



# KINGDOM POLITICS

## PART SIX

Forty Daily Devotions  
from the Book of 2 Chronicles  
(Based on the NKJV)

## Introduction

People often ask why we have the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, *and* 1 & 2 Chronicles. My answer to that question is that we have these different accounts of the history of Israel and its rulers for the same reason that we have four Gospels. While it is true that Kings and Chronicles cover much of the same period in the history of Israel, and therefore, much of the same subject matter, we see in them Israel's history from a different perspective. The Books of the Chronicles were written after some of the people of Israel returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city, its walls, and the temple. 1 Chronicles begins with Adam and ends at the beginning of Solomon's reign as the last king of a united Israel. 2 Chronicles begins with Solomon and ends with the people of Israel preparing to leave Babylon after 70 years of captivity. In these important pages of God's Word, we will read about many of the important families whose lives blazed a trail for all of us to follow. We will also read about many roles that God's people played in the work of ministry and worship.

## Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	2 Chronicles 1	4/22/25
2	2 Chronicles 2	4/23/25
3	2 Chronicles 3	4/24/25
4	2 Chronicles 4	4/25/25
5	2 Chronicles 5	4/26/25
6	2 Chronicles 6:1-21	4/27/25
7	2 Chronicles 6:22-42	4/28/25
8	2 Chronicles 7	4/29/25
9	2 Chronicles 8	4/30/35
10	2 Chronicles 9	5/01/25
11	2 Chronicles 10	5/02/25
12	2 Chronicles 11	5/03/25
13	2 Chronicles 12	5/04/25
14	2 Chronicles 13	5/05/25
15	2 Chronicles 14	5/06/25
16	2 Chronicles 15	5/07/25
17	2 Chronicles 16	5/08/25
18	2 Chronicles 17	5/09/25
19	2 Chronicles 18:1-17	5/10/25
20	2 Chronicles 18:18-34	5/11/25

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	2 Chronicles 19	5/12/25
22	2 Chronicles 20:1-17	5/13/25
23	2 Chronicles 20:18-37	5/14/25
24	2 Chronicles 21	5/15/25
25	2 Chronicles 22	5/16/25
26	2 Chronicles 23	5/17/25
27	2 Chronicles 24	5/18/25
28	2 Chronicles 25	5/19/25
29	2 Chronicles 26	5/20/25
30	2 Chronicles 27:1-28:4	5/21/25
31	2 Chronicles 28:5-27	5/22/25
32	2 Chronicles 29	5/23/25
33	2 Chronicles 30	5/24/25
34	2 Chronicles 31	5/25/25
35	2 Chronicles 32:1-19	5/26/25
36	2 Chronicles 32:20-33	5/27/25
37	2 Chronicles 33	5/28/25
38	2 Chronicles 34	5/29/25
39	2 Chronicles 35	5/30/25
40	2 Chronicles 36	5/31/25

## Day 1: 2 Chronicles 1

“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)

### A Formula for Success

There are quite a few books on the market that discuss the successes of King Solomon in great detail. Several of them are written purely from a financial perspective. However, long before Solomon was a very *rich* man, he was a very *blessed* man. Today’s focus verse offers some thought as to Solomon’s formula for success. First, Solomon was successful because of *God’s power*. Our focus verse states, “Solomon the son of David was *strengthened* in his kingdom.” The first time the word that is translated “strengthened” in that verse is found in the Bible is in Genesis 19:16, where the angels God sent to Sodom to rescue Lot “took hold” of him and “brought him out and set him outside the city.” The idea there was that God’s hand literally “took hold” of Lot and moved him to where God wanted Him to be. The divine leadership of God’s powerful hand was the first secret to Solomon’s success. Second, Solomon was successful because of *God’s presence*. Our focus verse reveals that “the LORD his God was *with* him.” What greater assurance of success could the Lord Jesus have left with His original disciples than the promise, “I am *with you* always” (Matthew 28:20). The Bible offers that same assurance to all believers today in the promise that we “can do all things through Christ who *strengthens*” us (Philippians 4:13). The third key to Solomon’s success was *God’s prosperity*. Psalm 1:1-3 describes a man that “walks not in the counsel of the ungodly” but in “the law of the LORD” and concludes “whatever he does shall *prosper*.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** Seek God’s power and presence in your life and see if His prosperity does not follow. **Commit** yourself to God’s purpose for your life and diligently pursue it with great passion.

## Day 2: 2 Chronicles 2

“Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD...” (2 Chronicles 2:1)

### Dreams Begin in the Heart

One of the definitions offered for the word that is translated “determined” in today’s focus verse is: “to say in one’s heart.” Long before Solomon spoke words of wisdom to others, he obviously learned the value of speaking the right things to himself. When we have set our hearts on accomplishing great things for God, all other things become less important. Having a dream in our heart is the key to diligence, and diligence was something Solomon knew a lot about! As the writer of Proverbs, he said, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). Later, in Proverbs 21:5, Solomon would say, “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” As such, we might say that the difference between “plenty” and “poverty” is often found in slowing down and thinking carefully about what we are doing to make sure that our “plans” are synchronized with God’s. I was reading the Psalms one day, and while doing so, it occurred to me that Solomon might have learned something about positive “self-talk” from his father, King David. In Psalm 42:5, David asked himself, “Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** Fill your heart with God’s Word and you will soon find yourself “determined” to **live** for God’s glory. **Refuse** to become despondent by becoming dependent on the wisdom of God’s Word.

## Day 3: 2 Chronicles 3

*“Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem...” (2 Chronicles 3:1)*

### A “House” for the LORD

In our previous chapter (2 Chronicles 2), we saw Solomon preparing to build the temple. Now, in today’s chapter, it is recorded that he “began to build the house of the LORD.” Our focus verse is especially important because it reveals *what* Solomon “began to build” and *where* he began to build it. First, *what* Solomon “began to build” was “the house of the LORD.” The word translated “house” in our focus verse means just that, “a place of dwelling or habitation.” The dream to build God a “house” began with Solomon’s father, David. In 1 Chronicles 17:1-2, we read where, “It came to pass, when David was dwelling in *his house*, that David said to Nathan the prophet, ‘See now, *I dwell in a house of cedar*, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under *tent curtains*.’ Then Nathan said to David, ‘Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.’” From that day forth, David’s paramount and consuming desire was to build a house for God. He passed that desire on to his son, Solomon, and eventually David’s dream became reality. Our focus verse reveals two answers to *where* Solomon built the house for God. We are first told that he built it “at Jerusalem,” and then that it was built “on Mount Moriah.” Most Bible scholars agree that Mount Moriah was where Abraham was directed by God to offer his son Isaac on an altar (see Genesis 22:2). There is also a general consensus that this same place was where Christ died on the cross for our sins.

**Prayer Emphasis: Realize** that when we read the Bible, or when God is speaking to our hearts, there is always more to the story than we can possibly imagine! **Dare** to dream and then **dare** to do!

## Day 4: 2 Chronicles 4

*“Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God...” (2 Chronicles 4:19)*

### Some Very “Big” Plans!

One would have to say that when David dreamed, he dreamed big, and when Solomon built, he built big! When we compare the dimensions of the tabernacle to the dimensions that are given for the temple (see 1 Kings 6:1-2), we can conclude that the temple was twice as long and twice as wide as the tabernacle. As such, the extra room allowed for larger furnishings. Some of the furnishings discussed in today’s chapter are the “bronze altar” (4:1) and the “ten lampstands” and “ten tables” (4:7-8). The “bronze altar” described in verse one was said to be “twenty cubits” in “length” and “width” and “ten cubits” high. As such, the altar in the temple was more than three times larger and taller than the one designed for the tabernacle. Since the temple was a permanent structure, and the altar therein did not have to be moved from place to place, God could go “all out” in showing just how big His love for the souls of men is! But, besides a bigger altar, we are also told that the temple had “ten lampstands of gold” and “ten tables” in it. This is quite remarkable since the tabernacle had only one lampstand for light and one table upon which the showbread could be placed. The “bronze altar” represented the place where people came for cleansing; the “lampstand” represented the light of the world, Jesus; and the “tables” that held the showbread represented the fellowship that was to be enjoyed between God and His people. You might say the temple was built with more life, light, and love in mind for everyone!

**Prayer Emphasis: Realize** that God has big plans for His people – and those plans begin with the “plan” of salvation! **Share** the gospel with someone you meet today and **shed** some light in this dark world.

## Day 5: 2 Chronicles 5

*“So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished...” (2 Chronicles 5:1)*

### *“The House of the LORD Was Finished”*

In 2 Chronicles 3:2, we read that Solomon “began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.” Even though we are clearly told in today’s focus verse that “all the work” had been done on the temple and it was finally “finished,” we are not told when it was finished. We must look at 1 Kings 6:38 for that information. There we read, “And in the eleventh year...the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was *seven years* in building it.” So, we know that at least seven years passed between the events recorded in 2 Chronicles 3:1 and 5:1. Since the “seven years” in 1 Kings marked the time between the laying of the foundation and the completion of the building, we know that allowing for the planning and acquisition of materials, more than seven years passed since “Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD” (2:1). The Bible indicates that Solomon began the plans for the temple just after he became king. In that case, since we are told he did not lay the foundation until the fourth year of his reign, the overall project time for the building of the temple was approximately 11 years! If you have ever been involved in a church building program, you know an 11-year building project represents a lot of meetings, discussions, and hard labor! So, the next time you walk into your church building, thank God for those who took the time, gave the money, and did the work to provide you with a beautiful place to worship!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Thank God for the house of worship that He has provided for you and your family. Love and appreciate your church and take an active role in its support and maintenance. Remember, it is your church and what you do there is done for the honor and glory of God.

## Day 6: 2 Chronicles 6:1-21

*“So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke...” (2 Chronicles 6:10)*

### *A Promise Kept!*

2 Chronicles 6:3 states that “the whole assembly of Israel” gathered in Jerusalem for the dedication of the temple. Being a politician, Solomon used that opportunity to deliver a speech. In that speech, he praised God for fulfilling two especially important promises. First, he thanked God for fulfilling His promise to King David when he allowed his son, Solomon, to follow him as king. Solomon stated, “He (God) has fulfilled His word which He spoke, and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, *as the LORD promised.*” Then Solomon thanked God for fulfilling His promise that Solomon would build the temple for Him. Because God “fulfilled His word,” Solomon could now say, “I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel” (v. 10). This great moment and accomplishment in Solomon’s life may have inspired him to say, “Hope deferred make the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12). Some translations use the word “longing” in place of “desire” in that verse. The New Living Translation reads, “But a *dream* fulfilled is a tree of life.” Later, in Proverbs 13:19, Solomon said, “A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul.” I have no doubt that the day described in our Scripture reading today was one of the “sweetest” days in Solomon’s life.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Consider some of the blessings you have received and thank God for the many promises He has kept in your life. Brag on the goodness of God to someone you meet today.

## Day 7: 2 Chronicles 6:22-42

“Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.” (2 Chronicles 6:40)

### A Model Prayer

Solomon’s address to “the whole assembly of Israel” (6:3) at the dedication of the temple began in verse four and continued through verse 11. Then, beginning at verse 14, Solomon began a prayer that continues through the remaining verses in the chapter. We should note that Solomon, at least on this occasion, spent approximately three times more time *praying* than he did *preaching*! In the NKJV, you will see the words “listen” or “hear” 12 times in this prayer (vs. 14-42). Those words support Solomon’s plea for God’s “ears (to) be attentive to the prayer” (v. 40) made that day and every day thereafter. As a young Christian, I was taught to pray using the acrostic “A-C-T-S” (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication) as an outline and guide. One can certainly see that Solomon began his prayer with words of adoration, beginning with the phrase, “LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You” (v. 14). Since the words “confess” and “forgive” are found repeatedly in Solomon’s prayer, we know there was some confession made. Note the words “for there is no one who does not sin” in verse 36. Also, depending on your translation, you should see the word “supplication(s)” six or seven times throughout this one prayer. Then, look once more for Solomon’s words of thanksgiving to God. I would say that this is a rather good model prayer for all of us to follow.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Ask God to help you begin each day with a time of *praise* and *prayer*. **Praise** God for what He has already done, and you will be more likely to **pray** for His involvement in all that you do.

## Day 8: 2 Chronicles 7

“Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: ‘I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.’” (2 Chronicles 7:12)

### Affirmation!

Our focus verse records God clearly telling Solomon that He “heard” his prayer. If Solomon was not aware of that fact after “fire came down from heaven” after he “finished praying” (v. 1), then He surely was made aware of it when God repeated a portion of Solomon’s prayer back to him by saying, “My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place” (v. 15). If you compare 7:15 to 6:40, you will see what I am talking about. The appearance of God to Solomon that is mentioned in today’s focus verse is discussed in 1 Kings 9:1-2. There is a slight difference between the words of 2 Chronicles 7:12 and those found in 1 Kings 9:2. In that verse, we see that “the LORD appeared to Solomon *the second time*.” If this was the second time that God appeared to Solomon, then there had to be a first time that God appeared to him. That first time is referenced in 1 Kings 9:2 where we read, “the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, *as He had appeared to him at Gibeon*.” That first appearance “at Gibeon” (see 1 Kings 3:5-9) occurred shortly after Solomon became king. This second appearance reminds us of a very important point. That being, there are few times in a believer’s life that are more dangerous than those times that follow a great accomplishment or a finished task.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Realize** that a believer’s work is never done, and inactivity is dangerous to our spiritual well-being. **Trust** God to reveal His “next step” for us shortly after any task is completed.

## Day 9: 2 Chronicles 8

*“Now all the work of Solomon was well-ordered from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.” (2 Chronicles 8:16)*

### “Well-Ordered”

The Hebrew word that is translated “well-ordered” in the NKJV is translated several different ways in other translations. Some of the words that have been chosen to express what God is telling us here are “prepared,” “accomplished,” and “completed.” The actual meaning of the word found here in today’s focus verse is “to make firm,” “to be established,” or “to be fixed.” It is not often that I say “I think” in my sermons or writings, but here I have to say “I think” God is telling us here that “the house of the LORD was completed” because Solomon had a plan and he stuck to it! And why shouldn’t Solomon have stuck to the plan? After all, the plan had not been *his* but *God’s*! We must always remember that one of the things Solomon asked of God when he first became king was to have “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9). The word that is translated “understanding” there is translated “hear” or “hearken” over 800 times in the KJV! The impression, lesson, and personal application that God is teaching me from today’s focus verse is that once I have clearly “heard” from Him, I need to stick to what I last heard until He – and only He – tells me something different!

**Prayer Emphasis: Refuse** to allow any person or circumstance to change the plan that God has provided for your life. **Avoid** distractions by disallowing anyone “to add to or take away” from what you know God wants you to do. **Focus** on finishing what you have started for God – and **finish** well!

## Day 10: 2 Chronicles 9

*“Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions...and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.” (2 Chronicles 9:1)*

### “The Queen of Sheba”

The story of the Queen of Sheba is also found in 1 Kings 10:1-10. She was a political leader who was so impressed by the successes of Solomon as a king that she traveled about 1,500 miles to see for herself if those successes were real. According to both accounts, this woman had heard such amazing stories about Solomon and his prosperity that she “did not believe” (v. 6) such things to be possible. However, shortly after her arrival in Jerusalem and her visits and conversations with Solomon, she said she “did not believe...until I came and saw with my own eyes.” But after seeing how God had blessed Solomon and his people, she added, “indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard.” Some believe this woman was the person that Solomon had in mind when he wrote The Song of Solomon, but while that may be true, there is no biblical reference that supports that idea. Jesus confirmed the existence of this woman in Matthew 12:42 and Luke 11:31 when He mentioned “the queen of the South.” In that conversation, Jesus used this woman to make the point that she, a foreigner, and a Gentile, recognized God through the witness of Solomon while the Scribes and the Pharisees could not see God even when He stood before them!

**Prayer Emphasis: Learn** this important lesson from the story of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba: Believers are to be a witness and testimony to the grace and glory of God to all people everywhere!



## Day 11: 2 Chronicles 10

*“And Rehoboam went to Shechem for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king...And Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam...” (2 Chronicles 10:1 & 3b)*

### Rehoboam and Jeroboam

If today's chapter seems familiar, it is almost word for word identical to what you can read in 1 Kings 12:1-19. Yesterday's closing verse informed us that “Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place” (9:31). I find it rather amazing that Solomon, a man who had “seven hundred wives...and three hundred concubines” (1 Kings 11:3), has only one son mentioned in the Bible. Note the singular expression, “his son,” quoted from the last verse of chapter nine. Back in 1 Chronicles 3:10, we read, “Solomon's *son* (again singular) was Rehoboam.” Verse two of today's Scripture mentions Jeroboam, someone else that we first read about earlier in 1 Kings. After Solomon's death, Jeroboam (described as “Solomon's servant” and one of his “officers” in 1 Kings 11:26 & 28) conspired and rebelled against King Solomon's son and won the hearts of the northern 10 tribes of Israel. This left Rehoboam, Solomon's son, to be king over the remaining two tribes in Judah. Israel was known as the “Northern Kingdom,” while Judah was known as the “Southern Kingdom.” Thus, the unity that was established shortly after David became king was utterly broken and lost during the 40-year reign of Solomon. As a result, Jeroboam became the first king of “Israel,” while Rehoboam ruled over “Judah,” and God's people became a divided kingdom that ultimately warred against each other.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Realize** that Satan's greatest strategy is to divide and conquer. **Seek** to promote unity with your every thought, word, and act. **Pray** for unity in our church and nation.

## Day 12: 2 Chronicles 11

*“But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God...” (2 Chronicles 11:2)*

### “Shemaiah”

You will read the name “Shemaiah” 40 times in most translations of the Bible because there are at least 25 different people who bore that name mentioned in the Old Testament. We read about eight of those people in 1 Chronicles, and if you watch closely, you should see four more “Shemaiahs” as we read the remaining chapters of 2 Chronicles. However, the “Shemaiah” of today's chapter is mentioned only in this story in 2 Chronicles 11 & 12 and their parallel chapter in 1 Kings 12. You might say this prophet was one of the “One Hit Wonders” in the Bible because this is the only time and place he is mentioned. But what a time and place it was! In the previous verse (11:1), we read that “Rehoboam came to Jerusalem (and) he assembled from the house of Judah and Benjamin one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against Israel...” One can only imagine the amount of harm that might have been inflicted had that army been deployed. “But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah” (v. 2) and Shemaiah faithfully took the word of God to the king! And as a result, Rehoboam did not march against his brethren but “dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities” (v. 5). In our focus verse, you will see that Shemaiah is called “*the man of God.*” No doubt there were other “men of God” in his day and time, but Shemaiah was *the man for the moment* at this important point in the history of God's people.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Believe** that God's word, delivered at the right time and to the right people, can *prevent destruction* and *promote development* by moving men's hearts from *battling* to *building*! **Speak up!**

## Day 13: 2 Chronicles 12

*“The acts of Rehoboam...are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet...” (2 Chronicles 12:15)*

### Are there “Lost” Books of the Bible?

Today’s focus verse mentions “the book of Shemaiah.” This is the same man we read about in yesterday’s chapter and commented about in yesterday’s devotional. Some have read about this book, and others like it, and have wondered why they are not included in the Bible. Some refer to them as “lost” books of the Bible. Depending on whose list you review, there are something like 25 to 30 “books” mentioned in the Bible that are not included in the Bible. In 2 Chronicles 9:29, we saw three of those books mentioned that were said to bear record of “the acts of Solomon.” They were “the book of Nathan the prophet...the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and...the visions of Iddo the seer...” Because of the mention of these books and others like them, some have been led to believe we have an incomplete Bible. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the conclusion to the Gospel of John, the Holy Spirit inspired John to write, “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25). We have every reason to believe that God has given us all that we need in order to be fully equipped for His service in the 66 books that we have available to us today.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Read 2 Peter 1:3 and **believe** that God “has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.” **Accept** God’s promise that through the books He has given us, we can “be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17).

## Day 14: 2 Chronicles 13

*“Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?” (2 Chronicles 13:5)*

### “A Covenant of Salt”

In the early verses of today’s chapter, Judah and Israel stood on the verge of a great, deadly battle. Abijah, Judah’s king, had raised an army of “four hundred thousand choice men,” and Jeroboam, Israel’s king, stood ready to face him with his army of “eight hundred thousand...mighty men of valor” (13:3). According to verses four and five of today’s chapter, even though his army was outnumbered two to one, Abijah boldly declared to his opponent, “Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel: Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever...by a covenant of salt?” That statement might lead us to ask, “What, exactly, was a covenant of salt?” I was interested to learn that our English word “salary” comes from an ancient word for “salt-money.” This word represented the allowance that a Roman soldier received for the purchase of his daily ration of salt. It is because of that word origin that we speak of a worker being “worth his salt.” Since salt was such a valuable commodity in Bible times, and since it was vital to the preservation of food, salt began to represent the value and validity of one person’s promise to another. In the case of today’s focus verse, Abijah was trying to warn his opponent that God’s promise to David would be “preserved” forever and no army on earth could ever be large enough or powerful enough to prevent God from keeping His promise to David.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Read verses 15-18 once again and see how God miraculously protected Judah and honored His promise to David. **Realize** that we can **trust** God to do what He says He will do!

## Day 15: 2 Chronicles 14

*“So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.” (2 Chronicles 14:1)*

### King Asa

We have previously learned that after God’s people were divided into the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel, Israel had 19 kings, all of whom were bad. Judah had 20 kings after the division, and more than half of them were bad. Of the few kings of Judah who were said to be good, Asa was the first. A review of the reigns of the different kings of Judah reveals that the reigns of the kings who were “good” averaged 33 years, while the average reign of the kings who were “bad” was only seven years. Asa’s reign of 41 years (see 16:13) was the third longest of any king of Judah. Today’s chapter includes the statement, “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God” (v. 2). Verse 1 and verses five and six indicate that God gave Judah an extended time of peace during what appears to be the first 10 years of Asa’s reign. It was because of that God-given “rest” (peace) that Asa was able to focus on the righteous reforms that are described in verses three through five. However, even though Judah was enjoying peace, Asa did not forget the importance of national defense. Verse six states, “he built fortified cities,” and verse eight reveals, “Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah” and another “two hundred and eighty thousand” from Benjamin, all “mighty men of valor.” But even though Asa lived within his fortified cities, he still “cried out to the LORD his God” (v. 11), seeking His help in times of conflict.

**Prayer Emphasis: Pray** for those who serve in positions of leadership in our country – whether you like them or not. **Pray** for our military personnel and **thank** them for their service every chance you get!

## Day 16: 2 Chronicles 15

*“Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah...And he went out to meet Asa... (2 Chronicles 15:1-2)*

### “Azariah the Son of Oded”

The closing verses of yesterday’s chapter described a powerful and profitable military campaign that followed Judah’s forced battle with a much more powerful military foe. After that great and decisive victory, God did not wait until Asa and his army returned to Jerusalem to warn him of the dangerous things that can sometimes follow such great successes. He sent Azariah the prophet out to meet the king even before he entered the city of Jerusalem. Azariah was sent to remind King Asa that “The LORD is with you while you are with Him” and “If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you” (v. 2). In verses three through six, God used Azariah to remind Asa, and all Judah, of some of the problems they faced in the years prior to their renewed commitment to Him. The prophet urged his king to “be strong” and to not let his “hands be weak” because his efforts to faithfully follow God’s laws would be “rewarded” (v. 7). Verse eight reveals that when “Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage” and began immediately to once again pursue the kind of righteous reforms that led to God’s blessings upon him and his people. Then, the people “gathered together at Jerusalem” for a time of sacrificial offering (vs. 10-11) and “entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul” (v. 12).

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** that pride can be our most deadly foe and **honor** God for every victory in your life. **Ask** God to help you **seek** Him with all your heart and soul.

## Day 17: 2 Chronicles 16

*“And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.” (2 Chronicles 16:12)*

### *Asa’s Disappointing Ending*

We have been reading about King Asa of Judah for three chapters and have seen him as a righteous reformer and fierce warrior for God. We read where he and his people made a covenant with God that promised Him that they would “seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul” (15:12). How sad it is to then read about the disappointing end to this good king’s life, where “in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha King of Israel came up against Judah” (16:1) and Asa sent a large offering (bribe) to the king of Syria seeking to make a treaty with him to rescue him from the king of Israel. The king of Syria accepted Asa’s offer and took actions that drove Israel away from Jerusalem and back to their own land. However, God sent a messenger to rebuke Asa for relying on the strength of the Syrians rather than the strength of his God. The messenger reminded Asa of how God delivered him from more powerful enemies than Israel. Asa “was angry” with God’s messenger and “put him in prison” (v. 10). Three years later, during “the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet” (v. 12). Verse 12 adds that this “malady was severe; yet in his disease he (Asa) did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.” Approximately two years later, Asa died (v. 13). We do not know how old Asa was when he died, but 1 Kings 15:23 states that “it was in the time of his old age.”

**Prayer Emphasis: Seek** to finish life’s race well by asking God to help you avoid anger in your life. **Remember** that “hurt people – hurt people.” **Realize** that a moment of temptation can taint a lifetime of testimony.

## Day 18: 2 Chronicles 17

*“Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father...” (2 Chronicles 17:3-4a)*

### *Jehoshaphat*

Today, we read that after Asa died, “Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel” (17:1). One of the ways that Jehoshaphat “strengthened” his nation was to place “troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land” (v. 2). However, Jehoshaphat’s true security was not found in those wise, strategic actions but in the fact that “the LORD was with Jehoshaphat” (v. 3). God was “with” Jehoshaphat because he “sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments” (v. 4). Back in chapter 15, Azariah met King Asa as he returned from battle and said, “If you seek Him, He will be found by you” (15:2). In today’s story, we are told that because Jehoshaphat “sought the God of his father...the LORD established the kingdom in his hand” (vs. 4-5). Verse six states that “his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD...” Some translations say that his heart was “lifted up,” which means much the same as our word “uplifted.” Others use words like “rejoiced” to help us understand how God was strengthening Jehoshaphat’s heart to do what was right. This good king “sent Levites” to teach “the Book of the Law of the LORD” to the people (vs. 8-9). In response, God caused “the fear of the LORD” to come upon the surrounding kingdoms “so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat” (v. 10).

**Prayer Emphasis: Meditate** on Psalm 28:7 today: “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

## Day 19: 2 Chronicles 18:1-17

*“Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab. After some years he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria...” (2 Chronicles 18:1-2a)*

### *A Dangerous Alliance*

If you remember anything about King Ahab, you know he was a very evil man. One of the earliest statements about him in the Bible is found in 1 Kings 16:30: “Now Ahab...did evil in the sight of the LORD, *more than all who were before him.*” Today, we read that Jehoshaphat, a godly king of Judah, “allied himself with Ahab” by having his son marry Ahab’s daughter. 2 Kings 8:16-24 tells the story about Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram, and includes this tragic statement: “he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for *the daughter of Ahab was his wife*” (2 Kings 8:18). Verse two of today’s reading states that “After some years (Jehoshaphat) went down to visit Ahab in Samaria.” While he was there, Ahab made a great feast for the king of Judah in hopes of persuading him to go to battle with him against Ramoth Gilead. Jehoshaphat agreed to join forces with Ahab against the evil king’s enemies and said, “we will be with you in the war” (v. 3). But before taking any further action, Jehoshaphat asked Ahab if they could “inquire for the word of the LORD” (v. 4). If you have read the verses, you know the story from there. Ahab called in 400 of his “prophets for hire” who were willing to tell him exactly what he wanted to hear. Thankfully, Jehoshaphat wanted further confirmation, and Micaiah arrived on the scene to speak a true word from God!

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** the New Testament commandment: “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14). **Choose** your friends and associates wisely.

## Day 20: 2 Chronicles 18:18-34

*“Therefore they surrounded him to attack; but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him, and God diverted them from him.” (2 Chronicles 18:31b)*

### *“Jehoshaphat Cried Out”*

One must wonder why Jehoshaphat might have expected anything good to come from his alliance with Ahab. Then, you really must wonder why he would go into battle fully adorned as a king, while Ahab went into battle in disguise! Ahab “said to Jehoshaphat, ‘I will disguise myself and go into battle; but *you* put on your robes’” (v. 29). Since “the king of Syria had commanded the captains...who were with him, saying, ‘Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel,’” the leaders of Syria’s army “saw Jehoshaphat” dressed as a king and “said, ‘It is the king of Israel!’” (vs. 30-31). That is when they “surrounded” Jehoshaphat “to attack.” It was at this point that Jehoshaphat must have seen the error of his ways and “cried out” to God for help (v. 31). There is much to learn about God’s love and mercy in His response to Jehoshaphat’s cry! Did He say to Jehoshaphat, “You got yourself into this mess, so you can just get yourself out of it”? Did he leave Jehoshaphat to learn his lessons about unwise choices in alliances from his pitiful circumstance and situation? Absolutely not! We have often heard that “God is a God of second chances,” but we know from our own experiences that He is more than that! Our God is the “God of many chances!” One has to evaluate the *sincerity* of Jehoshaphat’s repentance and request by the *swiftness* of God’s answer. We are clearly told that “Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him.”

**Prayer Emphasis: Thank God** for never abandoning us and for His unlimited mercy toward us!

## Day 21: 2 Chronicles 19

*“Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem.” (2 Chronicles 19:1)*

### “Then” and “Therefore”

I have often taught that the word “then” in the Bible leads us to examine the “when.” When Jehoshaphat “cried out” to the LORD, “the LORD helped him” (18:31), and he was allowed to return “safely to his own house” (19:1). I mentioned yesterday that the LORD did not use the very moment that Jehoshaphat was endangered in the heat of battle to teach him a lesson about his wrong decisions, but we see from verse 13 of today’s reading that before Jehoshaphat arrived at his home, God sent a messenger “out to meet him” and ask him what must have been a burning, painful question. “Jehu...the seer...said to King Jehoshaphat, ‘Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD?’” I have also often taught that when we see the word “therefore” in the Bible, we should ask ourselves, “What is it there for?” This “therefore” was to teach Jehoshaphat that “the wrath of the LORD” was “upon him” (v. 2). God’s mercy and grace may sometimes save us from desperate situations and circumstances, but it does not guarantee us immunity from discipline. God saw the bad things Jehoshaphat had done, but He also saw the “good things” (v. 3) that were in Jehoshaphat! The remainder of today’s chapter reveals that Jehoshaphat did many things to prove that God was right about the “good things” that were in him as “he commanded” the people, “saying, ‘Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart’” (v. 9).

**Prayer Emphasis:** Learn from the man who learned his lesson the hard way and “**behave courageously**” (v. 11) by **trusting** God, and God alone, to be your ally in the battles of life.

## Day 22: 2 Chronicles 20:1-17

*“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD...” (2 Chronicles 20:3-4a)*

### A Lesson Learned

The fact that “Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance” may have been one of the reasons that “he allied himself with Ahab” (18:1). In Bible times, plundering was the main purpose for military raids, and plundering some of the abundant “riches” of Jehoshaphat was probably the motivation for “the people of Moab” and their allies when they “came to battle against Jehoshaphat” (20:1). When Jehoshaphat was told “A great multitude is coming against you...from Syria” (v. 2), this time Jehoshaphat sought the help of no ally but God! Even though he “feared,” he acted out of his faith rather than his fears. He “set himself to seek the LORD” and sought the help of others by proclaiming “a fast throughout all Judah” (v. 3). The word that is translated “proclaimed” in our focus verse means “to summon,” “call for,” “commission,” or “announce.” That is why it is translated “gave orders” or “announced” in some translations. We know the people responded quickly to the king’s proclamation because we are told that without hesitation, “Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD” and that “from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD” (v. 4). We are also told that as King Jehoshaphat “stood in the assembly” and “in the house of the LORD” (v. 5), he confessed his *desperation* by stating, “we have no power against this great multitude” and his *dependence* by saying, “our eyes are upon You” (v. 12).

**Prayer Emphasis:** Like Jehoshaphat, **learn** from your past mistakes and **look** only to God for help in your times of need. **Ask** someone to help you with a matter of prayer today and **ask** how you can pray for them.

## Day 23: 2 Chronicles 20:18-37

*“And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground...” (2 Chronicles 20:18)*

### *Praising God in Advance!*

Yesterday, we read where a combined army of several nations “came to battle against Jehoshaphat” (20:1). In response to that threat, Jehoshaphat looked immediately to God for help and enlisted the prayers of his people. God honored that response by sending a prophet by the name of “Jahaziel” with a “Thus says the LORD” message (vs. 14-15), telling them that they should “not fear or be dismayed” because the LORD was with them (v. 17). Jehoshaphat and his people responded to God’s message with a display of humility. First, “Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground,” and then, “all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem” did the same (v. 18). Then, God’s people did something that revealed just how much faith they had in the message from God. They “stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high” (v. 19). In the NKJV, you will find the word “praise” four times in today’s Scripture reading. The important thing to note about this “praise” was that it was offered to God based solely upon His promise. God promised them victory, and they were already thanking and praising Him for it before it happened! This was surely one of the highpoints of Jehoshaphat’s reign as king. However, Jehoshaphat was a good man, but he was still a man. Our story of his reign concludes with a reminder to each of us that we must never think we have fully overcome our human frailties. In verse 35, we see Jehoshaphat once again looking to the world for help as he “allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Realize** that we can never trust our flesh to be anything but flesh! **Remind** yourself, daily, to **praise** God for every victory and to look only to Him for your every success.

## Day 24: 2 Chronicles 21

*“And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers...then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.” (2 Chronicles 21:1)*

### *Jehoram*

“Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem” (v. 5). The first thing we read about his time on the throne is, “he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done” and that “he did evil in the sight of the LORD” (v. 6). One of the first things this evil king did was kill “all his brothers with the sword” along with any of the other princes of Israel who might pose a threat to his throne (v. 4). In verse 11, God adds that he “caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray.” Today’s chapter includes the first and only mention of Elijah in Chronicles. We are told that he sent a “because” and “behold” letter to the king (vs. 12 & 14). The “because” part of the letter addressed the evil actions that Jehoram had taken (vs. 12b-13), and the “behold” part addressed the corrective action that God was going to take in response to Jehoram’s actions. Elijah wrote, “Behold, the LORD will strike your people with a serious affliction...and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines” (vs. 14-15). True to His word, “the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease” and “in the course of time...he died in severe pain” (vs. 18-19). Some of the saddest words that you will ever read in the Bible are found in verse 20 of today’s chapter where we are told that when Jehoram died, it was “to no one’s sorrow.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Live** a life that will be missed when you are gone! **Make** every effort to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. **Walk** in a way that is pleasing to God today.

## Day 25: 2 Chronicles 22

*“...So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, reigned.” (2 Chronicles 22:1b)*

### Ahaziah and Athaliah

You will read about two King Ahaziahs in the Bible. Their reigns were only separated by approximately 11 years. The first was an evil king who came to the throne of Israel while Jehoshaphat was king of Judah. We are told that “he did evil in the sight of the LORD” and that “he served Baal and worshiped him” (1 Kings 22:51-53). To make matters more confusing, King Ahaziah was succeeded on the throne by his brother, Jehoram (2 Kings 1:17). This chapter’s King Ahaziah *followed* a king named Jehoram. This Ahaziah had the dubious honor of being placed on the throne only because he was the only living heir of his father. We are told that “the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah (Jehoram’s) youngest son king in his place, for the raiders who came with the Arabians...had killed all the older sons” (22:1). So, when “Ahaziah was forty-two years old...he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem” (v. 2). But what a tumultuous year it must have been, for we are told that “he...walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly” and “he did evil in the sight of the LORD” (vs. 3-4). Perhaps the saddest part of this story is found in the fact that part of this man’s problem was that “his mother (Athaliah) advised him to do wickedly” (v. 3). Verse 10 tells a story that has to be one of the lowest points in the history of God’s people. Upon her son’s death, this evil woman attempted to destroy “all the royal heirs of the house of Judah,” those “heirs” being her own grandchildren!

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Seek** to be a godly influence on your children and grandchildren. **Advise** them in ways that honor and glorify God and then **pray** for them, each one, by name every day of your life!

## Day 26: 2 Chronicles 23

*“In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself...” (2 Chronicles 23:1)*

### A Godly Couple

At the close of yesterday’s chapter, we read where “Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah” and hid him from his evil grandmother, Athaliah, before she could have him killed (22:11). Then, we read where this brave woman who “was the sister of Ahaziah” (22:11) hid little Joash “in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land” (22:12). However, as we are told in today’s focus verse, “in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself” (23:1). Jehoiada was a “priest” (see v. 8) and the husband of Jehoshabeath. Today, we read where this husband and priest made a godly plan to return the throne to a rightful heir of King David. This plan was important in two ways. Not only did it return the throne to the lineage of David, but it also took the throne from the hands of evil Athaliah and the lineage of Ahab. Words cannot possibly express the risk that this noble wife and husband were taking when they set out to see things done in God’s way. But because right was worth the risk to this godly couple, others found it to be worth the risk as well! The first three verses of today’s chapter list only a few of “the assembly” who put their lives on the line to honor the will of God by ensuring that the right person sat on the throne of Judah.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Read** verses 16-21 again and take note of the things that God was able to accomplish among His people because two people decided to make a difference in the life of one child! **Pray** for our children’s workers today and **express** your appreciation to them as often as you can.



## Day 27: 2 Chronicles 24

*“Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem...Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.” (2 Chronicles 24:1-2)*

### “Jehoiada the Priest”

While the focus in our story now shifts to Joash, “Jehoiada the priest” (v. 2) is found to still be playing an important part in the history of God’s people. Because Joash was just a child of “seven years...when he became king” (v. 1), he was going to need special guidance. Unlike others before him, young Joash received wise counsel from a God-fearing priest. It is with significant importance that we should note, “Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest” (v. 2). In 2 Kings 12, “Joash” is spelled differently than it is here in 2 Chronicles. In that account of this same man, his name is recorded as “Jehoash.” There, in 2 Kings 12:2, we are told that “Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest *instructed* him.” One of the “right” things Joash did was to “set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD” (v. 4). “At the king’s command they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the house of the LORD” (v. 8). “Then all the leaders and all the people...brought their contributions, and put them into the chest until all had given” (v. 10). “The king and Jehoiada gave it (the offerings) to those who did the work...and the work was completed by them” and the “house of God” was restored “to its original condition” (vs. 12-13). At his death, Jehoiada the priest was given the special honor of being “buried...in the city of David among the kings” (v. 16).

**Prayer Emphasis: Read** again the godly epitaph of Jehoiada that is found in verse 16: “he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.” **Ask** God to help you to make a difference in the lives of others and **thank** someone who has made a difference in your life today.

## Day 28: 2 Chronicles 25

*“Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king...” (2 Chronicles 25:1)*

### The Rise and Fall of Amaziah

The statement that “Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king” is followed by the phrase “and he did what was right in the sight of the LORD” (25:2). However, verse two in its entirety states, “he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, *but not with a loyal heart.*” From the way today’s chapter is written, one would have to suppose that Amaziah’s “heart” problem came sometime later in his life. The first thing this young king did was to capture and execute “his servants who had murdered his father the king” (v. 3). It is obvious that God’s Word was important to Amaziah because after executing his father’s murderers, he “did as it is written in the Law of the Book of Moses” (v. 4) and spared the lives of their children. (See Deuteronomy 24:16.) This king amassed an army of “three hundred thousand choice men, able to go to war, who could handle spear and shield” (v. 5), and then “hired one hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for one hundred talents of silver” (v. 6). After being reprovved by “a man of God” for hiring the soldiers from Israel (v. 7), “Amaziah discharged the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go back home” (v. 10). Then, after God had given Amaziah a great victory without the aid of a hired army, Amaziah returned from battle with false gods and “set them up to be his gods” (v.14).

**Prayer Emphasis: Read** verse 27 of today’s chapter to see yet another sad epitaph: “Amaziah turned away from following the LORD,” and he was eventually hunted down and killed by his own people.

## Day 29: 2 Chronicles 26

*“Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king...” (2 Chronicles 26:3)*

### Uzziah

The closing verses of yesterday’s chapter reported that “Amaziah turned away from following the LORD” so the people “made a conspiracy against him...and killed him” (25:27). After that, “all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king” (26:1). Uzziah’s 52 years as Judah’s king was the second longest term of any king of either Judah or Israel. His longevity, no doubt, was because “he did what was right in the sight of the LORD” (v. 4) and “sought God” (v. 5). No wonder that we read that “God helped him against” all his enemies (v. 7). But a dangerous thing happened in Uzziah’s life. He became famous. Verse eight states, “His fame spread as far as...Egypt.” Uzziah’s story is so positive that you almost have to expect a “but” and we get one in verse 16: “But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.” “Azariah the priest went in after him,” taking “eighty priests” with him, and “they withstood King Uzziah” saying, “Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed” (vs. 17-18). “Uzziah became furious” with the priests, and as he stood defiantly “beside the incense altar,” he was smitten with leprosy (v. 19). It was clear to everyone involved that “the LORD had struck him” (v. 20). The sad news is that “King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death” and was forced to live “in an isolated house...for he was cut off from the house of the LORD” (v. 21).

**Prayer Emphasis: Meditate** on Proverbs 16:18 today: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” **Ask** God to keep your heart free from pride and arrogance.

## Day 30: 2 Chronicles 27:1-28:4

*“Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king...” (2 Chronicles 27:1)*

### Jotham

Jotham was a man very much like his father, Uzziah. It was said of Uzziah that “he did what was right in the sight of the LORD” (26:4), and the same thing is said about Jotham, with this additional phrase, “according to all that his father Uzziah had done” (27:2). Verse two does clearly state, “although he did not enter the temple of the LORD.” If you recall, such a violation is what led to Uzziah’s leprosy and ultimate death. I am thinking that after witnessing his father’s curse and death, it would have been difficult for anyone to get Jotham to trespass into the areas assigned for the priest only! The final statement in verse two reads, “But still the people acted corruptly.” The details of that corruption are not provided here in 2 Chronicles, but we can read more about them in 2 Kings 15. In verse 35 of that chapter, we are told that “the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.” Jotham was also like his father in the sense that he was a prolific builder. Regarding Uzziah, 26:9 states, “Uzziah built,” and 26:10 adds a “he built.” Now, here in Jotham’s brief story, we also see the phrase “he built” twice (vs. 3-4). We have read some sad epitaphs in some of our stories, but with Jotham, it is a different case. His epitaph might very well have read, “Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God” (v. 6). The word “prepared” represents an orderly, steadfast commitment to making God’s ways your ways.

**Prayer Emphasis: Prepare** your own “ways” so that they are in line with God’s “ways.” **Remember** that our ways are not His ways and that His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

## Day 31: 2 Chronicles 28:5-27

*“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)*

### Ahaz

Talk about sad epitaphs; this one would be hard to beat! Our focus verse states that Ahaz led God’s people in such a way that “the LORD brought Judah low” *because of his actions*. Two strong accusations are made against this king. First, it is said that “he...encouraged moral decline” (v. 19). This statement is sometimes translated “promoted wickedness” and is even translated “made Judah naked” in more than one translation. The idea is that Ahaz removed all “restraints” from the people, allowing them to be totally uninhibited in their wickedness. We are seeing much of that same kind of “freedom” being allowed in our society today. Then, it is said of Ahaz that he “had been continually unfaithful to the LORD” (v. 19). Translations vary from “utterly unfaithful” to “most” or “very unfaithful. One modern language translation uses the words he “unleashed an epidemic of depravity” to try to communicate God’s message here. The Hebrew word translated “unfaithful” is found twice here in the original and basically reads that Ahaz had been “unfaithful unfaithful” to the LORD. Repetition in the Bible is God’s way of emphasizing a particularly important point. We should all read this sad story and realize that God clearly distinguishes between straying and willful, intentional sin. Note that even after God took disciplinary actions against this willfully, sinful king, he “became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD” (v. 22).

**Prayer Emphasis:** Realize that we are all writing our “epitaphs” as we go about our daily living. **Strive to live** a life that will leave people to come to a definite conclusion that you were on the Lord’s side!

## Day 32: 2 Chronicles 29

*“Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old...And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD...” (2 Chronicles 29:1-2)*

### King Hezekiah

Hezekiah was a man totally different from his errant father. Verse three reads: “In the *first* year of his reign, in the *first* month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.” “He brought in the priests and the Levites...and said to them: ‘Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place” (vs. 4-5). Verse seven provides a clear indication that the temple had been shut down during the days of Ahaz. Verse eight concludes with a phrase that told the people that they could see how God had responded to their neglect with their own eyes. Hezekiah publicly expressed a desire to “make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel” in hopes that “His fierce wrath may turn away from” them (v. 10). The priest responded appropriately to Hezekiah’s call to action and “arose” (v. 12), “gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD” (v. 15). All this began on “the first day of the first month,” and “they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days” (v. 17). In their first service in the cleansed temple, “all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded” (v. 28). It must have been sweet music to God’s ears!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Note that verse 36 indicates that the repairs to the temple “took place so suddenly” because “God had prepared the people” for the work. **Ask** God to prepare you for a work in His house.

## Day 33: 2 Chronicles 30

*“And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah...that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 30:1)*

### A Written Invitation

Yesterday, we read where Hezekiah put a plan in place to restore the temple to working condition, and the people to a place of service. Then he sought to restore something that might be the most important thing to God. He tried to restore the relationship between Israel and Judah. Since Hezekiah mentioned “the remnant of you who have escaped from the hands of the kings of Assyria” (v. 6), we get the idea that part of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) had already gone into captivity prior to that time. “All Israel and Judah” (v. 1) had not worshiped together since the kingdoms were divided under Jeroboam and Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 10). Now, Hezekiah wanted all of God’s people to worship Him in the temple together. They “agreed to keep the Passover in the second month” (v. 2) because “they could not keep it at the regular time” (v. 3) due to the work on the temple and the consecration of the priests. In the Wilderness, God told them to keep the Passover “in the first month” of the year. However, if that were not possible, He gave them the freedom to move it to “the second month” (Numbers 9:1-11). Somebody had been reading their Bibles! Verse 26 says it all: “So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon...there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.” How pleased God must have been when the voices of His people were “heard; and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, to Heaven” (v. 27).

**Prayer Emphasis: Realize** that unity might be the best gift that we could give to God. **Reach** out to restore some broken relationship or **write** a personal invitation to church to someone that you know today.

## Day 34: 2 Chronicles 31

*“Now when all of this was finished...” (2 Chronicles 31:1)*

### Revival!

If we think God was pleased after Hezekiah and the people kept the Passover, how pleased do you think He might have been when they went out afterwards and “broke the sacred pillars in pieces, cut down the wooden images, and threw down the high places and the altars...until they had utterly destroyed them all”? Verse one of today’s reading tells us that is exactly what God’s people did after this long-awaited Passover celebration. The hearts of the people were so changed and on fire for God that “the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps” (v. 6). You might say that one of the results of the hearts of the people being “full” was that the area for their offerings was also “full.” Imagine Hezekiah’s amazement when after he “questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps” (v. 9), he was told by “the chief priests... ‘Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat *and have plenty left*’” (v. 10). (Sounds like the LORD had been breaking some “loaves and fishes” in the Old Testament!) Verse 21 provides a suggested epitaph for godly Hezekiah: “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.”

**Prayer Emphasis: Meditate** on two New Testament commands today: “You shall love the Lord your God *with all your heart*” (Matthew 22:37) and “Whatever you do, *do it heartily...*” (Colossians 3:23).

## Day 35: 2 Chronicles 32:1-19

*“After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.” (2 Chronicles 32:1)*

### *The Power of Words*

Among the “deeds of faithfulness” that are mentioned in our focus verse were the things that “Hezekiah did throughout all Judah” while he was doing “what was good and right and true before the LORD his God” (31:20). It should not surprise us in the least that during all the good things that Hezekiah and his people were doing, trouble came knocking at their door. “And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come...he consulted with his leaders and commanders” (vs. 2-3) and set in place the defensive strategies that are described in verses four through seven. After taking those defensive measures, King Hezekiah spoke to his people and encouraged them to “be strong and courageous” and to “not be afraid nor dismayed” (v. 7). He reminded the people of God that Sennacherib was coming against them with “an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” God then tells us that “the people were strengthened by the *words* of Hezekiah the king” (v. 8). Just as Hezekiah sought to use words to strengthen his people, Sennacherib sought to use them to discourage the people. At the king’s direction, his people “called out with a loud voice in Hebrew...to frighten them and trouble them” (v. 18). We can never underestimate the power of words. Here we have two men using words to bring about a desired response from the same people. You must only finish the chapter to see who won this “war of words.”

**Prayer Emphasis: Speak** a good, encouraging word to someone who may be “afraid or dismayed” today. Let them know that you are praying for them.

## Day 36: 2 Chronicles 32:20-33

*“Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to Heaven.” (2 Chronicles 32:20)*

### *The Power of Prayer*

Hezekiah wisely spoke to his people, encouraging them to trust God to help them in their time of need. However, he did not stop there. We are told that after speaking to the people, “King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah” then “prayed and cried out to heaven” (v. 20). Hezekiah was wise to bathe his words in prayer and to solicit the prophet Isaiah’s help in doing so. In response to the prayers of the prophet and king, “the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain...of the king of Assyria” and Sennacherib “returned shamefaced to his own land” where “some of his own offspring” killed him (v. 21). Verse 22 states: “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.” Not long thereafter, “Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD” (v.24). 2 Kings 20:1-11 tells us that God sent Isaiah the prophet to Hezekiah with a very solemn message: “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die.’” Upon hearing that sad news, Hezekiah “turned his face toward the wall, and prayed.” In response to that prayer, God stopped Isaiah as he left the palace and sent him back to Hezekiah with the message that he would “add...fifteen years” to his life.

**Prayer Emphasis: Note** the phrase “because of this” in our focus verse. Yesterday, and today, we saw where serious problems drove Hezekiah to prayer. **Believe** that something good can come from our trials.

## Day 37: 2 Chronicles 33

*“Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king...” (2 Chronicles 33:1)*

### *A Story of Repentance*

Manasseh’s “fifty-five years” (v. 1) was the longest reign of any king over Judah or Israel. It is sad to note that even though his father was a godly king, Manasseh “did evil in the sight of the LORD” (v. 2). Since Manasseh was only 12 years old when he became king, we must assume that his earliest actions were taken at the advisement of counselors. It is obvious that some of those advisors had not agreed with the godly path that King Hezekiah had chosen, because they immediately began to reverse some of the good things he had done. Under their influence and direction, Manasseh “rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down” and built “altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them” (v. 3). Through the evil actions that are described in verses three through seven, “Manasseh seduced Judah...to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before” them (v. 9). We are told that God first “spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen” (v. 10). So, God allowed the Assyrians to return to capture Manasseh and carry “him off to Babylon” (v. 11). In that time of “affliction,” Manasseh “humbled himself greatly...and prayed” to God (vs. 12-13). God restored Manasseh to his homeland, and he immediately began to reverse the evil actions that he had taken. Biblical repentance goes beyond simply no longer doing the wrong things and always results in returning to, or beginning to do, the right things.

**Prayer Emphasis:** When needed, **practice** true repentance by ceasing to do evil and setting out to do good instead. **Review** Ephesians 4:25-32 to see God’s description of true repentance.

## Day 38: 2 Chronicles 34

*“Josiah was eight years old when he became king...” (2 Chronicles 34:1)*

### *A Godly Teenager*

Since “Josiah was eight years old when he became king” (v. 1), and it was “in the eighth year of his reign” when “he began to seek the God of his father David” (v. 3), we can conclude that Josiah was 16 years old when he first began to seek God and 20 years old when “in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem” from idolatry (v. 3). This purging obviously took six years, for we are told that “in the eighteenth year of his reign...he had purged the land and the temple” and he began “to repair the house of the LORD his God” (v. 8). They provided money for the various workers (see verses 9-11), and those men “did the work faithfully” (v. 12). It was while cleaning and repairing the temple that “Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given by Moses” (v. 14). “Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan” and “Shaphan carried the book to the king” (vs. 15-16). When Shaphan read the book “before the king,” the king “heard the words of the Law” and “tore his clothes” (vs. 18-19). The tearing of one’s garment was a sign that his heart was “torn,” or breaking. Ultimately, God sent a message to this young king, saying, “because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words...I...have heard you” (v. 27). The closing verses find the king in “the house of the LORD” reading “the words of the Book of the Covenant” to his people (v. 30).

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** this saying: “The *Word* of God will do the *work* of God!” Amen!

## Day 39: 2 Chronicles 35

*“Now Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem...” (2 Chronicles 35:1)*

### *Josiah’s Great Passover*

The last Passover that was mentioned in 2 Chronicles was under Hezekiah (Chapter 30). The Passover that we read about today was held “on the fourteenth day of the first month” (v. 1), just as God had directed Moses in the Wilderness (Numbers 9:1-5). Although we are not told when, one of the ungodly kings prior to Josiah had obviously removed the ark from the temple because Josiah instructed the Levites to “Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built” (v. 3). He then directed the people to “prepare” themselves and to follow “the written instruction of David king of Israel and the written instruction of Solomon his son” (v. 4). Due in part to the generosity of the king and his leaders (see vs. 7-8), “the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their places, and the Levites in their divisions, according to the king’s command” (v. 10). The priests and the Levites “slaughtered” the sacrificial animals and “roasted the Passover offerings with fire according to the ordinance...and divided them quickly among all the lay people” (vs. 11-13). We know there had been a Passover kept under Hezekiah, but verse 18 states: “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.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** Note that this Passover was kept in “the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah” (v. 19) which was the same year that they found the “Book of the Law in the house of the LORD” (34:15).

## Day 40: 2 Chronicles 36

*“Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father’s place in Jerusalem.” (2 Chronicles 36:1)*

### *The Last Four Kings of Judah*

The beginning of the reign of Jehoahaz marked the beginning of the end of Judah. We have often read where one king died and his son reigned in his place. That was the way God designed it from the beginning. Yet, today, we read where “the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father’s place in Jerusalem” (v. 1). 1 Chronicles 3:15 clearly reveals that Jehoahaz was *not* the firstborn son of Josiah nor the rightful heir to the throne. So, we find the people wanting something different than what God had prescribed, and soon things were more different than they ever imagined! Not long after the people chose who they wanted over who God required, “the king of Egypt deposed” Jehoahaz and “made Jehoahaz’s brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem” (vs. 3-4). Verse five reports that “Jehoiakim...did evil in the sight of the LORD.” Soon, God allowed “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon” to come against Egypt’s puppet king, bind “him in bronze fetters,” and “carry him off to Babylon” (v. 6). After Jehoiakim’s departure, “Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place” and “did evil in the sight of the LORD” (vs. 8-9). After only “three months and ten days” (v.9), Nebuchadnezzar “took him to Babylon...and made Zedekiah” his brother “king over Judah and Jerusalem” (v. 10). Zedekiah refused to hear the message of Jeremiah “who spoke from the mouth of the LORD” (v. 12) and the rest of the story, you might say, is history.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Thank you for reading with us through 2 Chronicles. If we can minister to you, please contact me at [gary@seminolebc.com](mailto:gary@seminolebc.com) or call Seminole Baptist Church at 850-562-8069.