem and made weapons. He also ordered a water tunnel dug to bring the waters outside the city to the Pool of Siloam inside the city.
4. On the high places, incense was burned to the Lord, but it was not at the Temple of Jerusalem as the Law required. These high places were rightly removed during Hezekiah's revival.
5. Yes, we also see accounts of this great miracle in the biblical books of 2 Kings and Isaiah and in the secular records of Sennacherib which we have today on clay prisms.
6. In the face of sickness and death, God healed Hezekiah and gave him 15 more years to live. Hezekiah did not honor the Lord for his healing, but instead he became proud. (See Isaiah 38 and 2 Kings 20.)

discuss\ consider

1. Sennacherib's threats of Hezekiah portray the threats that Satan brings against God's people. Hezekiah did not allow Sennacherib's threats to sway him from trusting in the Lord. Read Revelation 12:10 and John 8:44. Have you experienced threats and accusations from the Father of lies? How did this affect your trust in the Lord?
2. At the end of his life, Hezekiah was honored by the people of Judah (2 Chronicles 32:33). Paul desired an "honorable discharge" as well, as we read in 2 Timothy 4:7-8. If you were to die today, what would be the evaluation of your service to the Lord?

challenge

While Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, he worked hard to fortify Jerusalem against attack. In spiritual warfare the same is true. We trust in the Lord while training ourselves in the Word of God on how to defend our faith.

memorize

"They spoke against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth—the work of men's hands." 2 Chronicles 32:19

"Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side." 2 Chronicles 32:22

Lesson 22

The Worst Two Kings of Judah – Manasseh and Amon 2 Chronicles 33

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The heart of God is incredibly patient and gracious.
2. The heart of man is incredibly deceitful and wicked.

practical application

How much pressure will it take before you cry, “Uncle”?

questions

1. What two records did Manasseh set over the 20 kings who reigned over the kingdom of Judah?
2. Review some of Manasseh’s wicked deeds.
3. How did the Lord speak to Manasseh?
4. What lessons should Amon have learned from the life of his father Manasseh?
5. Why didn’t King Amon learn the lessons and heed the warnings from his father’s life?
6. Explain the claim that apart from Christ we are all totally depraved.

answers

- 1) He had the longest reign of any of the kings of Judah. He reigned for 55 years.
2) He is remembered as the worst king of Judah.
2. Manasseh placed altars for the foreign gods in the Temple courts. He practiced child sacrifice. He restored the high places his father Hezekiah had torn down. He practiced witchcraft, divination, and sorcery. He set up an idol inside the Temple of the Lord.
3. God was patiently speaking to the nation through His prophets – even though the king and the people would not listen.
4. Seeing his father’s wickedness, he should have observed that evil does not result in blessing. Then seeing the grace shown Manasseh he should have known that blessing does come as a result of humility and obedience.
5. Because the heart of man is incredibly deceitful and wicked. See Jeremiah 17:9.
6. This does not mean that we are all the worst sinners we could possibly be, but it does mean that our total beings are affected by sin and we are capable of any sin.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the great example of God’s incredible grace in 2 Chronicles 33:12-16. This grace is even more striking in light of Manasseh’s wickedness. Can you give testimony of God’s incredible grace to you?
2. Amon had seen the wickedness and grace in his father Manasseh’s life. Yet he did not learn the lessons. Can you think of a time you should have learned by observation, but you failed to? Why did you think the outcome would be different in your own life?

challenge

Manasseh did not turn to the Lord until he was led away by the Assyrians with a hook through his nose! What about you? If you are not walking with the Lord, how much pressure will it take before you cry, “Uncle”?

memorize

“So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.” 2 Chronicles 33:9

“Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.” 2 Chronicles 33:12

Lesson 23

Good King Josiah of Judah 2 Chronicles 34

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The right attitude towards the will of God brings confirmation from the Word of God.
2. The right response to the Word of God brings conversion to the way of God.

practical application

Let's not limit the way of the Lord.

questions

1. Why is it easy to confuse King Josiah and King Joash?
2. When did Josiah's revival, the greatest revival in the kingdom of Judah, take place?
3. Review some of the highlights of Josiah's reign.
4. Where had all the Scripture gone so that only one copy was available, which was hidden in the Temple?
5. Why did Josiah tear his clothes (verse 19)?

answers

1. Both Joash and Josiah were boy kings, good kings who brought a measure of reform to Judah. But Joash reigned about 200 years before Josiah.
2. Josiah's revival is dated at 621 BC.
3. When Josiah was 16 years old, he had a heart for the Lord and wanted to do God's will (verse 2). When he was 19 years old, he began his reform in Jerusalem (verses 3-4). When Josiah was 25 years old, he began a major repair project of the Temple of the Lord.
4. There were not a lot of copies of the Law and other written portions of the Old Testament to begin with, because each copy had to be painstakingly written by hand. Then, during the reigns of wicked kings Manasseh and Amon, the copies of Scripture that were available were destroyed.
5. When the Word of God was read and understood, Josiah tore his clothes as a sign of repentance for himself and the nation. He recognized how far short of God's way the nation had fallen.

discuss\ consider

1. Are we willing to do God's will? Or do we only want God to confirm what we want to do? Take time to evaluate this question.
2. Review 2 Chronicles 34:23-28. Although Josiah knew that he would personally escape the coming judgment, this did not stop his right response of full commitment to see that the nation was reformed and converted to the way of God. What character qualities does it take for a leader to see the good of his nation beyond himself?

challenge

When you came to know the Word of God and began to follow the Way of God, what effect did it have on your lifestyle? Do you need to renew your commitment to let God's Word change you?

memorize

"Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given by Moses." 2 Chronicles 34:14

"Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book." 2 Chronicles 34:31

Lesson 24

King Josiah's Great Passover Celebration & His Untimely Death 2 Chronicles 35

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Believers can make major corrections when they obey the Word.
2. Believers can make major mistakes when they don't consult the Lord.

practical application

Don't wait until the building is done!

questions

1. What prompted Josiah to call for a celebration of the Passover?
2. In verse 3 we see that the Ark of the Covenant was brought back into the Temple where it belonged. Where had it been?
3. How long had it been since the Passover had been properly celebrated?
4. Describe the circumstances of Josiah's early death.
5. What happened to the kingdom of Judah after Josiah's death?

answers

1. Josiah came to the throne when he was only 8 years old and began a major reform of the nation as a teenager. Josiah began the major project of repairing the House of the Lord, which had fallen into disrepair. A copy of the Law was found hidden in the Temple. As a result of hearing the Word of the Lord read and interpreted, Josiah intensified his reform and called for a celebration of the Passover in obedience to the Word of God.
2. The most likely possibility is that the Ark had been removed from the Temple by the priests sometime during the reign of King Manasseh or Amon because of the terrible and idolatrous desecration of the House of the Lord.
3. Since the days of Samuel, more than 400 years (verse 18).
4. When Josiah was 39 years old, he tried to intervene and stop the Egyptians from going to confront the army of the rising Babylonian empire. As a result of Josiah's intervention and meddling in these foreign affairs instead of looking to the Lord, he lost his life.
5. Josiah was the last good king of Judah. The nation would go downhill spiritually and morally until less than 25 years later the Temple would be destroyed and the nation would go into captivity as prisoners in Babylon.

discuss\ consider

1. When Josiah understood the standard of the Word of God, he set about making several corrections in the workings of the nation. Think of a time when you became aware that your life was not in line with God's standards. How did you set about correcting this?
2. Even mature believers can make major mistakes when they don't consult the Lord. What important life decision are you facing right now? Have you consulted the Lord?

challenge

Josiah did not wait until the repairs of the Temple were complete before he called for the national celebration of the Passover. He knew that both were important and in line with the Word of God. Don't wait until the building is done before you serve, give to, or worship the Lord.

memorize

"There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept." 2 Chronicles 35:18

"Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God." 2 Chronicles 35:22

Lesson 25

The Last Four Kings of Judah, The Destruction of the Temple, & The Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar 2 Chronicles 36

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The last kings of Judah are a lesson in God's patience.
2. The last days of Judah are a lesson in God's judgment.

practical application

Always remember that the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord.

questions

1. Briefly describe the last four kings of Judah.
2. What was the response of the people to the patience of God?
3. Give one reason for the 70 year captivity in Babylon as mentioned in verse 21.
4. Review the three invasions of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army.
5. What Scripture reminds us that the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord?

answers

1. After King Josiah's untimely death, his son Jehoahaz was made king for 3 months before Pharaoh Neco took him as a captive to Egypt. He was replaced with his brother Eliakim, whose name was changed to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim reigned for 11 years until he rebelled and was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. His son Jehoiachin was put on the throne for only 3 months before Nebuchadnezzar replaced him with the puppet king Zedekiah (the third son of Josiah).
2. *"They mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets"* (verse 16).
3. Under the Law, Israel was to let the land rest every seventh year. They were not to sow or reap that year. God would care for them with plenty of leftovers from the previous harvest. But over the years Israel had disobeyed the Lord in this matter and therefore the Lord said that the land would enjoy its Sabbaths while the Jews were in captivity in Babylon away from the land. See Leviticus 26:33-35 and Jeremiah 25:11
4.
 - In 605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and other promising young men to Babylon as captives along with some of the Temple treasures.
 - In 597 BC, Nebuchadnezzar made his second invasion of Judah and took the King Jehoiachin and a considerable number of captives to Babylon including the prophet Ezekiel and more Temple treasures.
 - The third invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar came in 588 BC and the siege lasted for almost 2 years. Jerusalem fell in 586 BC and the city was burned. The people were either killed or taken as captives to Babylon. The beautiful Temple of the Lord was robbed of its remaining treasures and destroyed.
5. Proverbs 21:1

discuss\ consider

1. The Lord showed incredible longsuffering and patience during the last years of the nation of Judah. Yet they waited until it was too late to respond with repentance. Recall a time God showed great patience to you. What do you think caused you to respond?
2. God must judge His people when they sin – just as a good father must judge the rebellion and disobedience of his children. What are your thoughts about God's judgment?

challenge

God moved Cyrus the pagan king of Persia to grant permission to the Jews to return to their homeland after 70 years of captivity to rebuild their Temple. The next time you despair about those in authority over you, remember that God has ultimate control.

memorize

"And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy." 2 Chronicles 36:15-16

"...to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths." 2 Chronicles 36:21