

2 CHRONICLES

31 2 Chronicles 1, 2, 3

Discuss 2 Chronicles 1:1-6... Solomon's Dedication at Gibeon

- 1:1 Opening verse on Solomon's action to increase "hold on kingdom" and the Lord's action to exalt him.
- God was with David; God's presence (Emmanuel) brings victory (1 Chronicles 11:9).
 - The determining factor (1 Chron 22:11) of Solomon's success would be the presence of the Lord. (Gen 39:21; 1 Sam 3:19, 16:18, 18:12, 14, 28).
- 1:2 These leaders of Israel had been convened by King David at the dedication of Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:1).
- This was unlike Rehoboam's introduction to Israel when he became King. (1 Kings 12)
- 1:3 Solomon went to Gibeon (5 miles northwest of Jerusalem) because Moses' tent of meeting had been set up there (1 Chron 16:39). When the Philistines returned the Ark (1 Samuel 4-5), it was consigned to Abinadab's home at Kiriath-jearim (1 Sam 7:1) in Gibeon (Joshua 9:17).
- The Tent of the Tabernacle that Moses had constructed in the wilderness had been moved to join the ark of the covenant in Gibeon (1 Chron 21:29).
 - When the ark was relocated to Jerusalem, David allowed the Tabernacle's altar to remain in Gibeon until he was judged by the angel of the Lord for wickedly taking a census (1 Chron 1:29).
 - The ark of the covenant was placed in a tent that David had prepared for it (2 Sam 6:17).
- 1:4 David had set another tent up in Jerusalem for the ark (which represents the Lord's presence). David had prepared the Tabernacle (the Tent) for the Ark of the Covenant, and the Lord would not allow David to construct the Temple. Sin offering had been sacrificed to the Lord every six (number of man/fallen nature of humanity) steps (2 Sam 6:13), so after this time of obedience, the sacrifices of dedication and fellowship with the Lord were enjoyed. (2 Sam 6:17).
- 1:5 The altar of burnt offering (Ex 27:1-8) and the Tabernacle materials had all been taken to Gibeon. Gibeon was within the Benjamite territory (Joshua 18:25) and had been given to the Levites (Josh 21:17). Saul, also being from Benjamin, had killed a number of the Gibeonites (2 Sam 21:1).
- 1:6 Solomon had gone up to the most famous high place at Gibeon ("hill city") for an extremely large sacrifice to the Lord.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 1:1, who exalted Solomon?**
 - **The Lord his God**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 1:3, where was the Tent of Meeting?**
 - **The High Place at Gibeon**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 1:6, how many burnt offerings were offered on the altar at Gibeon?**
 - **A thousand burnt offerings**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 1:7-12... Solomon Asks God for Wisdom

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 1:3**
- 1:7 After the worship and offering, God appeared to Solomon for input into what Solomon desired from God.
- 1:8 Solomon's response focused on what the Lord had already given
- 1:9 Solomon affirms that God's word has been fulfilled and that Solomon was reigning over people as numerous as the dust of the earth.
- 1:10 Solomon makes an unselfish request for wisdom to lead God's people. Solomon's father, David, had already stressed Solomon's need for wisdom; Solomon requested wisdom to lead God's people (1 Kings 3:7) because of David's influence (1 Chron 22:5, 12; 29:1).
- 1:11 God is pleased by the prayerful requests that were not made by Solomon: 1.Wealth 2.Revenge 3.Long Life. A Believer's prayer reveals his heart.
- 1:12 If one focuses on the Lord's work, God will provide other blessings as He sees fit.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 1:8, what was Solomon's initial response to God asking what He could give?**
 - **Solomon responded that god had already given so much.**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 1:10, why did Solomon ask for wisdom?**
 - **Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people**
 - **Solomon wanted to successfully complete the ministry that God had given to him**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 1:11, what was God grateful that Solomon did not request?**
 - **1.Wealth 2.Revenge 3.Long Life.**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 1:13-17... Solomon Accumulates Weapons and Wealth

- 1:13 After worshipping the Lord at Gibeon and dedicating his reign to the Lord, Solomon returned to Jerusalem to "go to work".
- 1:14 Solomon accumulated; this is a world of consumption (e.g. materialism; gluttony; addictions; travel; entertainment, hobbies, etc.), and the consumer is "owned" (commanded) by what is consumed. In Solomon's prosperity, he violated

God's guidelines on horses and weaponry (Deut. 17:16). David didn't use many horses in his warfare although Solomon increased the usage by importing horses.

1:15 Silver and cedar which were viewed as royal became common. (2 Chronicles 9:27)

1:16 Solomon's imported horses and wives/concubines were warned against in the Law (Deut 7:14-20). Israel had once been enslaved by Egypt; as Egypt represents the world, the consumption of Egypt's produce was another type of bondage.

1:17 Egyptian chariots and horses were imported at a cost. Chariots were only effective weapons in the lowland plains while most of the Israelites lived in the hill country. Israel used their supply chain agents to broker the sale of Egyptian chariots to the Hittites and Syria.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 1:15, what did Solomon make as plentiful as stones?**
 - **Solomon made gold and silver as plentiful as stones**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 1:16, where did Solomon import his horses?**
 - **Solomon imported horses from Egypt**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 2:1-10... Solomon's Preparation for the Temple

2:1 The Davidic covenant assured David of an heir who would build a house of God (1 Kings 5:5)

2:2 The rest of this chapter elaborates on the way Solomon assembled his mighty workforce (2 Chron 2:18). The effort was not performed out of Solomon's strength, but instead it was enabled by another King.

2:3 While David developed Jerusalem, King Hiram ("exalted birth/high born") sent craftsmen to build a house for David (2 Samuel 5:11). Hiram was an ally to David and Solomon in their building. Tyre may have been one of the earliest allies to recognize David as King; Tyre depended on merchants and inland trade routes for their wares from the sea faring vessels.

- Tyre ("a rock") was a Phoenician center of commerce with artisans and trade routes for supplies and riches (1 Kings 9:26; 2 Chron 8:17).

2:4 Solomon listed three reasons for constructing the Temple: 1.Incense (prayer) 2.Displaying the Bread of Presence 3.Sacrifices

2:5 The greatness of Solomon's Temple was meant to exemplify the greatness of Yahweh over all false gods. (1 Chron 16:25)

2:6 Temple cannot contain fullness of God (2 Chron 6:18)

2:7 Solomon requested a cross-functional skilled man with the ability to work with a variety of materials.

2:8 The cedars of Lebanon are mentioned 103 times in Scripture (Ps 92:12; 104:16). Sidon was the Phoenician "sister city" of Tyre that constructed boats and houses of wood (1 Kings 5:6).

2:9 Solomon requested abundant cedar for the "great and wonderful" house.

2:10 The Phoenicians were dependent on inland harvests since there was no land for crops on the coastland.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 2:3, who provided Solomon with cedars?**
 - **King Hiram of Tyre**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 2:6, what will Solomon's Temple not be able to do?**
 - **Not even the highest heavens can contain God**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 2:11-18... Hiram, King of Tyre, Assists with the Temple

2:11 The purpose of God's blessings on the lives of His people are to result in the world praising Him when they witness His work in His people. (1 Kings 10:9)

2:12 Tyre's King praises Solomon as having evident wisdom from the beginning

2:13 As Hiram praises Solomon's wisdom, he also states that he is sending a craftsman with understanding.

2:14 Hiram ("high life") is the name of a skilled craftsman as well as Tyre's King providing resources (1 Kings 7:13-14).

- The real name of the craftsman "Hiram" is Hiram-abi (2 Chronicles 2:7, 13-14).
- Hiram's mother was Jewish while his father was Phoenician; Hiram probably learned his trade from his father.

2:15 The payment for the service consisted of four elements: 1.wheat 2. barley 3.oil 4.wine

2:16 The logs would float down the Mediterranean coastline (75 miles from Tyre to Joppa – 2 Chronicles 2:16), and then the logs would be moved overland from Joppa to Jerusalem (30 miles) – 1 Kings 5:9

2:17 Solomon's father, David, had taken a census for reasons displeasing to God (1 Chron 21:1; 2 Sam 24:1); however, the census provided the number of foreigners living in Israel (153,600).

2:18 Solomon used a little over half of the foreign labor to quarry the stone for Solomon's Temple.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 2:14, who were the parents of Hiram the craftsman?**
 - **Hiram's mother was Jewish while his father was Phoenician; Hiram probably learned his trade from his father.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 2:17, what good came from David's census?**
 - **Solomon understood the amount of workforce to construct the Temple**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 3:1-9... Solomon's Construction of the Temple

- Chapters 3-4 cover the design of Solomon's Temple. The designs of the earthly Temple were meant to reflect the Heavenly Temple (Is 6:1-6; Hab 2:20; Rev 11:19, 15:5), but it was temporal as it would be destroyed by king Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25:8-17) approximately four centuries later because of idolatrous practices (Ezekiel 8-10).
- 3:1 Solomon built at the threshing floor of wheat where God's judgment had been curtailed (2 Sam 24:24; 1 Chron 21:24). Mt. Moriah ("bitterness of the Lord") was also the location that Abraham had offered his son, Isaac as a sacrifice (Gen 22:2).
- 3:2 The construction of the Temple begins 480 years after Israel left Egypt. Many people use this verse to estimate the date of the Exodus since we know that construction began the fourth year of Solomon's reign. (1 Kings 6:1)
- 3:3 The Temple (60x20 cubits or 90x30 feet) was twice the width (1 Kings 6:2) and thrice the length of the Tabernacle. Indeed the size (20x10 cubits or 30x15 feet) of the Tabernacle (Ex 26:16-25; 36:20-30) could have fit inside of the Temple's Most Holy Place (20x20 cubits or 30x30 feet). The Temple's Holy of Holies was exactly twice the size of the Tabernacle's Holy of Holies (15x15 feet).
- 3:4 The Temple's measurements were a little more than double that of the wilderness Tabernacle. The Temple was a symbol of long-term endurance while the Tabernacle represented walking with the Lord in obedience.
- The building was 60 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high.
 - The cubit measurement was from the top of the middle finger to the elbow which could equate to three different measurements:
 - 17.6" - A Standard Cubit
 - 20.9" - The Royal Cubit (probably the basis of Temple measurements)
 - 21.6" - The Long Cubit
- 3:5 The Temple had been built from sturdy acacia wood (Ex 26:15, 26; 36:20, 31) that would last through the wilderness while the Temple was constructed from cypress (fir) wood (Hosea 14:8; Ps 104:17; Is 41:9; Zech 11:2; Nahum 2:3). Either way, the wood represented Jesus' humanity (the Branch - Is 11:1-4, 53:1-2; Zech 6:12-14; Rom 6:9; 1 Tim 6:13-16) while the overlaid gold represented His deity. The palm tree represents righteousness (Ps 92:12-13). While chains were used as a designation of importance (Daniel 5:7, 16, 29), they also show how we are to bind ourselves to righteousness (Prov 1:9; SoS 1:10; Ez 16:8-11)
- 3:6 "Paravaim" is only used once in Scripture to represent the place where David obtained gold for the Temple. Paravaim means "east" possibly referring to the Orient. In a similar fashion, the wise men from the east also brought gold to the child Jesus.
- 3:7 Cherubim were carved into the walls and woven into the fabric of the veil (2 Chron 3:14). In the same way, angels are a key component of creation (Eph 6:12; Heb 13:2; 1 Pet 1:12; 1 Cor 4:9; Jn 1:51; Mt 18:10 → Col 2:18)
- 3:8 The holy of holies was a perfect square of 20 cubits (long/wide/high) and covered with gold.
- 3:9 Each nail of gold weighed two pounds apiece.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 3:1, where was Ornan's threshing floor?**
 - **On Mount Moriah**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 3:4, what were the dimensions of the holy of holies?**
 - **20 cubits long and wide**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 3:5, how was the room decorated?**
 - **Palm trees and chains**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 3:10-14... The Cherubim in the Holy of Holies

- 3:10 The number "two" represents "witness". The angels were placed beside each other facing the doorway.
- Instead of cedar wood, olive wood was used to create two large angelic figures. (Hosea 14:6)
 - Olive lumber is very strong, but it is highly sensitive to outside elements and insect attacks. Because of this, it is typically used for indoor furniture. Since it has lower durability and resistance to elements, it is not utilized for flooring, paneling or structural construction. It is, however, well-known visually for its texture, grain and fruity scent.
 - Cherubim were guards (Genesis 3:24), and God spoke with Moses between the cherubim (Exodus 25:22)
- 3:11 The wings of the cherubim covered the entire Holy of Holies (30 feet).
- 3:12 The cherubim (angels) were placed beside each other facing the doorway.
- 3:13 The cherubim were as high as they were wide. (ten cubits) - 1 Kings 6:26
- 3:14 There were images of cherubim all around including the veil of blue/purple/red and white. The yarn of the veil (Ex 25:4) was colored blue ("heavens"), purple ("royalty"), scarlet ("blood payment") and white linen ("purity"). The colors might represent the four gospels:
- Matthew - Purple - Royalty
 - Mark - White - Purity
 - Luke - Red - Sacrifice
 - John - Blue - Deity
- **According to 2 Chronicles 3:10, what did Solomon set up in the Holy Place?**

- **Two sculpted cherubim of gold**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 3:15-17... The Pillars of Jachin and Boaz

3:15 Each of the pillars was 20' in circumference and over 29' tall. (1 Kings 7:15)

3:16 Seven chains latticed the top of each pillar (1 Kings 7:17-18). The pomegranates showed the fruitfulness God's will and strength can produce. Many ancient cultures associated pomegranates with fruitfulness/fertility because of the many succulent seeds and the ease at which their roots take to the soil resulting in rapid growth.

3:17 Pillars in the Vestibule called Jachin ("he will establish" on right) and Boaz ("in him is strength" on left); Pillars symbolized a memorial and a gateway; symbolized Jesus' two natures (righteousness & strength) topped by crowns and bodies of brass/bronze; reminder & witness (2) to priests that it is God who establishes and provides strength. (1 Kings 7:21)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 3:16, what were the designs on the pillars?**
 - **Chains and Pomegranates**
 - **Chains were a common thread inside with the palm trees and outside with the pomegranates**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 3:17, what were the names of the pillars?**
 - **Jachin ("he will establish" on right) and Boaz ("in him is strength" on left)**

JUNE

1 2 Chronicles 4, 5, 6

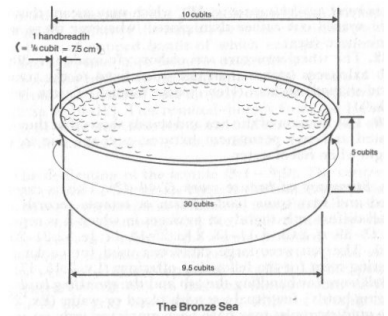
Discuss 2 Chronicles 4:1... The Altar of Brass

4:1 The altar was as large (30'x30') as the Temple's Holy of Holies (2 Chron 3:8) and larger than the Tabernacle (30'x15'). The Temple's altar was four times the size of the Tabernacle's (7 ½ by 7 ½ feet) altar (Ex 27:1-8, 38:1-7). The height of the altar was equal to the width of the altar for the Tabernacle, and stairs must have led up to the elevated (15' high) structure.

Discuss 2 Chronicles 4:2-5... The Temple Laver

4:2 This reservoir (molten sea - 2 Chron 4:2-6) was cuplike with a brim like a flower (1 Kings 7:26).

- In contrast to the square altar (definitive beginning and end of sin), this basin was round symbolizing the eternal purity of believers (Titus 3:5; Eph 5:25-32).
 - Unlike the Tabernacle's laver which had no measurements, the Temple's laver was 15 feet across (1 Kings 7:23).
- In regards to early trigonometry, Pi (3.142), is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.
 - In other words, divide the distance around the edge of a circle by its diameter and you always get the same or "constant" number - pi.
- The circular basin built for Solomon's Temple measured "ten cubits from rim to rim and thirty cubits around it," a cubit being about 17.5 inches (or ~44.45 cm).
 - The basin contained between 2000 baths (when in use) and 3000 baths (when filled to brim – 2 Chron 4:5), which equates to 11,000 gallons of water (1 Kings 7:26)



4:3-4 The laver was placed on the backs of 12 oxen with three facing in each of the four directions. Oxen represent God's people as workers/servants.

4:5 But beyond the whole number 3, the "handbreadth in thickness" and "rim" that turned out "like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom" in 1 Kings 7:24-26 accounts for the decimal places (.142) as a "handbreadth" (or palm) was one-sixth of a cubit. "Handbreadth" also highlights the use of the "Hand" which Scripturally represents the action of "doing" something.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 4:2, what was the shape of the laver?**
 - **In contrast to the square altar (definitive beginning and end of sin), this basin was round symbolizing the eternal purity of believers (Titus 3:5; Eph 5:25-32).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 4:4, what was the laver placed upon?**
 - **The laver was placed on the backs of 12 oxen with three facing in each of the four directions. Oxen represent God's people as workers/servants.**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 4:6-8... The Ten Lavenders, Candlesticks and Tables of the Temple

4:6 While the Priests would wash in the Laver for ministry (Eph 5:26-27; Titus 3:5), the ten basins were used to clean the animals to be sacrificed.

- 4:7 The ten (two rows of five) oil lamps lit the sanctuary. While there had been only one Menorah and one Shewbread Table in the Tabernacle (as to the single person of Christ), the Tabernacle incorporated ten as the extended body of the church is included. The Menorahs consisted of pure gold (1 Chron 28:15) according to its pattern (Ex 25:31-40; Lev 24:1-4) and lit the Temple as the church is to shine the light into the world (Mt 5:14; Jn 1:1-5, 9; 8:12; 1 Jn 1:5-7).
- 4:8 The ten tables (Ex 25:30; 1 Kings 7:48; 1 Chron 28:16) each contained twelve loaves of Shewbread were offerings to God of Jesus body (Jn 6:33) given in service to the Lord as is every believer (1 Cor 10:16-17). There were also a number of dishes for each table, and the smallest detail of utensil and dish to manage the bread was gold (Ex 37:16, Num 4:7).

Discuss 2 Chronicles 4:9-18... The Brass Utensils & Courts Outside the Temple

- 4:10 Just as Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, so too was the laver located on the right – to the southeast. There is much symbolism of Jesus’ coming from the east (Mt 2:2, 9; 24:27)
- 4:11 Hiram from Tyre (2 Chron 2:13) had led the effort, and now completed his task with three implements/tools for the management of the sacrifices.

Establishing the Temple		
1.	Foundation of the Temple	2 Chron 3:3
2.	The Portico	2 Chron 3:4
3.	The Holy Place	2 Chron 3:5-7
4.	The Holy of Holies	2 Chron 3:8-14
5.	The Bronze Pillars	2 Chron 3:15-17
6.	The Altar	2 Chron 4:1
7.	The Laver	2 Chron 4:2-5
8.	Ten Basins	2 Chron 4:6
9.	Ten Lampstands	2 Chron 4:7
10.	Ten Shewbread Tables	2 Chron 4:8
11.	Courtyards	2 Chron 4:9-10
12.	Sacrifice Tools	2 Chron 4:11

- 4:12 The pillars in the vestibule were called Jachin (“he will establish”) on the right and Boaz (“in him is strength”) on the left. Pillars symbolized a memorial and a gateway reflecting two characteristics of Christ Jesus the Lord (righteousness & strength) topped by crowns (1 Kings 7:17-19) and bodies of brass/bronze (1 Kings 7:16; Rev 1:15). The two (witness) pillars were a reminder that it is God who establishes and provides strength and support.
- 4:13 In Scripture, the pomegranate is symbolic of the testimony to righteousness; while the actual number of seeds vary, Jewish tradition is that the typical pomegranate has 613 seeds corresponding to the 613 commandments (mitzvot) of the Torah/Pentateuch. Four is the scriptural symbol of testing, so 400 is testing to an extended degree which produces the fruit of righteousness.
- 4:15 Scripture uses oxen to represent God’s servants which began with His select people (twelve tribes of Israel) to the Lord Jesus’ twelve apostles who went out in each direction (east, south, west, north) to carry the good news (only one sea) of His cleansing to the world.
- 4:16 All of these objects used outside of the Temple building consisted of polished bronze attributed to the Gentile Hiram while the articles within the building were made of gold attributed to Solomon (2 Chron 4:19-22).

Discuss 2 Chronicles 4:19-22... The Golden Utensils Inside the Temple

- 4:19 Everything inside the Temple of God was made by Solomon
- 4:21 Only the purest gold was utilized

Items of Gold in the Temple	
1.	Golden Altar (Incense)
2.	Tables of Showbread
3.	Lampstands
4.	Flowers
5.	Lamps
6.	Tongs of Gold
7.	Snuffers
8.	Bowls
9.	Spoons
10.	Firepans
11.	The Entrance of the House
12.	Inner Doors to the Holy of Holies
13.	The Doors of the House

Discuss 2 Chronicles 5:1-10... The Ark is Placed in the Temple’s Holy of Holies

- 5:1 After completion of construction, Solomon brought in all of the silver and gold furnishings that David had dedicated to the Lord. (1 Kings 7:51)
- 5:2 Zion (meaning “fortification”) is defined as Jerusalem. The first mention of “Zion” is in 2 Samuel 5:7, and it is used over 150 time in Scripture.
- 5:3 In the seventh (seven equates to complete satisfaction) month, the ark was transferred into the Holy of Holies. The Jews utilized two calendars – one Religious beginning in Nisan (April/May) and the other Civil beginning in Tishri (October); upon the Exodus from Egypt, the religious calendar was primarily used, and the ark was moved in the September/October time frame (1 Kings 8:1-10). During the Feast of Tabernacles, the ark was moved into the Temple (Ex 23:16; Lev 23:39; Deut. 16:13)
- 5:4 The respected elders of the nation joined with the Levites in the progression of the ark.
- 5:5 Three categories of items were moved to the Temple: 1.The Ark 2.The Tent of Meeting 3.The Holy Utensils
- 5:6 As the ark was moved (representing God’s presence), continual sacrifice was also occurring.
- 5:7 The priests placed the ark of the covenant under the wings of the cherubim.
- 5:8 The two cherubim statues along the back wall hovered over the ark of the covenant with their wings.
- 5:9 The length of the poles reflects the respect that was given to the holiness of the ark.
- 5:10 The only items in the ark were the two tablets (1 Kings 8:9). Symbolically, the two missing items had been given in response to Israel’s complaints – the Manna for provision (Ex 16:32-34) and Aaron’s rod for authority (Num 17:10) were both fulfilled with the first coming of Jesus. The one remaining item (the Law – Rom 3:20, 5:20) confirms the fallen nature of mankind which will not be purged until the Lord Jesus reigns in His Kingdom forever. Since anyone who touched the ark or looked inside died (1 Sam 6:19, 1 Chron 13:10), the articles were placed beside the ark. The jar of manna (Ex 16:32-34), Aaron’s rod (Num 17:10), and Moses' Book of the Law (Deut 31:26) that was later discovered by Hilkiah/Josiah (2 Kings 22:8, 2 Chron 34:14-15), but the three elements were at some point in the ark (Heb 9:4). When the Philistines captured the ark, had they symbolically removed the signs of sustenance and Lordship? (1 Sam 4:10-11)

Articles inside the Ark (Hebrews 9:4)					
1.	Tablets of the Law		Ex 25:16-17; Dt 10:5; 31:26	God’s Law (<i>The Way</i>)	Lord (<i>King</i>)
2.	Golden Pot of Manna		Ex 16:32-34; Num 17:10	God’s Bread (<i>The Truth</i>)	Provider (<i>Prophet</i>)
3.	Aaron’s Rod that had Budded		Ex 16:32-34; Num 17:10	God’s Rod (<i>The Life</i>)	Guide (<i>Priest</i>)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 5:2, how was Jerusalem referenced?**
 - **The city of David & Zion**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 5:6, how many sheep and oxen were sacrificed?**
 - **So many that they could not be counted**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 5:8, what did the wings of the cherubim cover in the holy of holies?**
 - **The ark of the covenant and the poles**
 - **The poles were used for service, and God covered that service as much as the articles in the ark.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 5:9, what in the holy of holies could be viewed from the holy place?**
 - **The poles could be viewed**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 5:11-14...God’s Glory Fills the Temple

- 5:11 Regardless of their calling, those anointed for purpose of the Lord sanctified themselves as holy unto His service.
- 5:12 There were three Levitical singers: Asaph (“collector”), Heman (“faithful”) and Jeduthun (“perpetual praise”). They were dressed in fine linen (represents “purity”).
- Another 120 priests also blew trumpets; factors of 12 often represent “organizational witness” in Scripture.
- 5:13 “*God is good, For His mercy endures forever*”
- 5:14 The Shekinah Glory Cloud filled Temple (Ex 40:34, Lev 16:2, 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chron 7:1-2)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 5:12, how many lead Levitical singers were there, and how many trumpeters?**
 - **Three singers (the number “three” often represents “revelation”)**
 - **120 trumpeters (factors of “12” often represent “organizational witness”)**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 5:13, what is everlasting?**
 - **God’s loving kindness and mercy.**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 6:1-11... Solomon’s Dedication of the Temple

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 8:12-21**
- 6:1 The presence of the Lord descended into the Temple (2 Chronicles 5:14). God would dwell in the “dark” cloud (Ps 18:15). God led His people in the Exodus in a cloud (Ex 13:21-22; Num 9:15-23; 10:11-36) and descended on Mt. Sinai in a cloud (Ex 24:16-18). A cloud engulfed the tent of meeting when Moses spoke with God (Ex 40:34-38).

- 6:2 The presence of the Lord would be above the mercy seat where the sacrificial blood was placed on the Day of Atonement each year (Ex 25:22; Lev 16:2).
- 6:3-4 The king “blessed” Israel by “blessing” the Lord; when the Lord is praised, blessing follows.
- 6:5 It is emphasized in this passage that no ruler was chosen to be prince over God’s people until David.
- 6:6 Predestination. God’s choice of place and person – Jerusalem and David.
- 6:7 The desire to construct the Temple was not from David’s mind or imagination; the desire came from David’s heart as an act of love for God.
- 6:8-9 God recognizes/blesses motive to do right. God would have David’s son fulfill what was in David’s heart (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
- 6:10 The name of the Lord refers to the essence of Who He is (1 Kings 2:12). People began calling on the name of the Lord (Gen 4:26).
- 6:11 The focus of Chronicles is towards the covenant with the children of Israel unlike the earlier passage concentrating on the forefathers in the exodus from Egypt (1 Kings 8:21).

Discuss 2 Chronicles 6:12-21... Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication – God’s Grace

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 8:22-30**

- 6:12 As Solomon began to pray to the Lord, he stood lifting his hands towards heaven.
- 6:13 Solomon spoke and prayed from a bronze (strength/judgment) platform that was the same size (7 ½ by 7 ½ feet) as the Tabernacle’s altar (Ex 27:1-8, 38:1-7) This platform may have been positioned by the pillars and utilized by the Kings throughout Israel’s history (2 Kings 11:14, 23:3; 2 Chronicles 34:31)
- 6:14 The opening of Solomon’s prayer was that God is uniquely exalted. Yahweh singularly covenants with His people and shows His love to those who wholeheartedly walk before God.
- 6:15 God had fulfilled His vow to David that his son would rise up as King of Israel and construct the House of God. (2 Samuel 7:12)
- 6:16 Solomon understands the condition set before him to keep God’s law and walk before the Lord/
- 6:17 The word of God is confirmed by His faithfulness and the witness of His people.
- 6:18 Temple cannot contain fullness of God (2 Chron 2:5-6)
- 6:19 While acknowledging that God had covenanted with his father, Solomon requested that God hear his prayer; Solomon refers to himself as God’s servant.
- 6:20 Solomon requests that God continually looks to the Temple as a place where His name dwells, and that He hears the prayers that are offered towards His earthly presence (2 Chron 6:29, 32). Jesus Christ incarnate would become God’s earthly presence and all prayers in His name are heard by the Lord. (Daniel 6:10; Ez 21:2)
- 6:21 Prayer of “Hear in Heaven, where You live, and when You hear, forgive” (1 Kings 8:30, 34, 36, 39; 2 Chronicles 6:21, 25, 27, 30, 39 → 2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 6:12, what was Solomon’s posture the beginning of his public prayer?**
 - Solomon stood lifting his hands towards heaven.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 6:13, where did the King stand when offering public prayer?**
 - Solomon spoke and prayed from a bronze (strength/judgment) platform that was the same size (7 ½ by 7 ½ feet) as the Tabernacle’s altar (Ex 27:1-8, 38:1-7)
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 6:16, what can the Temple not do?**
 - Contain the sovereign God
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 6:20, what prayers did Solomon request that God hear?**
 - Solomon requests that God hear the prayers that are offered towards His earthly presence

Discuss 2 Chronicles 6:22-42... Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication – God’s Mercy

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 8:31-53**

- 6:22-23 God is asked to hold those accountable who sin against others (Romans 12:19).
- 6:24-25 If God’s people fail and fall because of their sin, but they repent and turn to the Lord, God is asked to forgive them.
- 6:26-27 A curse from God is drought and no rain (Deut 10:11-17); Lev 26:3-4; Dt 28:1-2; Jer 14:22; Ps 72:6; Heb 6:7-8; Hos 6:3; Ez 20:15, 22:24; Deut 6:5). When God’s people recognize the judgment and repent, God is asked to forgive them and send rain.
- 6:28-30 If famine or pestilence occurs in the land, God is asked to respond favorably when His people seek Him for relief.
- 6:31 Answered prayer results in the recognition and fear of the Lord
- 6:32-33 When a Gentile and foreigner recognizes Yahweh as the one and only God, God is asked to answer the prayer of the Gentile as a testimony to the Lord.
- 6:34-35 When God’s people are fighting God’s battles and following God’s calling, God is asked to meet their needs. (2 Chronicles 20:9)
- 6:36 Every man has sinned. (Romans 3:23)
- 6:37 Repentance is a practical result of reflection about one’s fallen state
- 6:38 Reflection of one’s fallen spiritual state that results in a fallen material state, should lead a turn to the Lord with all of the heart and soul.

- 6:39 God I asked to forgive and support those who repent.
 6:40 Again, Solomon asks for the Lord to hear the prayers from the Temple.
 6:41-42 Close of the prayer to the Lord referencing His covering of salvation (Is 61:10; Eph 6:14-17; Zech 3:4)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 6:36, who has sinned?**
 - Every man has sinned
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 6:39, what is Solomon's request to God?**
 - That God will hear the prayers and forgive the sin

2 2 Chronicles 7, 8, 9

Discuss 2 Chronicles 7:1-3... The Shekinah Glory

- 7:1 Three events occurred after Solomon's prayer: 1.Fire descended from heaven 2.Fire consumed the burnt offering (Acts 2:3; Exodus 3:2; Lev 9:24; Judges 6:21; 1 Kings 18:38; 1 Chron 21:26) 3.The Shekinah Glory filled the Temple
 7:2 The Temple could only be filled with God's Glory (Ex 40:34, Lev 16:2, 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chron 5:13) and would not be shared with the priests.
 7:3 All of the Israelites witnessed the Shekinah Glory and reacted in the same way, they fell on their faces (Lev 9:24; Ez 1:28; Dan 8:17; Mt 17:5-6; Rev 7:11, 11:16). The focus of praise at this dedication was not the Temple (e.g. how beautiful the building was), but instead at God's righteousness and faithful love. This is the second (witness) time the words were recorded in Scripture (2 Chron 5:13).
- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:2, why could the priests not enter the Temple?**
 - Because the glory of God filled the Temple
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 7:3, what was the response of those who witnessed God's presence?**
 - God is truly good with eternal love and kindness

Discuss 2 Chronicles 7:4-7... Sacrifices are Offered

- 7:4-5 Dedication entails sacrifice to the Lord.
 7:6 As the priests were standing, so was the congregation of the people; they were not being entertained, but instead joining in the worship of God and praise for His eternal faithfulness.
 7:7 Because the newly constructed altar could not satisfy the abundant sacrifices, the entire courtyard was set apart for the numerous three offerings: 1.burnt 2.grain 3.fellowship
- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:6, what was the posture of the Israelites during the worship of the Lord?**
 - All of Israel was standing
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 7:7, what sacrifices were offered to the Lord during the dedication of the Temple?**
 - The three freewill offerings: 1.burnt 2.grain 3.fellowship

Discuss 2 Chronicles 7:8-10... The Feast of Dedication

- 7:8 The first week commemorated the Temple.
 7:9 The second week was a dedication of the altar.
 7:10 The reason that the Israelites were happy was because of the goodness of God towards David, Solomon and the Israelites.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:10, what was the attitude of the Israelites after the dedication of the Temple?**
 - The reason that the Israelites were happy was because of the goodness of God towards David, Solomon and the Israelites

Discuss 2 Chronicles 7:11-22... God's Promise and Warning

- 7:11 Solomon accomplished all that came into his heart with success as a blessing from the Lord.
 7:12 The Lord appears to Solomon amidst his success to remind him of the importance of obedience.
 7:13 God is open to repentance when God judges His people in any of three ways: 1.drought from God stopping rain 2.loss of land/assets from God commanding locusts to devour 3.Chronic death from God sending pestilence (plague, usually of deadly sickness)
 7:14 *"My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*
 7:17 Three mandatory actions of God's People: Walk, Do, Keep
 7:18 The royal lineage will be passed from father to son through the generations if God's Word is obeyed.
 7:19 God specifically warns against worshipping false gods.
 7:20 The punishment for idolatry would be exile. The northern kingdom was exiled to Assyria in 722BC; the southern kingdom was exiled to Babylon in 586BC. The Emperor Vespasian destroyed the Temple in 70AD, and then Emperor Hadrian exiled the remainder of the Jews in the worldwide diaspora after the Bar-Kokhba revolt in 135AD.
 7:21 Because of Israel's idolatry, they became a testimony of the wrath of God.

7:22 Throughout the history of the world, anti-Semitism has been unparalleled to any other bigotry and hatred (1 Kings 9:7).

- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:17, what did Israel need to do to maintain God's blessing?**
 - **Walk before the Lord obediently keeping His word.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:20, what was the punishment of walking away from the Lord?**
 - **Exile**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 8:1-6... Solomon's Buildings

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 8:1-6**

8:1 Solomon constructed his palace for 13 years (1 Kings 7:1) and the House of the Lord for 7 years (1 Kings 6:38).

8:2 The cities that Solomon had initially given to Hiram were returned (1 Kings 9:11-13); these cities were on the hills, so they would have made poor farmland which is what King Hiram desired.

8:3 Hamath-zobah means the "heat/wall of an army".

8:4 Tadmor (modern day Palmyra) was located north of Damascus as defense against northern invaders.

8:5 Solomon fortified Beth-horon ("House of wrath") was on the border of Ephraim and Benjamin (2 Chron 8:5; Joshua 16:3).

8:6 Baalath ("rejoicing; our proud lord") was located in Dan as defense against northern invaders.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 8:1, how long did Solomon construct his palace and the Temple?**
 - **20 years**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 8:7-11... Foreigners and Israelites

8:7-8 Although God had told Israel to rid the "promised land" of all foreigners (Deut 7:1-6, 20:10-16), five surrounding nations (Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites) were allowed to remain as slave labor.

8:9 God's people were not slaves to the King, but instead prepared for battle (Eph 6:12).

8:10 Solomon organized a government of 250 leaders to rule over Israel.

8:11 When Solomon made the alliance with the worldly Pharaoh of Egypt, Solomon understood that his wife was not holy to God. Solomon built a place to her as he had built a house to the Lord, and while intellectually he understood the disconnect, he made alternatives without being fully faithful to the Lord (1 Kings 11:1-8).

- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:20, had Israel obediently eradicated all outside influences in the promised land?**
 - **No, they tolerated the idolatry of other nations until they were seduced into it**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 7:11, why did Solomon not allow the Pharaoh's daughter in the house of David?**
 - **Solomon understood that his wife was not holy to God.**
 - **Solomon built a place to her as he had built a house to the Lord, and while intellectually he understood the disconnect, he made alternatives without being fully faithful to the Lord (1 Kings 11:1-8).**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 8:12-13... Solomon's Annual Sacrifices

8:12 Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings habitually; burnt offerings were intended as a sign of whole-hearted commitment which Solomon lost over time.

8:13 Solomon met the three requirements of: 1.Sabbaths 2.New Moons 3.Annual Feasts. Solomon met the "appointed time" (Hebrew - Mow'ed) requirement of the three annual (Jerusalem) feasts: Unleavened Bread, Weeks, Tabernacles (Ex 23:15-16)

Discuss 2 Chronicles 8:14-16... Priests and Levites are Appointed

8:14 Solomon ensured the three services established by his father (the man of God), David: 1.Service of Priests 2.Responsibilities of Levites 3.Command of Gatekeepers

8:15 The Levites faithfully fulfilled their responsibilities each day.

8:16 Not only was the structural Temple established, but also the on-going practices.

Discuss 2 Chronicles 8:17-18... Gold from Ophir

8:17-18 Solomon was obtaining wealth overseas while Scripturally, the "sea" often represents the world (especially the Gentile world). Ezion-geber ("the wood of the man" which topographically references the head of a mountain extending as a peninsula into the sea) and Eloth ("grove of trees") which was a coastal city of Edom (Esau's heritage).

Discuss 2 Chronicles 9:1-12... The Queen of Sheba Visits King Solomon

9:1 Queen of Sheba (Mt 12:42) was ruler of the area around Ethiopia; she is known to Ethiopians as Makeda although she remains unnamed in Scripture. Ethiopian legend also states that Solomon seduced the Queen of Sheba and together had a son, Menelik I who would return (with a reproduction of the ark) to Ethiopia as the first Emperor of Ethiopia. Just like the wise men, the queen bore three gifts of: 1.spices 2.gold 3.precious stones.

9:2 Just as any Gentile being drawn to Jesus, the Believer bares his soul to the King and is answered accordingly.

Seven Items of The King took the Queen's Breath Away

(1 Kings 10:4-5 & 2 Chronicles 9:3-4)		
1.	Wisdom	2 Sam 14:20; 1 Kings 3:28; Job 12:13; Dan 2:20
2.	Palace	Ps 11:4, 45:6, 47:8
3.	Food at His Table	Mt 8:11; Lk 22:30
4.	His Servants Residence	Jn 14:2-3
5.	Attendant's Service & Clothing	Is 61:10; Zech 3:1-5
6.	His Cupbearers	Gen 40:21; Neh 1:11; Mt 20:22-23; Mk 10:39; 1 Cor 10:16
7.	The Burnt Offerings	Gen 8:20, 22:2-8; Lev 1:10

9:5-6 As with any testimony, it piques an interest to learn more personally, but the recipients (e.g. congregation) must individually pursue the truth for themselves.

9:7 The servants of God live joyfully in the light (insight) of His Word (Ps 89:15).

9:8 Indeed, Jesus was sent as the Messiah to rule over God's people because He loved them so much.

9:9 The three items that the queen brought are mentioned again: 1.gold 2.spices 3.precious stones

9:10-11 Beyond her gifts, Hiram's servants brought algum wood that was made into walkways. The wood was sought from Lebanon (2 Chron 2:9). Josephus compared algum to the fir tree except algum is whiter with a brighter shine.

9:12 The King gave his visitor all that she desired (Jn 11:22; 1 Jn 3:22; 2 Thes 1:10-11; 1 Cor 12:31, 14:1).

- **According to 2 Chronicles 9:1, why did the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon?**
 - She wanted to test the King with difficult questions
- **According to 2 Chronicles 9:6, had the Queen of Sheba believed the testimonies about the King?**
 - She did not believe the testimonies until she visited Him personally
- **According to 2 Chronicles 9:8, who did the Queen of Sheba praise?**
 - She praised Yahweh
 - Solomon's wisdom was meant to bring glory to the Lord

Discuss 2 Chronicles 9:13-24... King Solomon's Wealth & Lavish Royalty

9:13 The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold; this is the only use of 666 until the number of man is applied as the mark of the beast (Rev 13:18). Solomon did not need this gold, but levied it anyway. Solomon's wealth became a distraction to his walk with the Lord.

9:15-16 Large shields (defense) of hammered (beaten/maltreated) gold (deity) with 200 (witness) large shields and 300 (revelation/perfection) small shields (Ps 47:9, 115:9).

9:17 The ivory (pure and strong) covered by pure gold (deity)

9:18 The throne had six (number of man; dissatisfied) steps with two (witness) lions (strength) standing beside each armrest.

9:19 Twelve (witness) lions (strength) representing the tribes lined the sides of the steps. The Queen of Sheba gave 120 talents of gold (1 Ki 10:10) just like Hiram (1 Ki 9:14); the height of the Temple vestibule was 120 cubits (2 Chron 3:4) and 120 Priests sounded the trumpets (2 Chron 5:1-12)

9:20 Silver (redemption) was accounted as nothing in those days (1 Ki 10:21, 27). Solomon drank from pure gold goblets and used golden utensils.

<p>Jubilee periods were 50-year duration. The symbolism of the 120's may indicate the period allotted for the earth lease: 120 X 50 = 6,000 years</p>		
<p>Solomon's Temple may offer insight to a later Temple. (1) The Temple was 120 cubits high. (2) 120 priests blowing trumpets (2 Chron 5:12) (3) The Queen of Sheba gave Solomon 120 talents of gold (2 Chron 9:9).</p>	<p>Solomon's Reign is Symbolic of the Millennium 120 Jubilees</p>	<p>Israel's Jubilee celebration (Lev 25) was filled with end-time typology: (1) It began with a "trumpet" sound. (2) It was a proclamation of liberty throughout the land. (3) It was a holy time of rest (4) It meant the return of possessions to the rightful owner</p>
<p>Genesis 6:3 states that man's "days shall be limited to 120 years" which refers to the full limit of man's cell duplication capability. This 120 may also refer to the full limit of mankind's capability to duplicate itself - 120 Jubilees or 6,000 years.</p>		

9:23 God had put King Solomon's wisdom in his heart (1 Ki 10:24)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 9:13, what is a sign that Solomon was beginning to move away from the Lord?**
 - The annual weight of gold that Solomon taxed = 666 talents
 - This is one of the few times in Scripture that the "number of man" (666) is identified in Scripture (1 Kings 10:14; 2 Chronicles 9:13; Ezra 2:13).
 - God warns against Kings amassing immense wealth (Deut. 17:17)

- **This is likened to 25 tons of gold annually. The fact that it came in annually bears the resemblance of a tribute.**
- **As David is a type of Christ in Scripture, Solomon as a prosperous self-made man (depending on forced labor) might represent the anti-Christ.**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 9:25-28... Solomon's Horses

9:25 In Solomon's prosperity, he violated God's guidelines on horses and weaponry (Deut. 17:16). David didn't use many horses in his warfare although Solomon increased the usage by importing horses. (1 Kings 4:26).

9:26 Solomon reigned from the Euphrates to Egypt.

9:27 Silver and cedar which were viewed as royal became common. (2 Chronicles 1:15)

9:28 Solomon imported horses, wives and false gods – everything that the Lord warned against (Deut 17)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 9:25, what did King Solomon collect?**
 - **Solomon imported horses (1 Ki 10:28) & loved many foreign women (1 Ki 11:1) which was against the law on the King's behavior (Deut 17:14-20).**

Discuss 2 Chronicles 9:29-31... The Conclusion of Solomon's Reign

9:29 Solomon's biography had been documented in three ways:

- by the records of Nathan the prophet
- by the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite
- by the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat

9:30 Solomon reigned 40 years over Israel as did Saul (Acts 13:21) and David (1 Kings 2:11) before him.

9:31 Rehoboam became King upon the death of Solomon.

3 2 Chronicles 10, 11, 12

Discuss 2 Chronicles 10:1-11... Israel Requests Leniency of New King Rehoboam

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 12**

10:1 Shechem (Gn 12:67; Joshua 24:19-25) – Rehoboam went to Shechem to be made King, but Jeroboam ended up ruling (1 Ki 12:25); Shechem ("shoulder") in Samaria stood in the narrow sheltered valley between Ebal ("stony") on the north and Gerizim ("rocky") on the south, these mountains at their base being only some 500 yards apart; along this line runs the great road which from time immemorial has formed the easiest and the quickest means of communication between the East of the Jordan and the Mediterranean sea. Deut 27:11-13 Joshua made covenant between 2 representative mountains: Mt Gerizim is blessing and Altar on Mt Ebal where curse is delivered

- Shechem was the locations that:
 - The Lord had told Abram that He would give Abram's descendants this land (Genesis 12:6-7)
 - Jacob's daughter, Dinah, was raped (Genesis 34)
 - Joseph was sold into slavery (Genesis 37:12-14)
 - Was in between Mt. Gerizim (blessing) and Mt. Ebal (curse) – Deut. 11:26-29; Joshua 8:30-35
 - Israel rededicated to their covenant before Joshua's death (Joshua 24)
- Mt Gerizim - being higher than most mountain peaks in Israel, and rises to 2849 feet above sea level, some 228 feet shorter than Mount Ebal; it continues to be the centre of Samaritan religion to this day, and over 90% of the worldwide population of Samaritans lives in very close proximity to Gerizim. According to classical rabbinical sources, in order to convert to Judaism, a Samaritan must first and foremost renounce any belief in the sanctity of Mount Gerizim

10:2-3 Israel summoned Jeroboam from his hiding in Egypt. Jeroboam had been a labor leader over the house of Ephraim (1 Kings 11:28), and they called for him to return from Egypt and negotiate lighter workloads for the people of Israel.

10:4 The yoke of the Father had been difficult which symbolizes the yoke of the Law itself. The northern tribes agreed to serve Rehoboam if he would lighten their workload. The northern tribes had been included to work alongside of the forced labor (1 Kings 5:13-17). Unlike Rehoboam, the yoke of the Son (the Lord Jesus) is easy (Mt 11:29-30), but Israel still did not submit.

10:5 On the third day, the answer (the truth of Rehoboam's heart) would be revealed.

10:6 Rehoboam does not go to the Lord in prayer, but instead goes directly to fellow man. The elders counselled rehoboam to be a servant leader; if he would serve his people then they would serve him.

- Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king over Israel (1 Kings 14:21; 2 Chronicles 12:13)

10:8 Rehoboam rejected elder advice for poor peer prattle. Unlike his father, Solomon, Rehoboam thought that he was capable in his judgment.

10:9 Unlike the term "me" used with the elders, Solomon used the term "we" with his young friends.

10:10 Rehoboam disrespects his father, Solomon. The manner in which one treats authority could give insight into the inclination of a person towards God.

10:11 Rehoboam threatens to make the conditions worse for the people of Israel.

- According to 2 Chronicles 10:5, how long before Israel heard Rehoboam’s response?
 - On the third day, the answer (the truth of Rehoboam’s heart) would be revealed.
- According to 2 Chronicles 10:6, who did Rehoboam not ask for advice?
 - Rehoboam does not go to the Lord in prayer, but instead goes directly to fellow man.
- According to 2 Chronicles 10:11, how does Rehoboam differ from David and Solomon in becoming King?
 - David accepted the coronation humbly
 - Solomon asked God for wisdom
 - Rehoboam (at 41 years of age – 1 Kings 14:21) rejected elder advice for poor peer prattle.
 - Unlike his father, Solomon, Rehoboam thought that he was capable in his judgment.
- In 2 Chronicles 10:6, Solomon asked the elders how they would advise “me”; how is this pronoun changed in 2 Chronicles 10:9 when dealing with Rehoboam’s friends?
 - Unlike the term “me” used with the elders, Solomon used the term “we” with his young friends.
- Explain 2 Chronicles 10:10
 - Rehoboam disrespects his father, Solomon. The manner in which one treats authority could give insight into the inclination of a person towards God.
- What does 2 Chronicles 10:7 reveal about leadership?
 - If you serve the people you command, you will have their hearts

Discuss 2 Chronicles 10:12-19... Jeroboam Leads Israel in Revolt against King Rehoboam

10:12 Jeroboam led the northern kingdom back to Rehoboam on the third day as agreed,

10:13 Scripture explicitly states that Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders.

10:14 Rehoboam restated the harsh words that had impressed his young friends (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19).

10:15 God brought the downfall of Rehoboam and the fulfillment of His word (1 Kings 11:31).

10:16 Israel claimed to have no part of David’s household (this was true even to the point of Jesus); Israel rightfully said that David (David’s lineage) must consider his own house – David’s house had severely waned from his son to his grandson.

10:17 Rehoboam maintained control over Judah

10:18 Rehoboam sent Hadoram (“exalted” Called also Adoram (2 Samuel 20:24) and Adoniram (1 Kings 4:6). to collect revenue, but Israel stoned him. What message was being made that the leader of forced labor had come to communicate? Adoram was only mentioned in Scripture twice (2 Sam 20:24).

10:19 Even today, Israel is in rebellion against Jesus Christ from the house of David (Mt 1:1; Lk 18:38; 2 Tim 2:8; Rev 22:16).

- According to 2 Chronicles 10:14, did Rehoboam tell Israel everything that his peers recommended?
 - No, Rehoboam leaves out the crass comparison to the size of his finger. (2 Chronicles 10:10)
- According to 2 Chronicles 10:15, why did the King not listen to the people’s request?
 - God brought the downfall of Rehoboam and the fulfillment of His word (1 Kings 11:31).
- According to 2 Chronicles 10:17, which part of Israel did Rehoboam maintain control over?
 - Rehoboam maintained control over Judah
- Being the politically inept, Rehoboam did not send a sympathetic ambassador to Israel; what message was being made that the leader of forced labor had come to communicate?
 - Rehoboam considered Israel forced labor instead of family.
 - Adoram was only mentioned in Scripture twice (2 Sam 20:24).
- Explain 2 Chronicles 10:19
 - Israel rejected Jesus’ kingdom because they would not listen to him

Read 2 Chronicles 11:1-12...Rehoboam Reigns and Continues Construction in Judah

- Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 12:21

11:1 The tribe of Benjamin joined Judah in fighting Jeroboam. The ancestor of Benjamin would have been the same as Ephraim (Joseph).

11:2 Word of the Lord came to Shemaiah (“Jehovah hears” a name that is frequently given to priests, Levites and prophets - 2 Chronicles 11:2; 2 Chronicles 17:8; 2 Chronicles 31:15; 2 Chronicles 35:9; Jeremiah 26:20; Jeremiah 29:24; Jeremiah 36:12) saying not to fight Israel

11:3-4 Surprisingly, Judah listened to the Lord, and for the next three centuries they followed the Lord at intervals while the Northern Kingdom rejected the Lord altogether.

- While Israel had returned to their “tents” (2 Chronicles 10:16), Judah was called to return to their “houses” (this might have been part of the problem and the economic division.
- Even in the time of Christ, Judah was the wealthy community while Galilee consisted of the poor and working class.

11:5 Rehoboam began to fortify Judah against an ongoing war with the northern kingdom.

Rehoboam’s Fortified Cities of Judah & Benjamin
(2 Chronicles 11:6-10)

	City	Meaning	Direction
1.	Bethlehem	“House of Bread”	5 miles south of Jerusalem
2.	Etam	“Their bird/covering”	West of Bethlehem
3.	Tekoa	“Trumpet blast”	Southeast of Jerusalem
4.	Beth-zur	“House of rock”	West of Tekoa
5.	Soco	“Thorn”	West of Beth-zur
6.	Adullam	“Refuge”	West of Soco
7.	Gath	“Wine Press”	West of Adullam
8.	Mareshah	“Crest of a hill”	South of Soco
9.	Ziph	“Mouthful falsehood”	West of Mareshah
10.	Adoraim	“The Lord is my God”	West of Ziph
11.	Lachish	“Invincible/Obstinate/Hard to Capture”	Next to Adoraim
12.	Azekah	“To dig into soil to prepare for planting”	North of Lachish
13.	Zorah	“Obscure”	North of Lachish
14.	Aijalon	“Deer place”	North of Zorah
15.	Hebron	“Association/Friend”	25 miles South of Jerusalem

11:11 Rehoboam staffed the fortified cities with military commanders as well as provisions.

11:12 Beyond developing these cities into fortifications, Rehoboam also provided weapons of shields and spears for each city.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 11:5, how did Rehoboam invest his energy?**
 - Like his father, Solomon - instead of pursuing battles, Rehoboam fortified his own position;
 - He did not squander the time relaxing, but prepared his towns for future onslaught.
 - Believers should not become complacent during periods of calm, but instead should build up their faith and walk with the Lord.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 11:11, what supplies did Rehoboam stock the fortifications with?**
 - Bread, Oil and Wine
 - Believers should establish their local areas (e.g. households, communities, etc) with established Christians steeped in the supply of
 - Bread (Jesus’ Body),
 - Oil (Holy Spirit)
 - Wine (Christ’s blood)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 11:12, what weapons did Rehoboam stock in each fortified city?**
 - Shields and spears in each city made the individual groupings of the people of God independently strong.

Read 2 Chronicles 11:13-17...The Priests and Levites follow Rehoboam

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 12:25-33**

11:13 The priests and the Levites remained committed to Rehoboam and David’s kingly line.

11:14 The priests and the Levites from the territory of the northern kingdom had to leave their homes and travel south to Jerusalem because Jeroboam would not let them serve Yahweh.

11:15 Beyond the two golden calves (1 Kings 12:28-29), Jeroboam set up goats as demons to be worshipped.

- Jeroboam made two (witness) golden (royal) calves (young servants) as false gods that led Israel away from the one true god.
- Jeroboam attempted to create truth by telling Israel that his idols led them out of Egypt, but truth stands apart from man’s claims.
- Idols established from the South in Bethel (southern tip of Ephraim) to the North in Dan. The Tribe of Dan blasphemes the Name (Lev 24:10-12, Dt 29:18-21), and there is no tribe of Dan represented in heaven (Rev 7:5-8).

11:16 Beyond the Levites and priests, every tribe of Israel that sincerely followed Yahweh and “*sought the God of Israel*” followed them to Jerusalem.

11:17 Rehoboam followed Yahweh faithfully for three years, but in the fourth year, he fell away to unfaithful practices for several years while Shishak led the Egyptian army to defeat him before he turned back to the Lord (2 Chronicles 12:9-14).. Rehoboam reigned for 17 years in total (1 Kings 14:21).

- **According to 2 Chronicles 11:13-14, how does this passage reflect on the commitment of the Priests and Levites?**
 - Godly Priests and Levites left all of their earthly possessions to follow the true King and serve the true Lord.

- Civil authority was given all of the earthly possessions (Mt 22:21), but they could not compel the service that was due the Lord.
- According to 2 Chronicles 11:15, what did Jeroboam do?
 - Jeroboam established a false religion that was more convenient for the Israelites to follow.
 - Other men have also established their own religions:
 - Joseph Smith – Founded Mormonism
 - Charles Russell – Jehovah’s Witnesses
 - Mohammed – Islam
 - Siddhartha Gautama – Buddhism
 - Lao-tzu - Taoism
 - Catholicism with the icons and the dubious list of Popes
 - Protestants even treat their order of service or dress codes as mandatory
 - Believers are continually being seduced away from God’s Word to a more convenient or formalized form of worship, and in the end times, many pseudo-Christians will fall away (Rev 13:13-14).
- According to 2 Chronicles 11:16, which of Israel’s tribes were represented at worship in Jerusalem?
 - The godly Israelites from any of the tribes followed the example of the spiritual leaders who left Jeroboam and came to Jerusalem to offer the true sacrifice according to the Lord’s guidelines.
- According to 2 Chronicles 11:17, how long did Rehoboam remain faithful to Yahweh?
 - After three years, Rehoboam led Israel in unfaithful pursuits
 - The Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak attacked Rehoboam in the 5th year as a judgment of Rehoboam’s unfaithful walk (2 Chronicles 12:2)

Read 2 Chronicles 11:18-23...Rehoboam solidifies Royal Davidic Lineage as King

11:18 It is thought that Jerimoth (“elevated/exalted”) was the son of David’s concubine since he is not listed among David’s legitimate sons (1 Chronicles 3:1-8; 1 Chronicles 14:4-7); however, a son could have multiple names or the list of sons could have simply been the firstborn with Jerimoth coming later. Most likely, Abihail was Eliab’s “grand-daughter” instead of “daughter” (1 Samuel 16:6; 1 Samuel 17:13; 1 Chronicles 2:13)

Seven of Rehoboam’s Twenty-Eight Sons (2 Chronicles 11:19-20)		
Son	Meaning	Mother
1. Jeush	“He protects/comes to help”	Mahalath (“Lyre”)
2. Shemariah	“Protected by God”	Mahalath (“Lyre”)
3. Zaham	“To be foul/loathesome”	Mahalath (“Lyre”)
4. Abijah	“The Lord is my God”	Maacah (“Oppression/Depression”)
5. Attai	“Timely”	Maacah (“Oppression/Depression”)
6. Ziza	“Splendor/abundance”	Maacah (“Oppression/Depression”)
7. Shelomith	“Peaceful/Complete”	Maacah (“Oppression/Depression”)
Rehoboam married 18 wives as well as 60 concubines. Rehoboam fathered 28 sons and 60 daughters. (2 Chronicles 11:21)		

11:21 Rehoboam loved Maacah, the daughter of Absalom more than all of the others. Her name meant depression, and her father (his uncle Absalom) had failed a coup of David’s throne. She may have been a more thoughtful, reflective beauty (2 Samuel 14:25)

11:22 Because of Rehoboam’s love for Maacah, Rehoboam elevated her firstborn above all other brothers with the ambition of making Abijah king.

11:23 Scripture commends Rehoboam for wisely quelling the competition for the throne by moving the brothers apart and satisfying their desires with food and women. Often parents unwisely encourage their children to compete against each other which results in broken relationships.

- According to 2 Chronicles 11:21, what is similar between Rehoboam’s concubines and daughters?
 - There were 60 concubines and 60 daughters. They may have been a distraction from the Lord
 - Rehoboam had some measure of godliness as he was blessed with 28 sons (4x7), but the women in his life seemed to also distract him from 18 (3x6) wives to 60 concubines and 60 daughters. While seven represents completeness, six represents the incomplete number of man.
- According to 2 Chronicles 11:22, why did Rehoboam promote Abijah to chief leader?
 - Abijah was the son of Maachah, and Rehoboam loved Maachah (the granddaughter of Absalom) more than other wives
- According to 2 Chronicles 11:23, what action did Scripture commend as Rehoboam showing wisdom?
 - He wisely dispersed his sons to regions so as not to conflict with Maachah’s son Abijah
 - Rehoboam satisfied the desires of his sons with food and women.
 - It would also be a defense against local uprisings

Read 2 Chronicles 12:1-4.... Rehoboam Abandons the Law Resulting in Egypt Invasion

12:1 The result of God's blessing on Rehoboam was unfaithfulness. Rehoboam worshipped Baal and Asherim on the hilltops while introducing male cult prostitutes into Judah (1 Kings 14:22-24).

12:2 God used Egypt as judgment on Judah for turning to idolatry

12:3 Egyptians joined with the "Lubims" from Libya and the Sukkims who inhabited caves on the western coast of the Red Sea.

12:4 Rehoboam had constructed 15 fortified cities that were defeated by the Egyptian forces (2 Chronicles 11:6-10)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:1, when did Rehoboam abandon the law of the Lord?**
 - **When Rehoboam was established, he didn't feel that he needed the Lord anymore and rejected His Lordship.**
 - **Success often results in falling away from God (1 Cor 10:12),**
 - **Believers would do much better walking in continual faith regardless of circumstances.**
 - **Shishak ("present of the thigh" – Gen 32:32), the Egyptian king, had provided sanctuary for Jeroboam in flight from Solomon (1 Kings 11:40) and was now used as punishment for Judah's unfaithfulness.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:3, of what did the Egyptian forces consist?**
 - **Egyptians joined with the "Lubims" from Libya and the Sukkims who inhabited caves on the western coast of the Red Sea.**
 - **Six, the incomplete number of man, is represented in the Pharaoh's battalion with 1,200 (2x6) chariots and 60,000 cavalrymen. Although Rehoboam's father, Solomon had been friends with Ethiopia, they (Cushites) also were in the attack.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:4, did Egypt defeat all of Judah?**
 - **Great success was given to the Egypt onslaught up to the point of Jerusalem. This is often the case with tests and trials that they extend up until the very last instant before the Lord intervenes.**

Read 2 Chronicles 12:5-12... The Prophet Shemaiah Explains God's Judgment

12:5 Shemaiah ("heard of Jehovah") was a prophet who came to Rehoboam and Judah's elders as they hid in Jerusalem; Shemaiah told them that the attack by Shishak was in direct relation to their disobedience.

- **Judah had forsaken the Lord, so He had forsaken them (1 Chronicles 15:2)**

12:6 The response of King Rehoboam and the Princes of Judah was humility; they understood that the Lord was righteous and just in His discipline.

12:7 God responds to the humility of King Rehoboam and the Princes of Judah, so He delivered Jerusalem from Shishak.

12:8 Just as God had contrasted service to Kings to service to Himself (1 Samuel 8:10-18) – God now contrasted slavery to Himself in comparison to slavery of other kingdoms (Mt 6:24).

12:9 Shishak pillaged the House of God as well as the King's Palace. All that David had accumulated and all that Solomon had decorated was now lost to Egypt. Israel had plundered Egypt at the Exodus (Ex 12:36), and now the other way around.

12:10 Rehoboam would replace the golden shields with shields of bronze (symbolizing judgment).

12:11 The guard would only present the bronze shields during the presence of the King.

12:12 Because of Rehoboam's humble response, God did not destroy him and Judah actually had good days post-Shishak.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:5, who was Shemaiah?**
 - **Shemaiah, the prophet, explains the reason for the suffering – that the Lord abandoned Judah just as they had abandoned Him (2 Chron 15:2)**
 - **Shemaiah had been the man of God who had stopped Rehoboam from attacking Jeroboam**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:6, how did the elders respond to Shemaiah's message?**
 - **The response by the elders was good that the Lord is righteous and His ways are always correct.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:7-8, how did God respond to Jerusalem's humility?**
 - **God accepted Judah's repentance, and let them remain in the land that He had given them...He gave a "little deliverance"**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:8, what did God want Judah to understand?**
 - **God also made Judah serve Egypt to understand the difference between following the Lord alone versus serving the kings of this world.**
 - **There continue to be many kings (e.g. occupations, hobbies, habits, addictions, etc.) vying for servitude by Believers.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:9-11, what replaced the gold shields?**
 - **Brass.... Rehoboam's shields of gold (symbolic of God's protection and glory) were taken to Egypt (the world) and replaced with brass replicas (symbols of God's judgment)**
 - **The shields (protection) was no longer found in the Temple of the Lord, but instead Rehoboam trusted in his own strength and guards.**

- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:12, what elements of mercy and grace are extended by God?**
 - **Humility saved Rehoboam from destruction. Believers should still come before the Lord humbly.**

Read 2 Chronicles 12:13-16...The Death of King Rehoboam

12:13 Rehoboam's mother was from the Ammonite tribe. Rehoboam was King over Judah from the age of 41 until the age of 58 years old.

12:14 The reason that Rehoboam did evil was because he did not purposefully seek the Lord.

12:15 The "works" of Rehoboam was captured by Shemaiah the prophet and Iddo the Seer. Rehoboam continued to struggle against Jeroboam.

12:16 Abijah took over as King just as Rehoboam had planned.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:13, what tribe was Rehoboam's mother from?**
 - **Naamah ("pleasant/delightful") was an Ammonite from Lot's youngest daughter (Gen 19:38)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:14, why did Rehoboam fall into evil?**
 - **He did not set his heart to seek the Lord (Mt 6:33; 7:7-8)**
 - **Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became King, but he had not "prepared his heart" (2 Chron 20:33)**
 - **Believers must determine in their hearts to seek the Lord**
 - **Believers should stop and commit their lives to the Lord – whatever He wants, whenever, wherever.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:15, who did Rehoboam fight his whole life?**
 - **Jeroboam and Rehoboam fought all of their days**

4 2 Chronicles 13, 14, 15, 16

Read 2 Chronicles 13:1-9...War between Israel (Jeroboam) and Judah (Abijah)

- **In chapters 13 (Abijah) -14 (Asa) God helps those who are outnumbered**

13:1 In the book of 2 King, the installment of a new King was often measured by another King who was already ruling.

13:2 King Jeroboam of Israel had rebelled from King Rehoboam of Judah, and after Rehoboam's death, Jeroboam would continue to strive against his son, Abijah.

13:3 The size of Jeroboam's army was twice the size of the army of Abijah.

13:4 The southern kingdom must have pushed into the territory of the north since Mount Zemaraim ("wool") is in the territory of Ephraim (Joshua 18:22). Abijah, King of Judah, calls out to Jeroboam's king and all of Israel.

13:5 King Abijah reminds Israel that God gave the royal line to David's family in a salt covenant. A covenant of salt occurred when two Jewish men traded a pinch of salt between their two pouches; the thought was that it would be easier and more preferable to pick out the original pinch of salt than to break the agreement.

13:6 King Abijah reminds Jeroboam that he rebelled against the royal lineage of David and Solomon.

13:7 Abijah describes his father as being too "young and timid" to quell Jeroboam's rebellion.

13:8 King Abijah refers to David's lineage as the Kingdom of the Lord. Abijah calls out Jeroboam's vast army and idolatrous calves that Jeroboam had made to be worshipped instead of Yahweh.

13:9 Abijah stated that Jeroboam had also rejected the Levitical lineage of Aaron. Jeroboam allowed anyone who gave the correct offering to become a priest; priesthood could be purchased; however, it was not a priesthood of the true God.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:3, what was the size of Jeroboam's army relative to Abijah's army?**
 - **Jeroboam's 800,000 compared to Abijah's 400,000**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:5, what kind of covenant was used by God when establishing David's royal lineage?**
 - **Abijah reminds Israel that God gave kingship to David and lineage.**
 - **What God has declared should not be put aside for man's efforts and pursuits.**
 - **The Tradition of the "Covenant of Salt" still exists today (Num 18:19).**
 - **Salt was emblematic of permanence or loyalty as it was used for preservation.**
 - **Salt was also used to ratify covenants;**
 - **When a pact, promise, or contract was made, the men from each of the participating parties would intermingle the salt from their own pouches with the salt from the pouches of the other party.**
 - **This reminded the men that they could not retrieve their own salt from the other pouch, symbolizing the fact that they could not go back on their word.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:7, who does Abijah blame for Jeroboam usurping the Northern Kingdom?**
 - **Worthless and wicked companions (they are always available to rebel against the Lord).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:8, did worthless and wicked companions cause the division of Israel?**
 - **Yes, but they were the companions of Rehoboam**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 12:8, how did King Abijah reference the lineage of David?**
 - **The Kingdom of the Lord**

- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:8-9, what was wrong with the religion that Jeroboam invented?**
 - **Jeroboam called the two golden calves of Ephraim and Bethel gods (2 Chronicles 12:8)**
 - **Jeroboam banished the Lord's priests**
 - **Jeroboam allowed anyone into the ministry to serve whatever gods they wanted**
 - **Jeroboam had quickly turned from the true God to false manmade practices which Jeroboam equated to religion;**
 - **even today, the world views religions as being the same without understanding that an actual true God created this world for His glory alone.**

2 Chronicles 13:10-22...Judah Calls Out to God and Has Victory

13:10 King Abijah states that Judah had remained faithful to the one true God and to the Levitical priests that He established.

13:11 The Levitical service showed daily faithfulness burnt offerings (representing dedication) and incense (representing prayer).

13:12 King Abijah urged Israel not to fight against Yahweh.

13:13 Jeroboam, King of Israel, had planned an ambush behind Judah's army.

13:14 Judah saw that they were being ambushed, and they took the wisest action – they cried to the Lord while the Levitical priests blew trumpets.

13:15 When Judah yelled out a war cry, God won the victory over Israel.

13:16 Israel fled, and God gave the victory to Judah.

13:17 Judah killed most of Israel's army.

13:18 Judah believed the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Solomon. They trusted God and conquered their enemies.

13:19 As Abijah pursued Jeroboam, the army of Judah captured three cities from Israel: Bethel ("house of God"), Jeshanah ("old/storage") and Ephron ("fertile/productive").

13:20 Jeroboam never recovered from the defeat to Abijah because the Lord struck him.

13:21 When Abijah became powerful, he married 14 women and had 22 sons and 16 daughters.

13:22 Iddo captured the actions and the quotes of King Abijah.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:13-14, what did Jeroboam do while Abijah was sermonizing?**
 - **While Abijah was sermonizing, they had become surrounded by Jeroboam's Israelites**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:13, what was Judah's response to being surrounded? 2 Chronicles 13:14**
 - **They cried out to the Lord, but then the Priests sounded the trumpets and Judah's prayer turned into a battle cry.**
 - **Immediately, Judah's men shouted in astonishment but God struck Jeroboam and his army**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:16, had Abijah's sermon deterred Israel?**
 - **The Israelite army was not deterred by Abijah's sermon, but they did "repent" of their attack based on fear.**
 - **So often, the world does not hear the message, but instead they look for ways to attack the messenger.**
 - **Half a million men from the northern kingdom died because of their rebellion against the Lord. 2 Chronicles 13:17**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 13:18, why did Judah prevail?**
 - **Judah prevailed because it relied on the God of their fathers**
 - **Jeroboam had tried to reign with his own power, but the Lord struck him down. Self-effort is no substitute for the Lord's power. The other account gives Jeroboam's death from a human perspective (1 Kings 14:20)**

Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-7...Asa Cleans House (Spiritually)

14:1 Asa became King when his father Abijah passed away. There was peace in Judah for ten years.

14:2 "*Asa did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God.*"

14:3 Asa removed the high places and the Asherah poles.

14:4 Asa commanded Judah's faithful obedience to Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

14:5 God gave Judah peace as Asa removed the high places.

14:6 Asa built up the fortified cities again, but the Lord gave Asa rest because of his obedience. Asa habitually relied on his own strength instead of the Lord; instead of enjoying the rest that God gave him, Asa continued to strive to protect through material means.

14:7 Asa understood and attributed the peace of their times to the Lord as a blessing for Judah's obedience.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 14:2, was Asa a good or evil King?**
 - **Asa became King after Abijah, and did what was good and God gave him rest (14:6-7)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 14:4, what did King Asa tell the people of Judah to do?**
 - **Seek the Lord and Obey**
- **How does 2 Chronicles 14:3, 5 symbolize cleaning house?**

- Judah’s kings who were described as good and right had the characteristic of “cleaning house” spiritually.
- Believers should also get rid of ungodly influences (e.g. TV, hobbies, etc.)
- If Asa got rid of the high places (2 Chronicles 14:3-5), how is this reconciled with 1 Kings 15:14?
 - It would be easier if 2 Chronicles said that Asa did not get rid of the high places.....actually 2 Chronicles did say that Asa did not get rid of the high places (2 Chronicles 15:17)
 - Although Asa got rid of the high places in Judah, he did not get rid of the high places in Israel.
 - Asa was expected to get rid of all the areas that he was polluting.
- According to 2 Chronicles 14:6-7, how did Asa achieve peace on every side?
 - The Lord can provide rest and peace for His people.
 - Asa correctly attributed the peace to the Lord.

Read 2 Chronicles 14:8-15...Asa Depends on God and Triumphs against Cush

14:8 The two tribes of Judah and Benjamin fought for the southern kingdom. The army of Judah was only slightly larger than the army from Benjamin.

14:9 Zerah the Ethiopian is considered to be Usarken (Osorkon) II who was the third king of Egypt after Shishak. Zerah led his vast army against the border of Judah at Mareshah (2 Chronicles 11:8).

14:10 King Asa brought Judah’s army out to the valley of Zephathah.

14:11 Asa understands that his army is weak compared to the enemy. Asa implores God to act for His name’s sake. “*Lord, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.*”

14:12 In a single verse, the Lord defeats a massive invading army at the request of His people.

14:13 Beyond defeating the Egyptian army, the army of Judah pushed them back beyond the Philistine city of Gerar (Gen 20:1) and plundered spoils of war.

14:14 The fear of the Lord’s power had incapacitated the Philistine territory around Gerar making them defenseless.

14:15 Beyond wealth, Judah also plundered livestock with sheep and camels.

- According to 2 Chronicles 14:8-9, how did the size of the army of Zerah compare to the size of Asa’s army?
 - Although both were sizeable armies, Zerah’s army was roughly twice the size of Asa’s army.
 - The vast Cush army numbered approximately 1 million warriors
 - 580,000 for Judah (300,000) and Benjamin (280,000)
 - Judah’s army fought with spears
 - Benjamin focus on archery.
- According to 2 Chronicles 14:9, why would Zerah’s army have the strategic advantage in the Valley of Zephathah (“to behold / beacon / watchtower”)?
 - The valley facilitated the use of chariots
- According to 2 Chronicles 14:11, who was Asa’s secret weapon?
 - Asa relies on the Lord and cries out to Him as the only source of salvation
 - God struck the Ethiopian army, and they fled before Asa 2 Chron 14:12
 - Gerar (“region”) was in the south part of the Philistine territory (south of Gaza), so the surrounding towns would have been Philistine.

Read 2 Chronicles 15:1-7...Azariah Explains God’s Guidance to Judah’s King Asa

15:1 After Asa’s victory over Zerah’s army, the Spirit of God came up Azariah (“helped by God”).

15:2 Beyond Asa, Azariah also spoke to all of Judah and Benjamin. “*The Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.*” (Mt 7:7-8; Lk 11:9-10; Ps 14:2; 27:8; 40:16; Jer 29:13; Acts 15:16-17; Heb 11:6; Is 55:6-7; Hos 10:12; Zeph 2:3)

15:3 The reference to Israel could refer to the unified kingdom under Rehoboam or the northern kingdom under Jeroboam. Israel had fallen away from three facets of truth: 1.they were without the true God/Yahweh 2.they were without teaching priests 3.they were without God’s Word/law

15:4 Although they had no knowledge, they knew enough to turn to God in their distress, and as they sought God as a refuge, He revealed Himself to them.

15:5 The motivating distress was based in a society of unrest without peace.

15:6 God was the source of the trouble for society as He judged their sin.

15:7 Azariah encouraged Asa to continue following the Lord in strength and courage. Serving the Lord has its own reward.

- According to 2 Chronicles 15:1. how did Azariah receive God’s message?
 - The Spirit of God came upon Azariah (“he that hears the Lord”) the son of Obed and he spoke to Asa
 - The Spirit of God has also been given to all believers (Romans 8:11)
- According to 2 Chronicles 15:2, what is the prevailing Message for God’s People in the Old Testament?

- *“The LORD is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you abandon Him, He will abandon you.” (2 Chron 12:5)*
- **What three treasures had Judah lost? 2 Chronicles 15:3**

The Ungodly Nation (Israel) had Lost Three Treasures (2 Chronicles 15:3)				
		Characteristics of an Idolatrous Society	Attributes of Jesus	
1.	The True God	Covetousness & Adultery	Jesus was God Incarnate	Jn 5:18, 23, 39-40; 10:33; 20:28; Col 2:8-9; Tit 2:13; 1 Tim 3:16; Rom 9:5; Acts 20:28; Philippians 2:5-6
2.	A Teaching Priest	Unscriptural Beliefs, Opinions, Personal Experience	Jesus was the Great High Priest	Heb 5:5-6; 7-8; Rom 8:34; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Pet 2:5
3.	The Law of the Lord	Situational Ethics; abandon God’s Law, Lordship and call for Purity	Jesus Fulfilled the Law of the Lord	Mt 5:17-18; Jn 19:6-7; Lk 24:44;

- **According to 2 Chronicles 15:4, when did Judah find God?**
 - **When they sought God, they found Him (Mt 6:33)**
 - **Only in distress, did Judah care enough to seek the Lord**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 15:5-6, why were the people troubled in their daily activities?**
 - **God brought every discouragement on His people**
 - **God’s people were more focused on their daily activities than on a pleasing walk that glorified the Lord.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 15:7, what guidance was given to Judah?**
 - **Believers must be strong and not become discouraged because following God has its reward**

Read 2 Chronicles 15:8-19...Asa Recommits to a Covenant of Seeking the Lord

- 15:8 Azariah’s words were an encouragement to the King to wholeheartedly get rid of all of the sin in his life and territory. Asa had conquered Philistine lands in the south and pushed into the northern kingdom, so Azariah’s words encouraged Asa not to be tolerant of idolatry.
- 15:9 Inhabitants of the northern kingdom began defecting to King Asa of the southern kingdom of Judah because they understood that God was with him.
- 15:10 In the same year as Asa conquered Cush/Ethiopians in the Spring battles, all of the faithful gathered in Jerusalem. The third month is Sivan, so the feast was most likely, Pentecost.
- 15:11 The spoil from Judah’s victory was used in the sacrifices to the Lord (2 Chronicles 14:15)
- 15:12 *“They entered into the covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and soul”*
- 15:13 Agreement was that those who rebelled against following the Lord would be put to death as death was what they were seeking in sin. This does not say that anyone was killed, but that the rebellious should be killed.
- 15:14 The oath and commitment to the Lord was energetic and emphatic.
- 15:15 Judah was joyful because they sincerely committed to the Lord wholeheartedly and God revealed Himself to them and gave them rest.
- 15:16 Asa was so committed to following the Lord, that he even demoted his grandmother (Rehoboam’s wife, Maacah – “oppression”) from being queen because she made an idol. Although, believers are to love and honor family members, the Lord is to be above all. The idol is burned in the Kidron Valley on the east side (in contrast to Gehenna on the south)
- 15:17 Asa did not remove the high places of worship. One can love the Lord with all of their heart and still not fully satisfy his righteous requirements. Asa began to trust in worldly alliances later in life (2 Chronicles 16:7-12)
- 15:18 Asa’s obedience to the Lord brought peace to the whole land.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 15:8, what are the results of encouragement?**
 - **Courage to draw near to God, and take the right action**
 - **Asa was encouraged into action by ridding the influences of pollution and rebuilding his life committed to the Lord.**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 15:9, what was the impact of Judah’s obedience on the northern kingdom?**
 - **Israelites from Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon had defected to Judah to worship the one true God.**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 15:11, who supplied the offerings for the sacrifice?**
 - **The offerings were the spoils of the victory over Cush.**
 - **700 cattle and 7000 sheep were sacrificed as the number seven symbolizes “perfection/completion”, the number of sacrifices were derivations of seven.**

- According to 2 Chronicles 15:12-13, what was the penalty of not making the covenant to seek the Lord with all their hearts and minds?
 - Capital Punishment – death penalty for those who did not seek the Lord
 - Many Believers need to recommit to the covenant that they entered upon salvation (e.g. just as a marriage ceremony) to seek the Lord with all of their heart and soul
 - Eternal death is still the judgment for those who do not seek the Lord (Rom 5:12, 21; 6:9, 16, 23; 8:6; 1 Cor 15:56; 1 Jn 3:14)
- According to 2 Chronicles 15:15, what was the result of sincerely seeking the Lord?
 - God was found by those who sought Him
 - God rewarded His people with peace when they swore with all of their heart and sought Him with all of their soul
- According to 2 Chronicles 15:16, what revealed Asa’s commitment to the Lord?
 - Asa did not let family relations, elder status nor civil status deter him from following the Lord and judging the evil actions of his grandmother the queen.
 - Asa’s heart was loyal all his days (faithful perseverance) and experienced peace until the 35th year of his reign when Baasha of Israel showed aggression against Judah (2 Chron 15:19).

Read 2 Chronicles 16:1-6...Asa Allies Judah with Syria

- Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 15:16

16:1 While God’s people lived in peace, they were attacked by the northern kingdom (the world). As Asa walked with the Lord, inhabitants of the north may have migrated south towards Judah. Baasha built Ramah that was only 4 miles north of Jerusalem to intercept those traveling to Jerusalem. Baasha was on the major route between Jerusalem and Bethel (where Jeroboam had constructed one of the two golden calves).

16:2 Asa makes a mistake by sending the gold and silver from the house of the Lord to Syria for a worldly alliance.

16:3 Ben-Hadad had a standing treaty with Israel, which Asa tempted him to break.

- “Ben” means “son of”. Hadad (“thunderer”) was a false Syrian/Armenian god of the storm that had power over fertility and destruction (similar to the Canaanite’s Baal).

16:4 Syria allied with Judah’s King Asa and attacked the northern cities and tribes of Israel including Dan and Naphtali. Some of these cities were on the trade route between Tyre and Samaria which enabled Syria to capture all of the revenue.

16:5 Baasha, the king of Israel, stopped his construction in Ramah in order to pull back and protect his northern areas from Syria.

16:6 King Asa alerted all of Judah to come assist in deconstructing Baasha’s city of Ramah and then the materials were utilized to build up two other cities ruled by Asa – Geba and Mizpah.

- What was the ongoing relationship between Judah and Israel?
 - As Asa’s father, Rehoboam (South), fought Jeroboam (North), “all the days of their life” so they fought as well (1 Kings 14:30 & 1 Kings 15:32).
 - Spiritual battles are not “completed” while on this earth; instead, one must be an overcomer until death (2 Tim 4:7).
- According 2 Chronicles 16:1, what city did Baasha construct?
 - Ramah was located in the land of Benjamin just 4 miles north of Jerusalem
 - This is the place that the Judean slaves were assembled before being taken into Babylon (Jer 40:1); this weeping for the Judean sons (Jer 31:15) is likened to the cries in Bethlehem when Herod killed the children under 2 years old (Mt 2:18)
- According 2 Chronicles 16:2, what was Asa’s response to the aggression from Baasha of Israel?
 - Unlike earlier in Asa’s faithful walk (2 Chron 14:11), the conflict with the northern kingdom (beginning in the 36th year of Asa’s reign) caused Asa to choose his evil father’s worldly alliances for protection.
- According 2 Chronicles 16:2, where did Asa get the treasures to bribe Syria to befriend him?
 - Asa took from the Temple to be protected by worldly security.
- According 2 Chronicles 16:5, did the alliance with Damascus (Syria) seem to work?
 - The worldly security seemed to work effectively (1 Kings 15:20-22), but Asa was personally afflicted.
 - A disease in his feet represents one who is unable to walk correctly with the Lord (2 Chron 16:7-12) because Asa put his trust in man instead of in God.
- According 2 Chronicles 16:6, where did the materials Asa used to build Geba and Mizpah come from?
 - The people of Judah deconstructed Baasha’s town of Ramah and took the materials.

Read 2 Chronicles 16:7-14...Good King Asa rebuked for relying on Syria against Israel

16:7 Hanani (“gracious”) the seer tells Asa that he missed an opportunity by relying on treaties instead of God. Hanani was concerned about Baasha (Israel) when God was willing to give him all the way up to Ben-Hadad (Syria).

16:8 Hanani the seer asked Asa about his past testimony. God had given Asa victory over a larger Ethiopian/Lubim army.

16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His.” (Ez 1:18)

- “With all of my heart” speaks to being unwaveringly consistent and persistent.

16:10 Asa became angry with Hanani and imprisoned him along with others; when a Believer falls, quite often he takes revenge on other Believers who are following the Lord.

16:11 The works of King Asa were documented in the book of Kings.

16:12 Asa became severely diseased in his feet, and he sought the help of physicians instead of God.

- An illness of the feet would be symbolic of one who cannot walk with the Lord.

16:13 At 41 years, Asa reigned longer than Saul, David or Solomon.

16:14 A great bonfire was made for Asa (incense of Jeremiah 34:5)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 16:7, what did Judah miss by depending on Syria?**
 - They could have overcome Syria instead of making peace with it
 - Many believers make peace with the world and sin instead of overcoming it
- **According to 2 Chronicles 16:8, why didn’t Asa rely on?**
 - Asa did not remember the ways that God had given victory in the past
 - He possibly forgot; possibly thought things were different...
- **According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, why do God’s eyes roam the entire earth?**
 - Not for Judgment, but to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His
 - “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His.” (Ez 1:18)
 - “With all of my heart” speaks to being unwaveringly consistent and persistent.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, what was the result of the reliance of God’s people on this world?**
 - From then on, they would continuously battle and strive
 - Making peace with the world results in a life of spiritual battles and false repentance
- **According to 2 Chronicles 16:10, what was good king Asa’s response to God’s correction?**
 - He turned angry instead of repenting; do we believers respond the same way?
 - Asa imprisoned God’s Seer, and he also mistreated some other people
- **According to 2 Chronicles 16:12, how does Asa’s management of his physical issues reflect on his faith?**
 - Asa did not seek the Lord for his health; instead of working with the physicians in the name of the Lord, he chose the world’s specialists instead of the Lord
 - An illness of the feet would be symbolic of one who cannot walk with the Lord.

5 2 Chronicles 17, 18, 19

Read 2 Chronicles 17:1-6.... Good King Jehoshaphat is Established

17:1 Jehoshaphat, Asa’s son, was focused on his defense against Israel more than any other enemy. This northern kingdom who were Judah’s brothers became their most irritant enemy.

17:2 Jehoshaphat stationed military presence in three areas: 1.fortified cities 2.outposts 3.cities of Ephraim captured from the northern kingdom

17:3-4 The Lord was with Jehoshaphat (Asa’s son) because of five reasons:

- He followed the example of David’s earlier days
- He did not seek the Baals
- He sought the God of His father
- He followed His commandments
- He did not act as Israel did

17:5-6 Jehoshaphat had riches & honor, but his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord (2 Chronicles 18:1)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 17:3-4, why was the Lord with Jehoshaphat?**
 - Jehoshaphat followed the example of David’s earlier days
 - Jehoshaphat did not seek the Baals
 - Jehoshaphat sought the God of His father
 - Jehoshaphat followed His commandments
 - Jehoshaphat did not act as Israel did
- **Good King Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of David**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 17:6, as the King with great riches and honor, in what did Jehoshaphat take pride?**
 - Jehoshaphat took pride in the ways of the Lord; pride in a holy honorable life.
 - Modern society glories in their sin and perversions.
 - Jehoshaphat understood that God brings joy and life while sin brings death

Read 2 Chronicles 17:7-13.... Jehoshaphat Established Traveling Bible Studies

17:7 During 17:1 Jehoshaphat’s third year, the King sent out evangelists/missionaries and teachers.

17:9 This traveling Bible Study journeyed the cities of Judah to teach God’s Word (the Law). Jehoshaphat sent traveling evangelists (Levites teaching the Law) to all of the peoples of Judah
 17:10 Judah was protected from attack by neighboring nations because they feared God.
 17:11 The Philistines gave treasure to Jehoshaphat while Arabians gave rams and goats that could be offered for sacrifice. The number “7” means sufficient and satisfied.
 17:12 Jehoshaphat became increasingly greater and built fortresses and cities to store harvests.
 17:13 Jehoshaphat had abundant supplies in the store cities as well as valiant men inhabiting Jerusalem.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 17:7-8, what did Jehoshaphat begin in the 3rd year of his reign?**
 - **Bible Studies led by Officials, Levites, and Priests**
 - **Jehoshaphat sent traveling evangelists (Levites teaching the Law) to all of the peoples of Judah**
- **Read the story line**

In the third (3) year of Jehoshaphat’s Reign, he began “State Sponsored” Bible Studies (2 Chronicles 20:7-8)		
Officials	Meaning	Story Line The Son of God is the Servant that God has remembered and given like no one else could. To those who hear and obey God, he has given abundantly. To His creation His exalted name has been given. God is my Master and He is good very good. God has heard our praises of the Lord
1. Ben-hail	“Son of Power”	
2. Obadiah	“Servant of God”	
3. Zechariah	“God has remembered”	
4. Nethanel	“God has given”	
5. Micaiah	“Who is like God?”	
Levites		
1. Shemaiah	“Who hears/obeys God”	
2. Nethaniah	“God has given”	
3. Zebadiah	“God has given”	
4. Asahel	“Creature of God”	
5. Shemiramoth	“Most High Name”	
6. Jehonathan	“God has given”	
7. Adonijah	“The Lord is my Master”	
8. Tobijah	“God is good”	
9. Tob-adonijah	“My God is good”	
Priests		
1. Elishama	“God has heard”	
2. Jehoram	“Exaltation of the Lord”	

- **What was the feeling of the surrounding nations about the Lord? 2 Chronicles 17:10-11**
 - **Because of the “fear of the Lord” the surrounding nations not only were afraid to war against Judah, but also gave gifts of tribute.**
 - **The Philistines gave silver and the Arabs (Joshua 15:52) gave flocks (that fit the sacrifice profile): 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats**
 - **Can you imagine having such a profound witness that even the world respects your worship?**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 17:12, what was a result of Jehoshaphat’s obedience?**
 - **Jehoshaphat was obedient to the Lord and was blessed with increasing strength**

Read 2 Chronicles 17:14-19.... Jehoshaphat Five Commanders

17:14 Five military units from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin
 17:15 Adnah commanded the largest militia with Johanan commanding the second largest.
 17:16 Amasiah volunteered to lead because of the Lord

Jehoshaphat’s Mighty Men (2 Chronicles 17:14-19)					
1.	Adnah	“Pleasure/Delight”	Joy,	The Commander	300,000 Brave Warriors
2.	Jehohanah	“The Gracious God”	from the gracious God	The Commander	280,000 with Him
3.	Amasiah	“Sustained by God”	who sustains	The Volunteer of the Lord	200,000 Brave Warriors Son of Zichri
4.	Eliada	“Whom God Cares for”	those He cares for,	A Brave Warrior	200,000 armed with bow and shield From Benjamin
5.	Jehozabad	“The Lord’s gift/dowry”	is the Lord’s gift		180,000 equipped for war

2 Chronicles 18:1-5... Jehoshaphat Mingles with Ahab

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 22:1-6**

18:1 Jehoshaphat had continued to grow in riches and honor (2 Chronicles 17:5-6). Jehoshaphat made friends with the world and was unequally yoked to idolatrous Israel.

18:2 Although Israel was north of Judah, the elevation of Jerusalem was approximately 2,555 feet above sea level while Samaria was 645 feet; however, the term “down” emphasizes a moral descent as well.

- Ahab didn’t sacrifice sheep and oxen to God; instead, he offered the sheep/oxen to Jehoshaphat.
- Ramoth-Gilead (“heights of Gilead”) had been a city of refuge in the Transjordan area east of the Jordan River.

18:3 Jehoshaphat did not make a distinction between God’s people and idolaters; there was no sanctification from the world.

18:4 Before joining his worldly friend in war, Jehoshaphat wanted to ask of the Lord (Mt 6:33).

18:5 Four (“test”) hundred false prophets (1 Kings 18:22). The false prophets do not distinguish to which king their false god would deliver the victory.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:1-2, was Good king Jehoshaphat living a sanctified life?**
 - No, Jehoshaphat had become unequally yoked in marriage and visited his worldly friends.
 - Three years had passed without war, but then the King of Judah made a cordial visit to the King of Israel. (1 Kings 22:1)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:2, what did Ahab, the King of Israel, recommend Jehoshaphat join in doing?**
 - Conquer the city of Ramoth-Gilead (“Heights of Gilead”) from Syria and for the Northern Kingdom
 - Ramoth-Gilead had been a city of refuge (Dt 4:43; Joshua 20:8, 21:38) on the east side of the Jordan River in the territory of Gad.
 - Syria had assisted the Southern kingdom (Judah) in the past, but Judah would now be pulled into an alliance with the Northern kingdom.
 - The King of Israel may have wanted to break the alliance between the Southern Kingdom of Judah and Syria.
 - Syria would eventually join the Northern kingdom against the Southern kingdom.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:3, does Jehoshaphat make a distinction between God’s people of Judah and the northern idolaters?**
 - No, Jehoshaphat responded, *“I am as you are, and my people as your people, and we will be with you in the battle.”*
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:4, what does Jehoshaphat request prior to joining the Northern Kingdom in the going to war?**
 - Inquire of the Lord - before joining his worldly friend in war, Jehoshaphat wants to ask the Lord (Mt 6:33).
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:5, how many false prophets did the King of Israel have at his disposal?**
 - About 400 (“test/trial”) false prophets
 - Earlier when Elijah challenged Ahab, there were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah (1 Kings 18:19)
 - Only the 450 prophets of Baal would show up on Mt Carmel (1 Kings 18:22) and then be executed as false prophets in the Brook Kishon (1 Kings 18:40).
 - The 400 false prophets of Asherah had not accepted Elijah’s challenge.

2 Chronicles 18:6-11... Micaiah, A Prophet of Yahweh, is Found for Jehoshaphat

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 22:7-12**

18:6 Although Ahab has many false prophets, Jehoshaphat desired to hear from the Lord. Believers are bombarded with false news, false education, false platitudes, false science; believers should seek God’s voice.

18:7 Ahab tells Jehoshaphat of his hatred for the prophet of God because he never brings good news. Instead of Jehoshaphat asking whether Micaiah spoke the truth, he naively corrected the King’s perspective.

18:8 Ahab seems to want to get the visit of Micaiah over with as expeditiously as possible.

18:9 The ambience was extravagant and intimidating as two kings sat on their thrones in flowing royal garments.

- The symbolism of a “threshing floor” in Scripture typically denotes the separation of wheat from chaff (Godly from worldly – Good from bad)
- The pomp and circumstance of these two thrones would have been meager in comparison to Micaiah’s vision of the one true God on His throne (1 Kings 22:19)

18:10 Throughout Scripture, horns and iron represent strength; Zedekiah made this symbol of his own will without the direction of the Lord.

18:11 All of the false prophets agreed together that God would give the kings victory over Ramoth-gilead (20 miles east of the Jordan river)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:6, what is Jehoshaphat’s response to the false inputs of the world?**
 - Jehoshaphat wanted to hear from the Lord in spite of all the activists with their platitudes.

- **Believers are continually bombarded with pseudo-pundits, pseudo-religions, pseudo-science, pseudo-academia.**
 - **Yahweh is the true God with the true prophets and Jehoshaphat recognized this**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:7, why did the King of Israel hate the true prophet of the Lord?**
 - **The true prophet never proclaimed good news.**
 - **The prophet always prophesied against the King of Israel**
 - **The king focused on the messenger instead of the message**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:9, where were the thrones located?**
 - **At the threshing floor (judgment) by Samaria's gate (court)**
 - **The symbolism of a "threshing floor" in Scripture typically denotes the separation of wheat from chaff (Godly from worldly – Good from bad)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:10, what had the false prophet Zedekiah made for himself?**
 - **Horns of iron**
 - **Both iron and horns are symbols of power and strength.**

2 Chronicles 18:12-17... Micaiah Prophecies Against the Battle

• **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 22:13-18**

18:12 The prophet Micaiah ("who is like God?") is asked to adapt his message to that of the others as being favorable and positive.

18:13 The prophet Micaiah states that he will only speak what the Lord has laid on his heart.

18:14 King Ahab includes King Jehoshaphat in the plural pronouns of "we" – "*should we go up?*" Micaiah quoted the false prophet in his answer, and he doesn't specify which king the Lord would make victorious.

18:15 The king of Israel pretends to be concerned about truth in the name of the Lord.

- In this entire passage concerning Jehoshaphat, Ahab's name is never recorded until the angel speaks of his demise (1 Kings 22:20), but instead, he is designated as the "king of Israel" to call out the distinction of the two.

18:16 Israel would be scattered without a leader (shepherd).

18:17 The king of Israel understood that God's hand was against him and that Micaiah would prophecy in kind.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:12, what advice did Ahab's messenger give Micaiah?**
 - **The prophet Micaiah ("who is like God?") is asked to adapt his message to that of the others**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:13, how did Micaiah respond to the guidance?**
 - **Micaiah states that he will only speak what the Lord has laid on his heart.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:14, what was Micaiah's initial response to the King?**
 - **Micaiah quoted the false prophet in his answer, and he doesn't specify which king the Lord would make victorious.**
 - **Israel's King seems to have experience with Micaiah not prophesying what he knows to be the truth**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:16, what is the focus of Micaiah's prophecy?**
 - **Micaiah's prophecy is not about Israel's King per se, but it is about Israel's people who are scattered like sheep without a shepherd**

2 Chronicles 18:18-27... God Sends a Lying Spirit

• **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 22:19-20**

18:18 Micaiah had received a vision of God the Father's Throne Room surrounded by angels.

18:19 God enjoys interacting with His creation and watching them work to perform His will (Job 1:6, 2:1)

18:20 A spirit volunteered to entice Ahab to die at Ramoth-gilead.

18:21-22 The Lord has put lying spirits (Judges 9:23) in their mouths (Ezekiel 14:9; 2 Thes 2:9-12)

18:23 The world often physically persecutes God's messengers

18:24 Micaiah tells the false prophet the precise place that he will understand that Micaiah's word from the Lord is true. The false prophet would be hiding in an inner room.

18:25 Ahab put the Lord's prophet Micaiah under the jurisdiction of his son, Joash as well as the governor of the city.

18:26 Micaiah was to be incarcerated with little food and water until King Ahab returned safely.

18:27 Micaiah encourages all of the people to hear the certainty of his prophecy – King Ahab would die on the battlefield or else Micaiah would be proven to be a false prophet.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:19, why would God interact with His heavenly host by asking for a volunteer?**
 - **God enjoys interacting with His creation and watching them work to perform His will (Job 1:6, 2:1)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:21, what does the spirit say that he will become?**
 - **A lying spirit (2 Chronicles 18:21)**
 - **The Lord has put lying spirits (Judges 9:23) in their mouths (Ezekiel 14:9; 2 Thes 2:9-12)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:23, what happened to Micaiah when he conveyed the truth?**
 - **Micaiah was slapped; the world often physically persecutes God's messengers 2 Chronicles 18:23**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:24, how does Micaiah answer Zedekiah's assault and question?**

- **Micaiah does not physically retaliate but leaves revenge in the hands of the Lord 2 Chronicles 18:24**

2 Chronicles 18:28-34... Ahab's Defeat and Death

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 22:29-36**

18:28 In spite of what the prophet of the Lord said, Jehoshaphat went to battle with Ahab.

18:29 Ahab sets up Jehoshaphat to be the target without Jehoshaphat knowing.

18:30 The king of Aram probably thought the only way to end the battle would be the defeat of King Ahab

18:31 As he was being chased, Jehoshaphat probably cried to the Lord who helped him. The Syrian Army may have recognized that Ahab would not have called out to Yahweh, but God answered Jehoshaphat and diverted them from him

18:32 The army of Aram returned to battle and find King Ahab.

18:33 Ahab was inadvertently struck by a bow. There is no such thing as coincidence, and God guided that arrow to Ahab.

18:34 Although Ahab was pierced by an arrow, he was propped up in the chariot as a show of strength against the Arameans, but he died that evening.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:29, why did the King of Israel disguise himself while telling Jehoshaphat to remain in royal attire?**
 - **Jehoshaphat was unknowingly being used as a target to draw fire away from the King of Israel**
 - **Syria's 32 chariot commanders were mentioned elsewhere in Scripture**
 - **Syria had used 32 drunken kings against Ahab's 232 young leaders (1 Kings 20:15-16); afterwards, 32 captains replaced Syria's 32 kings (1 Kings 20:24).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 18:33, how was the King of Israel killed?**
 - **An arrow inadvertently struck the King of Israel, but there is no such thing as coincidence. God had guided that arrow through the joints of the armor.**

Read 2 Chronicles 19:1-3...Jehu Rebukes Jehoshaphat for Alliance w/ Israel

19:1 Jehoshaphat was given peace at home but he was heavily censured for aligning with the wicked

19:2 Jehu (son of Hanani the seer – 2 Chron 16:10) asks Jehu if he should help and love the wicked who hate God. Believers are told to love their enemies...but the Lord's enemies should not become the confidants of believers.

19:3 God's wrath and judgment was prevented because "good" was found in Jehoshaphat. This "good" characterized itself as preparing beforehand in his heart to seek God (unlike Rehoboam 12:14)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 19:2, what corrections does God send to Jehoshaphat?**
 - **Do not align and help the wicked**
 - **It is ironic that the man that God sends is named Jehu; although Jehoshaphat would survive his alliance with wicked Israel, Jehoshaphat's grandson, Ahaziah (son of Jehoram) would die with the Israel's wicked King Joram (son of Ahab) at the hand of Israel's newly appointed King Jehu**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 19:2, what does Jehu ask Jehoshaphat?**
 - **Jehu (son of Hanani the seer – 2 Chron 16:10) asked Jehoshaphat if he should help and love the wicked who hate God**
 - **Although believers are told to love their enemies, Scripture isn't referencing an individual's enemies – Jehu is discussing the Lord's enemies**
 - **Scripture speaks of hate: Ps 5:5, 11:5, 26:5, 31:6, 45:7, 97:10**

Read 2 Chronicles 19:4-11...Jehoshaphat reforms the Judicial System

19:4 Jehoshaphat went through his land from Beer-sheba (the southern border of Judah) to the hill country of Ephraim (the northern boundary of Judah) to encourage them away from idolatry to return to worshipping the Lord in Jerusalem.

19:5 Jehoshaphat established a local judicial system

19:6 Judges act for God and not man. When the laws are subjective relative to the individual's whim and popular public opinion (instead of the Word of God), the judiciary group turns political.

19:7 Three specific evils are related to Judges and those in the Judiciary System: 1.Injustice 2.Partiality 3.Bribery

19:8 Levites and Priests were established to provide guidance from the Word of the Lord

19:9 Jehoshaphat call on Judah to fear the Lord faithfully and wholeheartedly.

19:10 Warn those who are seeking judicial decisions to deter from guilt; even the judge who gives a poor judgment will incur guilt. Five types of matters are listed (Psalms 19:7-9): 1.Bloodguilt (murder/manslaughter/innocence) 2.Law (instruction) 3.Commandment (concrete direction) 4.Statute (Precepts/Principles) 5.Judgments (Verdicts)

19:11 Matters of the Lord (Amariah) are separated from Matters of the State (Zebadiah). "*Be strong; may the LORD be with those who do what is good.*"

- **According to 2 Chronicles 19:2, what are several truths that Jehoshaphat gives to the Judges that he establishes?**
 - **Judges act for God and not man. When the laws are subjective relative to the individual's whim and popular public opinion (instead of the Word of God), the judiciary group turns political.**

- According to 2 Chronicles 19:7, what three specific evils are related to Judges and those in the Judiciary System?
 1. Injustice
 2. Partiality
 3. Bribery

Judicial Decisions Have Three Characteristics (2 Chronicles 19:9)	Should Fundamental
1. Fear of the Lord	
2. Integrity/Honesty	
3. A Whole Heart/Unwavering	

- According to 2 Chronicles 19:11, how does Jehoshaphat conclude his instruction?
 - Two Kings that the people must respect
 - Matters of the Lord (Amariah) are separated from Matters of the State (Zebadiah). *“Be strong; may the LORD be with those who do what is good.”*

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-9...Enemies of Judah Attack as Judgment against alliance w/ Israel

20:1 The tribes east of the Jordan River invaded Judah. Moab descended from Lot’s eldest daughter while Ammon descended from Lot’s youngest (Genesis 19:30-38). The Meunites inhabited territory southeast of the Dead Sea.

20:2 The invasion came from Syria. Hazazon-tamar means “in the wood of palm trees”

20:3 When Jehoshaphat was afraid, he would turn to God; beyond individual fasting, Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast through all of Judah.

20:4 Judah unified and gathered to seek the Lord

20:5 The verse moves from a broad perspective to a unique location: Judah – Jerusalem – House of the Lord

20:6 The prayer of Jehoshaphat does not begin with Judah and their situation, but instead, Jehoshaphat praises that Lord for His power.

20:7 Jehoshaphat claims Biblical stories as the testimony of the power of God.

20:8 God’s people constructed a Temple for the Lord.

20:9 Approximately a century earlier, Solomon had dedicated the Temple to the Lord and requested His intervention when Judah was attacked (2 Chronicles 6:34-35)

- According to 2 Chronicles 19:2, what nations were attacking Judah?
 - Nations located on the east of the Jordan were (top to bottom)
 - Syria (East of Sea of Galilee) where the half tribe of Manasseh had been
 - Ammonites (East of Jordan River) where Gad & Reuben had been
 - Moabites (East of Dead Sea) - Lot’s Eldest Daughter
 - Edom (South)...Meunites (East of Edom)
- According to 2 Chronicles 19:2, the attacks by Moab, Ammon, Edom and Meunim were a judgment from God for what?
 - For the alliance of Judah with Ahab of Israel.
 - After Jehoshaphat joined Ahab in battle, the Moabites and Ammonites attacked Judah;
 - The Ammonites were probably more of a predatory tribe, moving from place to place, while the Moabites were more settled.
- According to 2 Chronicles 19:3-4, when Judah saw the enemy on amassing on the horizon, what did they do?
 - All of Judah fasted and sought the Lord together
 - Judah had prepared for difficult times (sword, judgment, pestilence, famine) through preparing a sanctuary for the Lord
- According to 2 Chronicles 20:6, what does the Lord possess?
 - *“Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You.”*
- According to 2 Chronicles 20:7, what was the heritage of Israel in contrast to the Ammon, Moab and Edom?
 - God is reminded of his friend, Abraham; this is contrasted to their enemies, Lot’s offspring Moab (eldest) & Ammon (youngest)
 - God hated Esau Romans 9:13; Malachi 1:2-3
- According to 2 Chronicles 19:9, what disasters could come upon God’s people?
 - The sword, or pestilence, or famine
 - These disasters mentioned are echoed in the end times of Revelation 6

Read 2 Chronicles 20:10-19...Judah Cries to God for Victory over Ammon, Moab & Edom

20:10 During the Exodus from slavery in Egypt, God had not allowed Israel to invade Ammon, Moab or Edom because each of the other nations had faith in God over the giants of the land. (Deuteronomy 2)

- Edom/Seir (Brother Esau) – Deuteronomy 2:12, 22
- Moab (Cousin w/ Older Daughter of Lot) – Deuteronomy 2:10-11
- Ammon (Cousin w/ Younger Daughter of Lot) – Deuteronomy 2 :20-21

20:11 Jehoshaphat lived approximately 500 years after the Exodus; however, Jehoshaphat still expected gratitude for not attacking the foreign nations.

20:12 Jehoshaphat considered Judah’s army as powerless against the invading hordes. Jehoshaphat was at a loss as to what to do – “*nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.*”

20:13 Judah stood in physical weakness as infant, wives and children.

20:14 Five ancestors of Jahaziel are named as the Spirit fell upon him.

The Lineage of Levites to Jahaziel (2 Chronicles 20:14)			
1.	Jahaziel	“Beholder of God”	Those who look to God
2.	Zechariah	“Yahweh Remembers”	Yahweh remembers
3.	Benaiah	“God has Created”	God has created
4.	Jeiel	“Carried Away by God”	and carried away.
5.	Mattaniah	“Gift/Hope of the Lord”	With hope of the Lord
6.	Asaph	“To Gather/Collect”	to gather.

20:15 “*Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s.*”

20:16 Through Jahaziel, God directs Judah to wait until the next day to march out. Judah would need to spend the night trusting the Lord.

20:17 Judah is told that they would not need to fight, but they do need to obey, show-up and watch.

20:18 Jehoshaphat led all of Judah in falling upon their faces to worship the Lord.

20:19 The Levites praised the Lord loudly. Korah was a son of Kohath. Kohath was the second son of Levi (Genesis 46:11; Exodus 6:16-20; Numbers 3:17; 1 Chronicles 6:1) responsible for the holiest elements inside the Temple.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:10-11, what difference does Jehoshaphat identify between their attackers from the east as opposed to the ancient Canaanites?**
 - **During the Exodus from slavery in Egypt, God had not allowed Israel to invade Ammon, Moab or Edom because they had faith in God over the giants of the land. Deuteronomy 2**
 - **Edom/Seir (Brother Esau) – Deuteronomy 2:12, 22**
 - **Moab (Cousin w/ Older Daughter of Lot) – Deuteronomy 2:10-11**
 - **Ammon (Cousin w/ Younger Daughter of Lot) – Deuteronomy 2 :20-21**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:12, what does Judah recognize about themselves in 2 Chronicles 20:12?**
 - **Those who call upon the Lord must realize that they are powerless and self-effort is meaningless.**
 - **Salvation comes only from the Lord (Haggai 1:5-7 → Micah 6:14-15; Ps 39:6, 44:3, 127:2; Prov 14:12, 16:25, 23:4; Is 9:20, 55:2; Jer 5:24-25; Hosea 4:10; Amos 8:5-6; John 1:23, 14:6)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:13, who was calling on the Lord?**
 - **Entire families (including wives, children and even infants) were united in calling upon the name of the Lord. Families should jointly seek the Lord.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:14-15, what was the message of the Lord through Jahaziel?**
 - **The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel (“God Sees”) who was a Levite with a godly heritage.**
 - **Five generations are listed through Asaph who was a lead singer in David’s choir that resulted in a number of Psalms (Psalms 50; 73-83).**
 - **Jahaziel says the battle is not theirs, but God’s.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:17, what does Jahaziel tell Judah to do on the battlefield the next day?**
 - **Go to the battle grounds to stand still and watch God’s works.**
 - **Judah is encouraged to not be afraid or discouraged although they are not told of the way that God would meet their needs, they were to trust in Him alone.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:18-19, when does Judah worship and praise the Lord?**
 - **Before the war, all of Judah worshipped the Lord together.**
 - **After worship, they praised the Lord for His promised salvation.**
 - **It is an interesting separation between worship and praise 2 Chronicles 20:18 & 19**
 - **Romans 12:1 – present your bodies as holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual worship**

Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-30.... Ammon, Moab & Edom Destroy Each Other instead of Judah

20:20 “*Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed.*”

20:21 As one would develop an “attack plan” through various assignments and strategies, the people were divided into groups for praise. They sang similar words to the praise when Solomon’s Temple was dedicated (2 Chronicles 5:13, 7:3)

20:22 When Judah began to praise, God ambushed the enemy, and the enemy was defeated. Praise is a powerful weapon for Believers and should be relied upon in the midst of tests and trials.

20:23 Mount Sinai (where the Law was given) is in Edom in the mountain range of Seir, and Seir attacked Moabites & Ammonites. Worldly alliances often self-destruct as the selfish and evil tendencies overwhelm any covenant that they might make.

20:24 Judah came and saw the dead multitude before spending three days collecting the spoils

20:25 The onslaught and test that attempted to defeat God's people turned into their blessing. Believers can still be blessed by what seems to be a spiritual enemy aggressor.

20:26 After God's victory, God's people praised Him in the Valley of Beracah ("blessing")

20:27 *"The Lord enabled them to rejoice over their enemies."*

20:28 Three instruments were used in the praise: 1.Harps 2.Lyres 3.Trumpets

20:29-30 Surrounding nations feared God, and Jehoshaphat had peace and quiet

- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:20-21, what did Jehoshaphat do on the day of battle?**
 - Jehoshaphat encouraged Judah to believe
 - **"Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed."** 2 Chronicles 20:20
 - **As one would develop an "attack plan" through various assignments and strategies, the people were divided into groups for praise** 2 Chronicles 20:21
 - **They sang similar words to the praise when Solomon's Temple was dedicated** (2 Chronicles 5:13, 7:3)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:22, when did the Lord send an ambush against Judah's enemies?**
 - **When Judah began to praise, God ambushed the enemy, and the enemy was defeated.**
 - **Praise is a powerful weapon for Believers and should be relied upon in the midst of tests and trials.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:22-23, how did God defeat the wicked worldly enemy?**
 - **He turned them on themselves**
 - **Worldly alliances often self-destruct as the selfish and evil tendencies overwhelm any covenant that they might make.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:25, what did God's people experience when they arrived for the battle?**
 - **Judah came and saw the dead multitude before spending three days collecting/carrying the spoils**
 - **After God's victory, God's people praised Him in the Valley of Beracah ("blessing")** (2 Chronicles 20:26)
 - **"The Lord enabled them to rejoice over their enemies."** (2 Chronicles 20:27)
 - **The onslaught and test that attempted to defeat God's people turned into their blessing.**
 - **Believers can still be blessed by what seems to be a spiritual enemy aggressor.** (2 Chronicles 20:25)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:29-30, what was the response of the world around God's people?**
 - **Surrounding nations feared God, and Jehoshaphat had peace & quiet** (2 Chronicles 20:29-30)

Discuss 2 Chronicles 20:32-33 – "The people had not determined in their hearts..."

2:32 Although Jehoshaphat walked with the Lord, the people had not determined in their hearts to follow the Lord (2 Chron 12:13).

2:33 Believers must make an active commitment to follow the Lord above all in everything that He calls them to do in spite of man's self-will and rationalizations (Mt 6:33).

Discuss 2 Chronicles 20:35-37...God Sinks Alliance of Israel & Judah

- **Parallel Passage: 1 Kings 22:48-49**

20:35 Ahab understood that God blessed Jehoshaphat, and Ahab wanted to join in those blessings. At this request (unlike the battle – 1 Kings 22:29), Jehoshaphat knew not to be "unequally yoked" to Ahab. Jehoshaphat's grandson, Ahaziah, would die because of a similar alliance with Israel's Joram (2 Kings 9:27).

20:36 Jehoshaphat attempted to gain wealth from this world, but the ships were wrecked at Ezion-geber ("the wood of man").

20:37 Eliezer prophesied to Jehoshaphat about God's displeasure in his worldly alliances. *"The Lord has destroyed your works."*

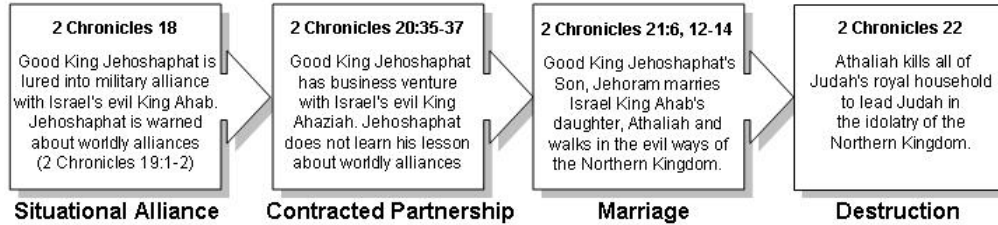
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:36, who constructed the ships for Jehoshaphat?**
 - **Jehoshaphat had made an alliance with Ahaziah to construct ships**
 - **Jehoshaphat does not learn his lesson about worldly alliances** (2 Chronicles 19:2)
 - **Jehoshaphat allies with Israel's evil king Ahaziah to build ships for voyage to Tarshish** (unknown location mentioned 12 times in Bible)
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:37, what did Eliezer prophesy would happen with the ships?**
 - **After construction was completed, Eliezer prophesies that all ships would be wrecked**
 - **After Eliezer's prophecy, Ahaziah requested that his men from Israel could sail w/ the men from Judah, but Jehoshaphat understood Eliezer's prophecy and declined**
 - **Jehoshaphat may have thought that the ships may survive with only crews from Judah**
 - **It's possible that the rejection "broke up" the peace treaty w/ Ahaziah as well**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 20:37, what happened to Jehoshaphat's ships?**

- They were lost at sea (1 Kings 22:48)
- God wrecks the ships and mutual investment (Jonah 1:3-4, 4:8; Psalms 48:7)

Discuss Jehoshaphat's decline:

- **Situational Alliance w/ Ahab**
- **Contracted Partnerships w/ Ahaziah**
- **Son (Jehoram) marries Athaliah**
- **Athaliah attempts to kill all of David's line – leaving only Joash**

Decline Due to Worldly Influence



Read 2 Chronicles 21:1-11...An Early Wicked King of Judah (Jehoram)

21:1 After Good King Jehoshaphat died, his wicked son, Jehoram, became king.

Jehoram killed his six brothers to strengthen his kingship (2 Chronicles 21:2-4)		
1.	Azariah	"Whom God has helped"
2.	Jehiel	"God's Living One"
3.	Zechariah	"God Remembers"
4.	Azariah	"Whom God has helped"
5.	Michael	"Who is like God?"
6.	Shaphatiah	"God has Judged"

- 21:3 Scripture speaks of all the material possessions that good king, Jehoshaphat gave to his sons – silver, gold, precious things, fortified cities and even a kingdom...but it does not appear that Jehoshaphat gave his sons a godly heritage.
- 21:4 After securing the kingdom for himself, Jehoram killed all of his brothers and several other influential elders in Judah.
- 21:5 Jehoram would only reign for 8 years; instead of serving in the way of his fathers, Jehoram served in the way of the northern kingdom.
- 21:6 Jehoshaphat had befriended Ahab (2 Chronicles 18), and Jehoram fashioned his kingdom in the way of his father-in-law, Ahab. Jehoram had married Athaliah who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel (2 Chronicles 18:1).
- 21:7 The Lord was patiently faithful to Judah in spite of the rebellion of King Jehoram.
- 21:8 As Jehoram revolted against God, the nations under Judah's reign would also revolt against them. Edom was southwest of Israel, and they established a king for themselves.
- 21:9 Although Jehoram moved his army to the Transjordan territory to attack Edom, in the middle of the night, Edom surrounded Jehoram. Judah's king Jehoram was able to fight his way through the Edom ambush, but he was not able to control Edom going forward.
- 21:10 Libnah was a fortified city of the priests that also rebelled against Jehoram (Joshua 21:13).
- 21:11 Idolatry is likened to adultery in Scripture (Jer 3:20; Isaiah 1:21; 54:5; 57:8; Ezekiel 16:15-19. 30)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 21:1, who became king when good King Jehoshaphat died?**
 - **Jehoram was one of the first wicked kings of Judah's Southern Kingdom.**
 - **Jehoram built high places for idolatrous worship (prostitution) and seduction of Judah away from their faithful covenant with the Lord. (2 Chronicles 21:11)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 21:3, what did good king Jehoshaphat give to his sons?**
 - **Valuable material possessions including silver, gold, precious things, fortified cities and even a kingdom...but it does not appear that Jehoshaphat gave his sons a godly heritage.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 21:6, who did Jehoram marry?**
 - **Athaliah, the daughter of the King of Israel**
 - **Athaliah's parents were Ahab and Jezebel**
 - **This evil king of Judah married into the daughter of Israel's evil King Ahab.**
 - **Athaliah would eventually attempt to kill everyone in the line of David (2 Chronicles 22:10)**
 - **Athaliah would attempt the same murderous plot that her husband had achieved in eliminating all of his brothers who were in the lineage of David**

Jehoram killed his six brothers to strengthen his kingship (2 Chronicles 21:2-4)		
1.	Azariah	"Whom God has helped"
2.	Jehiel	"God's Living One"
3.	Zechariah	"God Remembers"

4.	Azariah	“Whom God has helped”	The One that God has helped is not like God and God will judge.
5.	Michael	“Who is like God?”	
6.	Shaphatiah	“God has Judged”	

- According to 2 Chronicles 21:7, why did God not take the Kingdom away from the wicked King Jehoram?
 - God was faithful to His covenant with David’s lineage in keeping a royal line (1 Kings 11:36, 15:4)
- According to 2 Chronicles 21:8-10, what was the consequence of Jehoram’s rebellion against God?
 - Edom and Libnah rebelled against Judah’s wicked king Jehoram
 - Jehoram fought against Edom in the nighttime (representing spiritual darkness).
 - Libnah also rebelled against Jehoram because he was unfaithful to the Lord.
 - It is interesting to watch the children rebel against parents who have been unfaithful in their walk with the Lord.

Read 2 Chronicles 21:12-20...Elijah Sends Letter of Judgment to Jehoram

21:12 The Prophet, Elijah wrote a letter to King Jehoram. Unlike, the kings prior to Jehoram had attempted to follow the Lord. Jehoram had not followed the godly commitment of his father, Jehoshaphat nor his grandfather, Asa.

Prior to Jehoram		
Kings of Judah Who Attempted to Walk with God		
King of Judah	Walked with God	Walked away from God
1. Rehoboam	2 Chronicles 11:17	2 Chronicles 12:1
2. Abijah	2 Chronicles 13:15	1 Kings 15:3
3. Asa	2 Chronicles 14:2-5	2 Chronicles 16:7-12
4. Jehoshaphat	2 Chronicles 17:3-4	2 Chronicles 18:1-3

21:13 Idolatry is often referenced as “spiritual adultery” (Jer 3:20; Isaiah 1:21; 54:5; 57:8; Ezekiel 16:15-19. 30).

21:14 Spiritual unfaithfulness bring the judgment of God on family, nations and possessions.

21:15 The bowels may represent the innermost function, and Jehoram had turned wicked to his innermost being.

21:16 The Lord stirred up enemies from the south towards Judah as the Philistines and Arabs invaded Judah.

21:17 The Philistine and Arab invaders kidnapped all of King Jehoram’s family as spoils except for his youngest son as a remnant, Jehoahaz/Ahaziah. Queen Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, must have also escaped becoming plunder.

21:18 After God had used the enemy to take Jehoram’s family and wealth, the Lord struck Jehoram with an incurable disease.

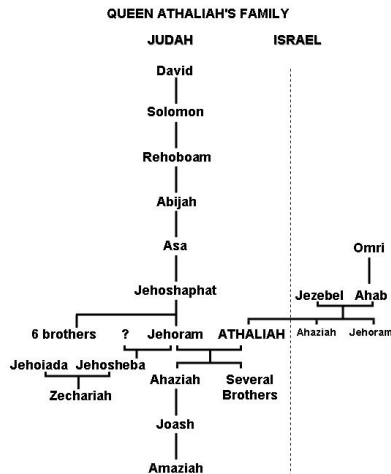
21:19 Jehoram suffered from the incurable illness in great pain for two years before dying an unsung death. The wicked Jehoram was not honored as a great king by the people.

21:20 No one missed Jehoram when he died at the age of 40, and although he was buried in Jerusalem, he was not buried in the tomb of kings.

- According to 2 Chronicles 21:8-10, who prophesied in written form against Jehoram?
 - Elijah wrote a letter instead of going in person to Jehoram
 - Possibly a lack of respect for wicked Jehoram
 - Possibly feared for his life in regards to Jehoram
 - Possible documentation for posterity sake
 - Possibly b/c Elijah was a Northern Kingdom Prophet
- According to 2 Chronicles 21:12, in Elijah’s letter whose God was Yahweh?
 - Jehoram’s ancestor David
 - Jehoram did not walk in the ways of his father (Jehoshaphat) or his grandfather (Asa), but instead he was wicked like Israel’s Kings (2 Chron 21:13)
- According to 2 Chronicles 21:13, can God judge people relative to one another?
 - Yes, God tells Jehoram that his brothers were better than him.
 - Jehoshaphat had given the kingdom to his firstborn, Jehoram, who had killed his brothers although they were deemed better than Jehoram.
 - Sometimes God allows the wicked to hurt and kill those who are better
 - The brothers were judged to be better than Jehoram, but they were died from the evil in this world.
- According to 2 Chronicles 21:14, who received the judgment for Jehoram’s sin?
 - All of those around Jehoram (people, sons, wives, possessions) would all suffer judgment because of his sin.
 - God stirred up enemies, and they came and took his family except the youngest, Jehoahaz (Ahaziah).
 - God protects a remnant for Himself (2 Chronicles 21:16)
 - God would also use Jehoram’s wife, Athaliah, to bring judgment by killing the grandchildren and the entire royal house of Judah that had escaped Judah’s enemies (2 Chronicles 22:10).
- According to 2 Chronicles 21:15, 18-19, how did Jehoram die?
 - Jehoram’s intestines ruptured (Similar to Herod – Acts 12:23)
 - Intestines sometimes represent emotions, but they are also the passage for the sustenance that one consumes into their lives.

- Jehoram was judged for the inputs that he had allowed to pollute him.
 - God struck Jehoram with an incurable disease, which he suffered for two (witness) years after his evil reign of six years (total reign of eight years) - 2 Chronicles 21:18
 - Jehoram died in severe pain to no one's sorrow (2 Chronicles 21:19-20)
- Review the three early times that the Davidic line was almost terminated

David's Royal Line Nearly Ends with Wicked Leadership (2 Chronicles 21-22)		
<u>Murderers</u>	<u>Victims</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>
1. Jehoram	All his brothers	2 Chronicles 21:4
2. Philistines/Arabs	Jehoram's Sons	2 Chronicles 21:16-17
3. Athaliah	All royal heirs	2 Chronicles 22:10



Read 2 Chronicles 22:1-4...Ahaziah/Jehoahaz becomes a wicked King of Judah

22:1 Jehoahaz/Ahaziah was the youngest son of Jehoram; the Lord had let Jehoahaz/Ahaziah survive as a remnant (2 Chronicles 21:17).

22:2 Jehoahaz/Ahaziah only reigned as King over Judah for a single year.

22:3 Jehoahaz/Ahaziah had been influenced by his mother who had been raised in the northern kingdom. Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab and the granddaughter of Omri. Omri reigned in the northern kingdom while good King Asa reigned in the southern kingdom (1 Kings 16:23)

- Omri had moved the capital of the northern kingdom from Tirzah to Samaria. (1 Kings 16:23-26)
- 22:4 The counselors of Judah's King Ahaziah were from the idolatrous northern kingdom of Israel. These wicked counselors brought about Ahaziah's destruction.
 - According to 2 Chronicles 21:14, why did Judah declare Jehoram's youngest son Ahaziah as King?
 - All of Jehoram's sons had been killed except for Ahaziah, so the people made him king
 - According to 2 Chronicles 21:23, what influence did Queen Athaliah have on Ahaziah in his youth?
 - Athaliah counseled Ahaziah to walk in the wicked ways of the northern kingdom.
 - She had been raised by Ahab and Jezebel, and Athaliah was the granddaughter of Omri who was the evil sixth king of Northern Israel (1 Kings 16:15-28, 20:34)
 - According to 2 Chronicles 22:4, beyond his mother, who were the advisors of Ahaziah?
 - Ahaziah followed his mother's (Athaliah) wicked counsel, which led to his demise, and her ascension to the throne.
 - The evil royal house of the Northern Kingdom counsel led Ahaziah
 - Ahaziah let them use him (and the southern kingdom) as he was drawn into battle as an ally with Israel's evil King Joram (Ahab's son) in fighting against Syria.

Read 2 Chronicles 22:5-9...The King of Judah Dies with the King of Israel

- Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 9:14-29

22:5 Jehoahaz/Ahaziah was talked into allying with his uncle (Israel's King Jehoram) for battle just as his grandfather, Jehoshaphat. King Ahab had also allied himself with King Ahaziah of Israel in ships until the Lord sunk their fleet (2 Chronicles 20:35-37)

22:6 King Joram (Israel) was wounded, and King Ahaziah (Judah) visited him at Jezreel ("God scatters") in the territory of Issachar (Joshua 19:18).

22:7 Ahaziah's downfall was credited as God's doing as Jehu was in the act of slaying Joram.
 22:8 Jehu saw that King Ahaziah and the elders of Judah were serving the evil King Joram of Israel
 22:9 Jehu's soldiers buried King Ahaziah in Jerusalem out of respect for his godly grandfather, Jehoshaphat. King Ahaziah died without selecting a replacement king for Judah.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 22:5, with whom did Jehoahaz/Ahaziah make an alliance for battle?**
 - **Judah's King Jehoahaz/Ahaziah allied with his uncle (Israel's King Jehoram) for battle against Syria.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 22:7, who brought about the destruction of Judah's King Ahaziah?**
 - **Ahaziah's destruction was from God through the hand of Jehu.**

Read 2 Chronicles 22:5-9...Athaliah Usurps the Throne of Judah

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 11**

22:10 Athaliah was the mother of the Judean king Ahaziah and the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and the sister of the Israelite kings Ahaziah and Joram, who had succeeded Ahab. This is the only time when the throne of Judah was usurped as Queen Athaliah was from the Northern Kingdom and not the line of David. She was Judah's only reigning queen and the strongest Baal advocate among Judah's rulers.

22:11 Jehoshabeath ("God is an oath") was King Ahaziah's daughter who had married Jehoiada the priest. She is the one who preserved the line of David by hiding Joash in the Temple.

22:12 Athaliah ruled Judah for six (the insufficient number of man) years.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 22:5, what was the response of Athaliah to the death of her son, Ahaziah?**
 - **Athaliah killed all of the royal alternatives and seized the throne for herself.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 22:11, who hid Ahaziah?**
 - **Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram**
 - **Jehoshabeath, the wife of Jehoiada the priest**

7 2 Chronicles 23, 24, 25

Discuss Chapter 23:1-7 ... Joash Revealed as the True King of Judah

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 11:4-16**

23:1 The high priest, Jehoiada, revealed that Joash from the lineage of David had been saved, and he made a covenant with the guard to put the rightful king on the throne (2 Kings 11:4).

Jehoida ("God knows") worked up his courage to take the correct action with the commanders of hundreds. (2 Chronicles 23:1)			
1.	Azariah	"Whom God has Helped"	The One that God has helped
2.	Ishmael	"God Hears"	God has heard
3.	Azariah	"Whom God has Helped"	The One that God has helped
4.	Maaseiah	"The Work of the Lord"	in the work of the Lord
5.	Elishaphat	"Whom God has Judged"	with the one that God has judged.
			Jeroham
			Jehohanan
			Obed
			Adaiah
			Zichri

23:2 Jehoiada trusted those from the tribe of Judah to join him in establishing the rightful king.

23:3 Jehoiada reminded the group of God's covenant with David. Jehoiada gathers the Levites at the house of God to set up the son of the King according to God's Word.

23:4-5 Jehoiada separated the group into three groups: 1. The Gate of the Guard (walkway between the palace and the Temple) 2. The King's Palace 3. The Foundation Gate (the gate "Sur" or "Spring gate" which opened to the Gihon spring and was possibly the side entrance to the palace) This strategy secured the palace from anyone who might want to take refuge there.

- Jehoiada assigns the Carites to specific locations. The word "Carite" is a variation on the word Cherethites (2 Samuel 20:23). The Cherethites and Pelethites had been David's personal guard (2 Chronicles 23:22-23). The Carites were now in charge of the security of the Palace and the Temple.
- The word "Cherethites" means "Cretans", and they were a mercenary group from the Aegean Sea (1 Samuel 30:14). The word "Pelethites" seems to come from the word "Philistines"
- Both of these were types of Philistines; although Israel was rejecting the coronation of the true king, the Gentile Philistines were ensuring the rightful king's coronation.
- These leaders recruited the priests from around Judah to come to the Temple on a certain Sabbath day (2 Chronicles 23:2), so that at the change of guard, the old guard would stay as the new guard augments their ranks.
- Jehoiada had been born during the time of King Solomon. (2 Chronicles 24:15)

- The high priest, Jehoiada, is determining the coup over Athaliah's throne as he assigns a third of the Carites to her home the palace.
 - Jehoiada means "knowledge of the Lord".
- 23:6 Although the troops were present to do a "good thing," they were told to remain in the courtyard instead of entering the Temple because they were not holy. The holiness of God was to be respected above any exceptional situation (2 Chron 23:19).
- 23:7 The Levites were to protect the king with their lives.

Read Chapter 23:8-11... Joash is Pronounced the True King of Judah

- 23:8 There was no time off (respite) for those who were called to fight for the King. While Scripture demands Sabbaths and quiet times, "sabbaticals" may not be as Scriptural. An extended "retreat" seems to take God's army out of His battle for prolonged periods of time. Of course, the Babylonian captivity forced an extended Sabbatical because the Sabbaths had not been taken.
- 23:9 The military were armed with the weaponry of their forefather, David.
- 23:10 The military were stationed for battle around the rightful king.
- 23:11 Joash became king at seven years of age. He was crowned and given the Law of the Lord.

Read Chapter 23:12-15... Athaliah was put to Death

- 23:12 Athaliah heard the commotion of people rushing to the new king and praising him.
- 23:13 Though Athaliah claimed Jehoash's coronation was treasonous, she was the one guilty of treason. Jehoash was a legitimate heir to the throne of Judah, but she was not since she was not a descendant of David but had married into Judah's royal family.
- 23:14 Not only was the queen guilty of capital punishment, but also were all of her treasonous followers – to be killed by the sword (to be condemned by the Word of the Lord).
- 23:15 It was the King's palace, not the Queen's. A "horse" is representative of the warfare.

Read Chapter 23:16-21... The Reforms of Jehoash

- 23:16 Jehoiada made a covenant between himself (priest), the people, and the king
- 23:17 As Jezebel had promoted Baalism in Israel, so her daughter did in Judah. During Athaliah's six-year reign (841-835 B.C.), Baalism gained its most secure foothold in the Southern Kingdom, but it was never as influential in Judah as it was in Israel.
- 23:18 Jehoiada establishes the Levitical Priests in caring for the Temple and sacrifices.
- 23:19 Jehoiada protected the sanctity of the Temple with gatekeepers (2 Chron 23:6).
- 23:21 Everyone rejoiced at the true king's reinstatement, but were quiet in the city at the death of the queen.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 23:17, what was the first action after the restoration of the true king?**
 - Discarded the idols
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 23:21, what was the reaction of Judah to the king being restored?**
 - The people rejoiced and the land was quiet

Read 2 Chronicles 24:1-7...Ineffective Priests

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 12**
- 24:1 Priest Jehoiada brings Joash as King at 7 yrs. old and puts Athaliah to death; then he makes a covenant between The Lord, the King, and the people. Jehoash was the youngest king to mount Judah's throne. He began reigning at age seven and ruled for 40 years (835-796 B.C.).
- 24:2-3 Jehoiada had such an influence on Joash that he even arranged his two wives.
- 24:4 Much as David had decided in his heart to construct a house of God, Joash decided to restore the house of the Lord. This had been his hiding place for the first six years of his life.
- 24:5 Money was paid during each census (Ex 30:12-13) as well as money collected to redeem individuals from the Lord's service (Lev 27:1-8). Jehoash charged the priests to use some of their collections to repair the Temple. Time passed, and Jehoash noticed that the offerings had not been invested into repairing the Temple.
- 24:6 Jehoash holds Jehoiada and his fellow priests accountable for not repairing the Temple.
- 24:7 Athaliah's sons had been allowed to live; however, they had broken into the house of God to use the holy items for Baal worship.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:4, who did Joash initially put in charge of renovating the Temple?**
 - The priests were told to collect funds
 - It had been approximately a century since Solomon constructed the Temple, and it was in need of renovation.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 24:6, why did Joash confront Jehoiada and the other priests?**
 - Although God's people had given money to repair the Temple, the priests took the contributions for their own personal use instead of spending it on God's work.

- **Joash told the priests to no longer collect funds because they did not have responsibility to fund the renovation**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:7, who had broken into the Temple of God and why?**
 - **Athaliah's wicked sons had broken into the house of God to use the holy items for Baal worship.**
 - **The wicked sons of Athaliah stole the donations and used them to worship Baals**

Read 2 Chronicles 24:8-14...The Temple of God is Restored

24:8 A collection box was made and placed outside of the house of the Lord for anyone who came to worship.

24:9 The Israelites gave too much to build the Tabernacle (Exodus 36:2-7)

24:10 The officers and people joyfully paid the tax that had been announced nationwide.

24:11 It seems that daily the collections box was filled, so every day the box was delivered to the King's officer by the priests and then returned empty to collect more the next day.

24:12 King Joash and High Priest Jehoiada paid those who did the work including the masons, carpenters, as well as the workers in iron and bronze.

24:13 The repairmen restored the Temple according to the blueprints and strengthened it. By this time, the Temple was approximately 130 years of age (the same age as Jehoiada the high priest).

- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:10, what was the response of Judah when the tax of Moses was imposed?**
 - **The people rejoiced and filled up the collections box that Jehoiada had constructed**
 - **The Israelites gave too much to build the Tabernacle (Exodus 36:2-7)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:14, who was entrusted with the donations and were funds leftover after completion?**
 - **The workers presented the rest of the funds to the King and Jehoiada**

Read 2 Chronicles 24:15-22...Good King Joash Falls Away from God

24:15 Joash followed the Law of Moses and ruled well as long as his mentor Jehoiada, the high priest, lived which was to 130 years old.

24:16 The high priest, Jehoiada was buried with the kings because of the impactful life that he had lived for Israel, for God and for his house.

24:17 After the death of the high priest, Jehoiada, the secular leaders of Judah talked Joash into expanding beyond a worship of the one true God. The secular officials of Judah revered the King, so he listened to them.

24:18 Instead of being true to Yahweh, Judah turned to the worship of Asherim (the plural of Ashoreth) and idols. Because of their rebellion, God sent judgment upon Judah. These officials of Judah would soon be exterminated by the army of Syria (2 Chronicles 24:23)

24:19 Beyond judgment, God sent prophets to return Judah to Him; however, when prophets testified against them, they would not listen.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:15-18, how long did Joash remain faithful to the Lord?**
 - **Until Jehoiada died**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:17-18, whose counsel did Joash turn to after Jehoiada's death?**
 - **After Jehoiada's death, certain Judean officials who led him into idolatry.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:19, beyond judgment, what else did God send to Judah?**
 - **God's wrath was against Judah and Jerusalem – however – God cared enough to send warning**
 - **Do we consider warnings a gift of grace?**
 - **Joash stubbornly refused the warnings God sent him by prophets**

Read 2 Chronicles 24:15-22... King Joash Murders the Son of Jehoiada

24:20 Jehoiada asks the people to reason that they were not prospering because they had walked away from the Lord. *"You have forsaken the Lord, He has also forsaken you."*

24:21 King Joash told the people to stone Zechariah, the prophet of God, to death.

24:22 King Joash did not remember that the prophet's father had saved his life. The dying prophets prayer was that God would see the murder and avenge his death.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:20, what was the result of the Spirit of God taking control of Jehoiada's son, Zechariah?**
 - **The Spirit of God took control of Zechariah (who had replaced his father, Jehoiada, as high priest), and he warned the people that they would not prosper without the Lord.**
 - **(This is a different Zechariah than the minor prophet who came 300 years later post-Babylon).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:21, what was the response of the King to the Spirit's warning?**
 - **In response to this leading of the Spirit, Zechariah was martyred through stoning.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:22, what had Joash forgotten?**
 - **Joash did not remember how Zechariah's father, Jehoiada, had saved his life. Joash had been raised for 7 years in the Temple by Jehoiada**

- **Zechariah may had been like a brother to King Joash**
 - **Sometimes it is easier to hurt a brother than a stranger – you know the pressure points – you know how to get under their skin**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:22, how does Zechariah get even with Joash?**
 - **He doesn't - As Zechariah was dying, he relied on the Lord to take account.**

Read 2 Chronicles 24:23-27...The Judgment of God Occurs as Syria Defeats Judah

24:23 God used the army from Syria (Aram) to defeat Judah during the same year that Joash had murdered Zechariah.

- Scripture emphasizes the murder of Judah's officials because these were the men who had led King Joash away from the Lord (2 Chronicles 24:17-18).

24:24 Although the Syrian army was small, they were able to defeat Judah's great army because Judah had forsaken the Lord.

24:25 The Syrian army left King Joash very ill in his bed, so that his own servants murdered him for the death of Jehoiada's son, the prophet Zechariah.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:23, why was the Syrian able to defeat the army of Judah?**
 - **The Lord handed over the vast army to defeat**
 - **Immediately following Zechariah's death, Scripture relates how the land of Judah was defeated by a much lesser Syrian army.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:23, who was killed by Syria's army?**
 - **All of the leaders of the people; these leaders had paid homage and lured Joash away from the Lord 2 Chronicles 24:17**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 24:25, what was the outcome of Joash?**
 - **The Arameans (Syrians) had wounded Jehoash who went to recuperate in a town named Beth Millo ("house of fullness").**
 - **There, several of his officials (one Ammonite & one Moabite – 24:26 & 25:3) assassinated him (v. 20) primarily because he had slain the high priest Zechariah.**
 - **The king was buried in Jerusalem but not in the royal tombs b/c the people did not have great respect for him.**

Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-4...King Amaziah Puts His Father's Assassins to Death

25:1 Amaziah lived longer as a king than he did before he was a king. Amaziah's mother, Jehoaddan ("pleasure/time of the Lord") was from Jerusalem.

25:2 Although Amaziah did right in the Lord's sight, he wasn't committed with His whole heart to follow God.

25:3 Amaziah killed the servants who had murdered his father, Joash.

25:4 Amaziah withheld from killing the families of the servants because of the law's commands.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 25:2, was Amaziah committed to pleasing the Lord?**
 - **King Amaziah did what was right although not with a consistent heart.**
 - **Believers should strive to be wholly God's instead of wavering between the Lord and the world.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 25:3, what was Amaziah's first recorded act once he had established his throne?**
 - **Amaziah executed the Ammonite & Moabite (24:26) who had killed his father Joash**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 25:4, what did Amaziah do to the families of the murderers and why?**
 - **Amaziah showed mercy to the families of the murderers because of Scripture**

Read 2 Chronicles 25:5-13...King Amaziah chooses God over "Sunk Costs" to Fight Edom

25:5 Amaziah amassed an army of 300,000 Judeans over the age of 20 to fight with spear and shield

25:6 The northern and southern kingdom had fought together against Syria's army (2 Chronicles 18 & 22:5). Amaziah hired 100,000 warriors from Israel.

25:7 An unnamed "man of God" came to King Amaziah and told him that God was not "with" Israel. God's presence is the determining factor as to whether an individual or nation has success.

- Ephraim was the strongest tribe of the northern kingdom, so the hired warriors may have been from Ephraim.

25:8 *"God has the power to help or bring you down."*

25:9 King Amaziah was well aware of the large sum of money that he had used to hire 100,000 warriors from the northern kingdom. The amount is estimated to be 3.75 tons of silver.

25:10 King Amaziah made the correct choice by following the guidance of the man of God although it angered Israel's troops.

25:11 The valley of salt is considered to be a ravine south of the Dead Sea where 10,000 Edomite troops were killed and another 10,000 troops were captured.

25:12 The 10,000 captured troops were thrown from the top of a cliff.

25:13 The angered troops of Israel attacked the cities of Judah and killed 3,000 inhabitants of Judah.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 25:6, who did Amaziah hire?**
 - **Amaziah hired 100,000 Israelites to fight the Edomites;**

- According to 2 Chronicles 25:7-8, what did the man of God say to Amaziah?
 - *“God has the power to help or make stumble.”*
 - Tradition has it that this “man of God” is Amoz (Isaiah’s father)
- According to 2 Chronicles 25:9, what was Amaziah’s concern and the man of God’s response?
 - Although he had paid 100 talents of silver, he considered it sunk costs when he was told by the man of God to send them home
 - Poor past decisions (investments of money, time, effort, etc.) should not influence someone to continue in the wrong.
 - When one discovers God’s will, he should follow it regardless of the loss.
 - Several examples:
 - *“I have to go now b/c I’ve said I would...”*
 - *“I just made reservations and purchased a ticket...”*
- According to 2 Chronicles 25:12-13, what was the outcome of the battle?
 - Amaziah led Judah to victory in killing 20,000 Edomites while the discharged soldiers raided Judah’s towns and killed 3,000 Judeans

Read 2 Chronicles 25:14-16...Amaziah steals idols from Defeated Edom

25:14 Although God had given Amaziah victory, Amaziah took the false Edomite gods and set them up as his gods by bowing and burning incense.

25:15 The Lord’s anger burned against Amaziah who adopted false gods of defeated people.

25:16 Amaziah interrupted the prophet’s rebuke. Amaziah asked facetiously whether he had appointed the prophet as his royal counsel. Amaziah warned the prophet that he would die if he continued to talk, so Amaziah concluded that God would destroy Amaziah for two reasons: 1.Idolatry 2.Rejection of God’s Warning

- According to 2 Chronicles 25:14, what did Amaziah do after defeating the Edomites?
 - Amaziah took the idols of Edom, and made them his gods.
 - Amaziah obeyed God at first by releasing the Israelite soldiers, but then Amaziah turned to the idols of those he had defeated.
 - Success often breeds pride which causes downfall; be careful when you stand lest you fall (1 Corinthians 10:12)
- According to 2 Chronicles 25:15, how does God respond with grace?
 - God sends a prophet to ask the reasoning behind pursuing a defeated, false god.
 - Even today, man often follows false gods that are known to bring disaster (e.g. addictions, workaholism, gambling, etc.).
- According to 2 Chronicles 25:16, was Amaziah’s focus on the messenger or the message?
 - Amaziah focuses on the messenger instead of the message, and as such Amaziah rejects God’s warning.
 - It seems to be human tendency to undermine the messenger even if the message is true.

Discuss 2 Chronicles 25:17-26...Amaziah did not Faithfully Follow God

25:17 Amaziah had some success because of God which resulted in Amaziah becoming prideful in his own capabilities. The consequence of his pride was that he picked a fight with Israel and was defeated

25:18 King Jehoash of Israel sent a poetic response to Amaziah with a story of the glorious Lebanon cedar interacting with a bramble bush. The act of requesting a daughter for a son is one of equality; however, the wild animal trampled the bramble bush.

25:19 Amaziah sought his own glory instead of following the Lord. The northern king Jehoash told King Amaziah that he had become too proud because of his victory over Edom.

25:20 God drove Judah’s King Amaziah to failure

25:21 Israel’s army with king Jehoash marched out to meet Judah’s army with King Amaziah at Beth-Shemesh in Judah.

- “Beth” means “house” while “Shemesh” means “sun” – “house of the sun”
- Israel’s army didn’t wait, but instead they took the fight to Judah (literally) at Beth-Shemesh which is only 8 miles from Jerusalem.

25:22 Israel defeated the prideful Judah who fled. Josephus documents that the troops of Judah deserted Amaziah. Although most Israelites lived in houses by this time, the phrase *“to his tent”* was an older term meaning everyone returned home.

25:23 The physical defenses of Jerusalem were broken down. Josephus noted that Israel’s army did not need to lay siege to the city of Jerusalem because they showed Amaziah to the men at the gates and threatened to kill him on the spot if the gates weren’t opened – they were.

25:24 The Temple treasures were taken (worship diminished) and hostages (freedom) were taken. King Jehoash of Israel took treasure from the Temple and Palace (as well as hostages) and returned to Samaria. The Temple had already been pillaged by Hazael not long before (2 Kings 12:18). This is the first time that it was documented that hostages were taken as slaves by the conquering army.

25:25 After King of Jehoash of Israel died, Amaziah the King of Judah lived fifteen more years.

25:26 The acts of Amaziah are also captured in the book of Kings.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 25:20, what was the reason that Amaziah wouldn't listen to Israel's warning?**
 - **It was from God that He might judge Amaziah for seeking the false gods.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 25:23, what did Israel do after defeating Judah?**
 - **They tore down the northern wall of Jerusalem**

Read 2 Chronicles 25:27-28.... Judah's King Amaziah Could Not Return to Jerusalem

25:27 Amaziah fled to Lachish, but Judeans killed him. At the point that Amaziah stopped following the Lord, a conspiracy had begun to be developed for his life. It was because of King Amaziah's idolatry that he was killed. Lachish ("who walks/exists by himself") is a fortified city approximately 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Similarities between Joash & Amaziah		
	Joash (Father)	Amaziah (Son)
Good Start with the Lord	2 Chronicles 24:2	2 Kings 14:3
Fell Away from God	2 Chronicles 24:17-19	2 Chronicles 25:14-15;
Rejected Prophetic Correction	2 Chronicles 24:20-22	2 Chronicles 25:16
Killed by Their Own Servants	2 Kings 12:20-21	2 Kings 14:19

25:28 Jerusalem was the city where Kings were buried, and yet this is written as a "city of Judah" instead of "Jerusalem".

Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-5.... Uzziah follows God as long his spiritual mentor is alive

26:1 The people of Judah elevated Uzziah to reign as King.

26:2 Upon becoming King, Uzziah built up Eloth.

26:3 Uzziah's mother, Jechiliah ("God will make strong") was from Jerusalem.

26:4 Amaziah had begun strong before pride caused his downfall; the same would be true for Uzzah.

26:5 Uzziah's desire to seek the Lord was based on the prophecies of Zechariah, and "*as long as he sought the Lord, God prospered him*".

- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:2, what was the first documented action after Uzziah became King?**
 - **Uzziah rebuilt and restored**
 - **13 years into Amaziah's reign (at age 38), Uzziah had been born**
 - **Eloth ("strength/oak") was an ancient town from the days of Moses' wilderness wanderings (Deut 2:8).**
 - **King Uzziah's grandson, Ahaz, would lose control of Elath to the Syrians (2 Kings 16:6), and then erroneously contact Assyria to help stave off Syria and Israel.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:3, how long did Uzziah remain King?**
 - **Uzziah became king at the age of 16 and remained King for 52 years (2 Kings 14:21); this is the second longest reign of a king after Manasseh's 55 years.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:4, Uzziah's faithfulness is likened to whose walk with the Lord?**
 - **His father, Amaziah who "did what was right in the Lord's sight but not completely" (2 Chronicles 25:2**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:5, how long did Uzziah remain faithful to the Lord?**
 - **As long as his spiritual mentor, Zechariah, was alive; Uzziah had been influenced by Zechariah ("God has remembered").**
 - **This is a different man from the one who had been martyred by his grandfather, Joash (2 Chron 24:22).**
 - **This is also different "Zechariah" than the minor prophet who came 300 years later post-Babylon.**
 - **As Joash had been with his mentor Jehoida (2 Chronicles 24:2), so was Uzziah with Zechariah.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:5, what was the outcome of Uzzah seeking the Lord?**
 - **"During the time that he sought the LORD, God gave him success."**

Read 2 Chronicles 26:6-15.... God Grants Uzziah Success

26:6 A wall symbolizes separation and defensiveness. Uzziah destroyed protective walls in three primary Philistine cities: 1. Gath ("winepress") 2. Jabneh ("building of God") 3. Ashdod ("stronghold")

26:7 God helped Uzziah in his victories over core enemy areas. Gur-baal ("the dwelling place/mountain of Baal") and Meunites who were the inhabitants of Maon on Mt. Seir among the Edomites.

26:8 The Ammonites (descendants of Lot's youngest daughter who worshipped Molech) paid tribute, and God extended Uzziah's fame to Egypt

26:9 Towers represent strength, power, and protection beginning at the corner (Eph 2:20) gate (Mt 7:13) through the valley (daily life) gate and the corner buttress (Acts 4:11)

- 26:10 King Uzziah had a “green thumb” as he loved to farm. His production extended beyond the vineyards in the hills and the crops to many cattle.
- 26:14 Uzziah’s army was well supplied with six (insufficient) types of weapons (1.shields 2.spears 3.helmets 4.armor 5.bows 6.slingshots), but it had been God who had given Uzziah success.
- 26:15 Uzziah’s national army had leading projectile weaponry, and “*he was marvelously helped until he became strong.*” Throughout history, the character of every leading nation has suffered from success as national pride replaces reliance on a higher power.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:7, who helped Uzziah become successful against his enemies?**
 - God helped Uzziah in his victories over core enemy areas. Gur-baal (“the dwelling place/mountain of Baal”) and Meunites who were the inhabitants of Maon on Mt. Seir among the Edomites.
 - The Ammonites (descendants of Lot’s youngest daughter who worshipped Molech) paid tribute, and God extended Uzziah’s fame to Egypt
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 26:10, what are the implications of towers in the desert as well as the digging of many wells?**
 - Towers represent strength, power, and protection beginning at the corner (Eph 2:20) gate (Mt 7:13) through the valley (daily life) gate and the corner buttress (Acts 4:11)
 - Wells provided water (much like the Spirit through God’s Word) that enabled blessed lives in difficult places.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 26:10, what did Uzziah’s description love?**
 - King Uzziah had a “green thumb” as he loved to farm. His production extended beyond the vineyards in the hills and the crops to many cattle.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 26:14, how well armed were Uzziah’s troops?**
 - Uzziah’s army was well supplied with six (insufficient) types of weapons (1.shields 2.spears 3.helmets 4.armor 5.bows 6.slingshots), but it had been God who had given Uzziah success.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 26:15, what was the result of Uzziah’s leading projectile weaponry of catapults and arrows shooters?**
 - Uzziah became famous; Uzziah’s national army had leading projectile weaponry, and “*he was marvelously helped until he became strong.*”
 - Throughout history, the character of every leading nation has suffered from success as national pride replaces reliance on a higher power.

Read 2 Chronicles 26:16-21.... Uzziah is Judged for entering the Temple with Pride as a Priest

- 26:16 As with those before him, Uzziah fell because of his proud heart from the success that the Lord had given to him. Uzziah became so prideful that he presumed against the Lord by feeling that he could approach the altar of incense directly without a mediator. God needed to show Uzziah his sin which is represented by leprosy.
- 26:17 The priest Azariah followed Uzziah into the Temple; in the book of Kings, the king’s name is “Azariah” instead of “Uzziah”. The King and Priest had the same name which represents similarity – at least in the mind of Uzziah/Azariah (2 Kings 15).
- Eighty is a factor of 8 which represents new beginning.
- 26:18 Burning incense was a holy act that required an intercessor as designated by the King of kings.
- 26:19 The leprosy began when King Uzziah rejected the correction with anger and self-righteous pride.
- 26:20 The priests noticed the leprosy (sin) on King Uzziah’s forehead prior to the King being aware. It would have been impossible for the King to have seen the leprosy on his forehead, so it would have required that the King believe the priest’s call to action.
- The forehead often reflects thoughts, reasonings and innermost meditations.
- 26:21 Uzziah was never healed from his leprosy which divided his household (as he lived separately) and cut him off from the house of God. His son became co-Regent at that time to rule with his father.
- 26:22 Isaiah captured the works of Uzziah. Although Uzziah was buried with the Kings, his epitaph was his sin...that Uzziah was a leper.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 26:16, what caused Uzziah to believe that he could perform priestly duties?**
 - Pride - God helped Uzziah win battles, but Uzziah’s heart became proud, and he went into the Temple to perform the Priest’s duty (Uzziah had not been “called to serve in that position”)
 - In many ways, Uzziah was a personification of Israel as a nation.
 - Uzziah had become confident in his walk with the Lord. He presumed too much because he still needed the mediator priest although God had blessed him immensely.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 26:17, what is the adjective used for the 80 priests that confronted Uzziah in the Temple?**
 - They were brave b/c Uzziah could easily have them killed
 - Eight is representative of “new beginning.”
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 26:19, when did the skin disease break out on Uzziah?**

- When Uzziah became angry about hearing the truth, he was punished with a skin disease (as skin diseases represent sin – Lev 13) that began on his forehead (representative of thoughts) which was evident to everyone.
- Everyone can see the forehead except that individual.
- According to 2 Chronicles 26:20, once the skin disease broke out on Uzziah, what was the reaction of the Priests?
 - They did not brag with pride that “I told you so.” Instead, they worked to limit the judgment and pain of Uzziah.
 - With the help of the priests, Uzziah fled the Temple as God afflicted him.
- According to 2 Chronicles 26:21, what was the long-term effect of Uzziah’s sin?
 - Separation - The sin of Uzziah caused him to be separated from everyone until his death while his son, Jotham, reigned in his stead.
- According to 2 Chronicles 26:22, which major prophet referenced Uzziah’s life?
 - Uzziah is referenced in Isaiah’s book (Isaiah 6:1) as Isaiah was a young man during his reign (Isaiah 1:1).

Kings while Isaiah was Prophet		
1.	Uzziah	Died in 740BC
2.	Jotham	740-735BC
3.	Ahaz	735-727BC
4.	Hezekiah	727-687BC
5.	Manasseh	687-642BC

Read 2 Chronicles 27:1-9.... Good King Jotham ruled over Wicked Judah

27:1 The name of Jotham’s mother was Jerushah (“inheritance”).
 27:2 This was a unique time in history where the King did what was right in God’s sight while the people were corrupt.
 27:3 The wall of Ophel (“the mount”) was meant to reinforce the most vulnerable area on the southern slope of Jerusalem.
 27:4 Beyond Jerusalem, Jotham took protective measures for the rural farmers and travelers.
 27:5 Judah’s King Jotham was victorious over the Ammonites, so that they provided crops for three years.
 27:6 King Jotham purposely planned his walk with the Lord.
 27:7 Jotham’s wars and acts are documented also in the book of Kings.
 27:8 This is the second time that Jotham’s age is mentioned (25) as well as the (16 year) length of his reign (2 Chronicles 27:8)
 27:9 At the death of good king Jotham, his son, Ahaz, begins to reign.

- According to 2 Chronicles 27:2, what is unique about King Jotham’s rule?
 - Jotham followed God (2 Chron 27:6), but the people of Israel did not
 - Jotham became king while his father, Uzziah was alive after Uzziah had been supernaturally judged by the Lord.
- According to 2 Chronicles 27:3-5, what characterized Jotham’s rule?
 - Building and defeating the Ammonites
 - Ophel (“fortress, stronghold, hill”) that was on the east hill of Jerusalem (south of the temple) known as Zion and utilized as a fortress for the kings.
 - The Ammonites had given his father, Uzziah, tributes (2 Chron 26:8), and Uzziah also demanded tributes for three years.
- According to 2 Chronicles 27:6, how did Jotham strengthen himself?
 - Jotham was consistent and persistent in his obedience to the Lord.
 - Unlike the beginning of Jotham’s reign, Ahaz began to reign as king after his father’s death

Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-7...Evil King Ahaz abandons God, so God abandons Ahaz

28:1 Although the father of Ahaz had walked with the Lord, they both reigned as King of Judah for 16 years.
 28:2 Ahaz walked apart from the Lord by making Baal images.
 28:3 Ahaz reverted to the worship of Baal in Hinnom by sacrificing his sons. His wickedness was in the pattern of the Canaanites that the Lord had removed from the Promised Land, so that His people might walk with Him.
 28:4 Ahaz reestablished the high places of false worship throughout Judah.
 28:5 Ahaz was defeated by both Syria/Aram as well as Israel’s northern kingdom (2 Kings 15:37).
 28:6 Pekah was King of Israel who was assaulted by Assyria although God gave him victory over Judah (2 Kings 15:27-31).
 28:7 Zichri was one of Israel’s mighty men who killed three men close to the king: 1.the son of Ahaz (Maaseiah – “the work of the Lord”). 2. Azrikam, the steward of the palace 3. Elkanah, the royal counselor or vizier.

- According to 2 Chronicles 28:2-4, did Ahaz please God?
 - No- When Ahaz became king, he did not follow God; instead, Ahaz followed the example of idolatry from the evil Kings in the Northern Kingdom.

- God finds it detestable to offer the offspring as a sacrifice in fire to a false god as is mentioned as being performed six times (2 Kings 17:31; Jer 19:5; Ez 16:21, 20:31, 23:37) after God explicitly said not to do it (Lev 18:21).
 1. This is man's polluted attempt to appease false gods juxtaposed to God offering His son on the cross (John 3:16).
 2. The valley of Hinnom ("their riches") became Gehenna, Jerusalem's trash dump.
- Ahaz's idolatry was unbridled and spread everywhere throughout Judah
- Ahaz did not walk with God like David (2 Chronicles 28:1)
- Instead of building cities, Ahaz built images of false gods; so often, men must choose between building their homes/lives or pursuing destructive practices
- According to 2 Chronicles 28:5, what was God's judgment on the rebellion of Ahaz?
 - God turned them over to their enemies, the Syrians and Israelites.
 - This "handing over" is discussed several times in the New Testament as giving someone over to the consequences of their sin (1 Cor 5:5; Eph 4:19; Rom 1:24) Lev 18:21.
- According to 2 Chronicles 28:5, who did God use to administer His judgment?
 - Syria and Israel were idolatrous nations against Yahweh.
 - Pekah was the second to the last king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (before Assyria deported them), and he slew (120,000 – twelve being organization for testimony) brave men from Judah in a single day because Judah had abandoned God.
- According to 2 Chronicles 28:7, what happened to Ahaz inner circle of confidants?
 - Zichri (an Ephraimite warrior) killed the top three men in the palace beyond the king:
 1. Maaseish (Ahaz's son)
 2. Azrikim (governor of the palace)
 3. Elkanah (second to the king)

Read 2 Chronicles 28:8-15...The Prophet Obed Confronts the Israelite Army

28:8 Beyond defeating Judah, the army of Israel captured a vast number of Judah's inhabitants as well as the spoil.

28:9 Obed was a prophet of the Lord who intercepted Israel's mighty army. Obed expresses that God allowed Israel to defeat Judah because God was angry with them and desired to judge Judah.

28:10 Obed reveals the wicked intentions of the northern kingdom by making slaves of those captured in Judah.

28:11 In spite of the Lord's wrath, He sends a warning through Obed. The prophets warning preceded God's judgment on Israel.

28:12 Leaders of the Ephraimites (Azariah-"God has helped", Berechiah-"God blesses", Jehizkiah-"God strengthens", Amasa-"Sparing the people") also opposed the enslavement of Judah.

28:13 As the wrongful loot and ill-gotten gains were brought home, so was the wrath of God.

28:14 The armed men guarding the captives left their defeated foe.

28:15 Beyond mercy, the northern kingdom's officers had grace on those who had been captured. They clothed and fed them; they provided drink and even anointed the prisoners with oil. Those who were too weak were provided donkeys to ride. Israel returned the captives to Jericho ("the city of palms"); palm trees often represent righteousness in Scripture (Ps 92:12)

- According to 2 Chronicles 28:9, who confronted the Israelite army with their 200,000 captives on behalf of God?
 - A single man, Obed ("worshipper/servant") - a Prophet of the Lord, met the entire army of the northern kingdom who had just killed more than 120,000 men and enslaved 200,000.
 - A single man who understood the reason that God had turned Judah over to them because of His wrath, but the slaughter of rage by the northern kingdom had now reached heaven.
- According to 2 Chronicles 28:9-13, what was the message of Obed to Israel's army?
 - God was using them to judge Judah b/c they had abandoned God
 - Israel also had sin and were abandoning the Lord
 - Israel should not add to their sins
- According to 2 Chronicles 28:15, how did the care-givers (who were designated by name) take care of the captives from Judah?
 - Judah captives were:
 1. Dressed w/ Clothes/Sandals
 2. Fed/Watered
 3. Anointed for their wounds
 4. Given donkeys to take them to the city of Palm Trees (which represents rewards of righteousness)

Read 2 Chronicles 28:16-25...Ahaz Requests Assistance from Assyria

28:16 Ahaz requested assistance from Tiglath-pileser (Pul) in fighting Israel and Syria.

- 28:17 The power of the Edomites (Esau’s descendants) had grown as they raided Judah and captured prisoners.
 28:18 Judah was attacked from all sides. The Philistines were capturing cities in the southwest. The Edomites were capturing people from the southeast. Syria and Israel were attacking from the north.
 28:19 The Lord had humbled Judah’s King Ahaz through their northern kingdom enemies.
 28:20 Ahaz hoped Tiglath-pileser would help him, but instead the Assyrian army came against them.
 28:21 Ahaz took wealth from the house of the Lord to purchase Assyria’s favor, but it did not.
 28:22 Instead of repenting and turning to God, Judah’s King Ahaz rebelled further from God.
 28:23 Ahaz reasoned that the false gods of the northern kingdom had brought them victory over Judah, so he turned to the false gods of Israel for assistance.
 28:24 After removing the treasures from the house of God, Ahaz closed up the Temple and began worshipping as he liked throughout Jerusalem.
 28:25 Ahaz continued his idolatrous practices on the high places which further enraged God.
 28:26 The works of Ahaz are also referenced in the book of Kings.
 28:27 Although Judah buried Ahaz in Jerusalem, they did not honor him in burying him in the tomb of the Kings.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 28:16-18, who did Evil King Ahaz of Judah request for help?**
 - Ahaz (of Judah) asks Assyria to help instead of God.
 - Not only did the northern kingdom defeat them, but so did the Edomites and the Philistines.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 28:20-21, did King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria assist Ahaz?**
 - Ahaz’s request for help would not be regarded, but instead it had simply called the attention of Assyria to Judah
 - Although Ahaz sold his religious state for earthly protection, it did not work.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 28:19, why did God “humble” Judah?**
 - God had humiliated Judah because of the influence of Ahaz (Israel’s king)
 - What was Ahaz response when the King of Assyria also came against Judah? 2 Chronicles 28:22-23
 - When Ahaz was punished and judged, he hardened his heart even more against the Lord.
 - Judah’s king Ahaz never turned to God, but instead turned to false idols of Syria who had defeated him
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 28:22, how did Ahaz respond to troubled times?**
 - Ahaz turned to idols and false gods.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 28:24, Ahaz seems angry at God; what did Ahaz do with the worship at the Temple?**
 - Ahaz committed three irreverent acts:
 1. destroyed the utensils of worship
 2. closed the Temple/church
 3. established altars to false gods on every street corner.
 - 28:25 Individual rebellion and public policy can bring judgment.

9 2 Chronicles 29, 30, 31

Read 2 Chronicles 29:1-11...Hezekiah Comes to Power and Covenants with God

29:1 Hezekiah was eight years old when his evil father, Ahaz became king; before that, good king Jotham may have influenced him.

Influence of Various Men named Zechariah (“God has Remembered”) “Zechariah” is mentioned 22 Times in 1-2 Chronicles			
1.	Jahaziel The son of Zechariah, a Levite from Asaph	The Spirit of the Lord fell on him with encouraging message	2 Chron 20:14
2.	Zechariah Son of Jehoida the Priests	The Spirit took control of him, and he was martyred by king for warning	2 Chron 24:20-22
3.	Zechariah King Amaziah’s mentor	The Teacher of the Fear of God	2 Chron 26:5
4.	Abijah Daughter of Zechariah	Wife of Ahaz at age 12 and mother of Hezekiah	2 Chron 29:1

- 29:3 Hezekiah wasted no time, but immediately began work for the Lord when he became king after Ahaz. Newly anointed believers often start with a fervor that should be maintained throughout.
 29:4-5 Hezekiah re-established the Priests and Levites calling on them for their sanctification and separation from the general world. Believers are called to a separated walk.
 29:6-7 Hezekiah has clear picture of ancestor’s sins as being sevenfold (complete): 1.Abandoning God (2 Chron 7:19, 12:5, 15:2, 24:20) 2.Turning their faces from the Tabernacle (before the Temple, they rebelled) 3.Turning away from the Lord

4. Closed the Temple vestibule's doors 5. Extinguished the Lamps (the light no longer shown through God's people) 6. No Incense (no prayers to the Lord) 7. No Burnt Offerings (no longer the servants of the Lord)
- 29:8 Israel continues to live under this judgment as being hated by the world for rejecting Jesus, the true Messiah.
- 29:9 Beyond the literal, the sins of the Father were revealed and condemned by the "Sword" (the Word of the Lord – Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12) resulting in their death while the members of the family became entangled in the captivity and slavery of sin (Jn 8:34; Rom 6:16).
- 29:10 God's wrath is deterred when a covenant from the heart is made with Him.
- 29:11 A call is put forth to God's anointed not to be negligent because He has chosen them for His service.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:2, although wicked Ahaz was Hezekiah's father, whose walk is Hezekiah likened to?**
 - Hezekiah did what was right just as David had done
 - Hezekiah was eight years old when his evil father, Ahaz became king; before that, good king Jotham may have influenced him.
 - **What does 2 Chronicles 29:3 reveal about Hezekiah's priorities?**
 - Hezekiah wasted no time, but immediately began work for the Lord when he became king after Ahaz.
 - Newly anointed believers often start with a fervor that should be maintained throughout; a believer who maintains both fervency and faithfulness over a lifetime is rare.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 29:5, how did Hezekiah tell the Priests and Levites to prepare?**
 - Consecrate means to set apart as sacred
 - What is another word for set apart? Sanctified
 1. Hezekiah re-established the Priests and Levites calling on them for their sanctification and separation from the general world.
 2. Believers are called to a separated walk.
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 29:6-7, how many wicked actions of Hezekiah's ancestors are named?**
 - Seven - Hezekiah has clear picture of ancestor's sins as being sevenfold (complete):
 1. Abandoning God (2 Chron 7:19, 12:5, 15:2, 24:20)
 2. Turning their faces from the Tabernacle (they rebelled from God's design and direction)
 3. Turning away from the Lord
 4. Closed the Temple vestibule's doors (Impeded Worship)
 5. Extinguished the Lamps (the light no longer shown through God's people)
 6. No Incense (no prayers to the Lord)
 7. No Burnt Offerings (no longer the servants of the Lord)
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 29:8-9, how was Israel treated by the world?**
 - An object of terror – horror – hissing...
 - Whether it is the holocaust or the UN - Israel continues to live under this judgment as being hated by the world for rejecting Jesus, the true Messiah.
 - Beyond the literal, the sins of the Father were revealed and condemned by the "Sword" (the Word of the Lord – Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12) resulting in their death
 - The members of the family became entangled in the captivity and slavery of sin (Jn 8:34; Rom 6:16).
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 29:10, how is God's fierce wrath turned from an individual?**
 - God's wrath is deterred when a covenant from the heart is made with Him.
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 29:11, what is the directive that Hezekiah gave to Levites and Priests?**
 - A call is put forth to God's anointed not to be negligent because He has chosen them for His service.
 - God chose us (Ephesians 1:4) to be His priests (1 Peter 2:5)

Fourteen Levites Stood & Led in the Consecration (2x7 meaning 2=witness and 7=completeness – “complete witness”) (2 Chronicles 29:12-14)			
1.	Mahath	“Snatch/Grab”	Amasi Kohathites (1a)
2.	Joel	“God who wills/commands”	Azariah Kohathites (1b)
3.	Kish	“Bow/Strength/Hard”	Abdi Merarites (2a)
4.	Azariah	“God has aided”	Jehallelel Merarites (2b)
5.	Joah	“God is his brother/worker”	Zimmah Gershonites (3a)
6.	Eden	“Pleasure/Delight”	Joah Gershonites (3b)
7.	Shimri	“Thorn/Watchmen”	Elizaphanites (4a)
8.	Jeuel	“God has snatched/taken away”	Elizaphanites (4b)
9.	Zechariah	“God has Remembered”	Asaphites (5a)
10.	Mattaniah	“Gift of God”	Asaphites (5b)

11.	Jehiel	“God Liveth”	Who lives and is known to preserve. God is my strength.	Hemanites (6a)
12.	Shimei	“Famous”		Hemanites (6b)
13.	Shemaiah	“To guard, watch, preserve”		Jeduthunites (7a)
14.	Uzziel	“God is my strength”		Jeduthunites (7b)

Read 2 Chronicles 29:15-19...Cleansing of the Temple

29:15 Groups of believers should follow this three step example of God’s anointed: 1.Gather together 2.Santify/Consecrate themselves setting themselves apart for the Lord’s service 3.Go out obedient to the King Jesus’ commands in His Word as they cleanse themselves as Temples unto the Lord.

29:16 The Holy of Holies did not need purification, so the priests began cleaning at the door, but thoroughly cleaned inside and out while the Levites took all of the detestable items to the Kidron Valley.

29:17 The priests consecrated themselves for eight days and then the Temple for the following eight. Eight is symbolic of new beginning, and this cleansing re-established fellowship with the Lord.

29:18-19 The utensils seem to receive special attention as the instruments that were rejected by the evil king but were meant to be used in the Lord’s work. Three items are mentioned: 1.The Whole Temple 2.The Altar of Burnt Offering & Utensils 3.The Tables of Shewbread & Utensils

- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:15, what were the three actions that God’s people took to make things right with Him?**
 - **Groups of believers should follow this three-step example of God’s anointed:**
 1. **Gather together**
 2. **Santify/Consecrate themselves setting themselves apart for the Lord’s service**
 3. **Go out obedient to the King Jesus’ commands in His Word as they cleanse themselves as Temples unto the Lord.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:16, what was the first action in cleansing the Temple?**
 - **They rid the Temple of all of the detestable things**
 - **Believers (and families of Believers) should reflect on what might need to be removed (James 1:27) in purification (e.g. TV, hobbies, clothing, etc.).**
 - **Believers want to hear and see God, but there is so much noise and distraction in the way.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:17, how long did the priests consecrate themselves and then the Temple?**
 - **The priests consecrated themselves for eight days and then the Temple for the following eight.**
 - **Eight is symbolic of new beginning, and this cleansing re-established fellowship with the Lord.**

Read 2 Chronicles 29:20-30...Hezekiah Re-instates the Sacrifices

29:20 Early in the morning, the King gathered his officials to visit the Temple of the Lord.

29:21 The first act of King Hezekiah towards the cleansed Temple was the sacrifice of a sin offering (seven represents completeness).

29:22 The burnt offering consisted of bulls, rams and lambs to dedicate the temple.

29:23 The laying on of hands as a form of identification (2 Cor 5:21) as the goat (“scapegoat”) would represent the sacrifice for the people’s sin (Mt 25:33)

29:24 Priests gave atonement for all of Israel, and assembly gave willing burnt offerings (2 Chron 29:31)

Hezekiah arranged the Levites in the Temple with Three Instruments (2 Chron 29:25)				
1.	Cymbals	A bronze, percussion instrument hit with a drumstick or used in pairs. Played sporadically for emphasis.	David	The King
2.	Harps	A wooden, stringed instrument with three sides of a pillar, a curved neck, and a hollow back enclosing the sounding board, with usually forty-something strings of various lengths that are played with the fingers. Played alone or as an accompaniment to other instruments.	Gad	The Seer
3.	Lyres	A stringed instrument (in the harp family) with two curved arms connected at the upper end by a crossbar. Primarily utilized to accompany a singer or reciter of poetry.	Nathan	The Prophet

29:26 The worship team consisted of Levites and priests.

29:27-28 When the burnt offerings (total commitment of dedication) began, the praise began as well.

29:29 After the commitment of the burnt offerings had been accomplished, the Lord was worshipped.

29:30 The Levites sang words from Psalms (written by David and Asaph) as they bowed in worship.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:21, what was the first sacrifice that was offered at the newly consecrated Temple?**
 - **The first act of King Hezekiah in regards to the cleansed Temple was the sacrifice of a sin offering (seven represents completeness).**

- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:22, what three animals represented Jesus shedding His blood?**
 - **The blood of the three animals was sprinkled on the altar for the aspects of Christ:**
 1. **Ox (strong servant)**
 2. **Ram (leader of the flock)**
 3. **Lamb (purely submissive)**
- **What did the King and people do to the goat offering before it was killed?**
 - **They laid hands on the goat**
 - **The laying on of hands as a form of identification (2 Cor 5:21) as the goat (“scapegoat”) would represent the sacrifice for the people’s sin (Mt 25:33)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:30, whose songs were sung at Hezekiah’s consecration ceremony?**
 - **The Levites sang words from Psalms (written by David and Asaph) as they bowed in worship.**

Read 2 Chronicles 29:31-36...The Levites Assist the Priests with the People’s Offerings

29:31 The entire congregation had now been set apart for the Lord’s will, and those with willing hearts gave burnt offerings of dedication for themselves. Every Believer should have this “willing heart” to be completely dedicated to His will.
 29:32 The assembly offered sacrifices of 70 bulls, 100 rams and 200 lambs as a burnt offering of total dedication to the Lord.
 29:33 A substantial number more bulls (600) and sheep (3,000) were set apart for offerings.
 29:34 The Levites represent all of the descendants from Levi while the priests were in the lineage of Aaron. The throughput by the priests was constrained, so the Levites helped their brothers prepare the sacrifice offerings. The Levites seem to have already consecrated themselves for the holy work of the Lord.
 29:35 There were burnt (dedication) offerings as well as peace (fellowship) offerings to the Lord. Both burnt and peace offerings are free-will offerings with aromas that please the Lord.
 29:36 The response of the offerings was joy by King and inhabitants alike. This dedication of the Temple had come about quickly.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:31, who brought burnt offerings to be sacrificed to the Lord?**
 - **The entire congregation had now been set apart for the Lord’s will, and those with willing hearts gave burnt offerings of dedication for themselves.**
 - **Every Believer should have this “willing heart” to be completely dedicated to His will.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:34, who assisted the priests in their work when they were overwhelmed?**
 - **The Levites more readily set themselves apart for the Lord’s will (holy unto the Lord) than the priests.**
 - **Believers vary in their commitment to God versus protection of their self-will.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 29:36, what was the result of the consecration and offerings at the Temple?**
 - **Commitment, fellowship and joy was in abundance, and everyone was cheerful that the repentance came so quickly.**

Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-9...Hezekiah Invites Judah & Israel to Celebrate Passover

30:1 Hezekiah invited all of the tribes of the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) kingdoms to come worship at the refurbished Temple. He even invited the two tribes of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen 48).
 30:2-3 The schedule was flexible for obedience to the Spirit of the Law. God had made this alternative a millennium before for His people who were traveling with Moses through the wilderness (Num 9:1-11).
 30:4-5 The invitation went out from the south to the northern tribes because the Passover had not been regularly observed. God called all of His people together three times a year to worship Him in greater numbers (Passover, Pentecost, Unleavened Bread)
 30:6 Hezekiah beckoned to all of Israel who had escaped exile of Assyria to return to the Lord, and the Lord would return to them.
 30:7 Hezekiah calls on Israel to reject their father’s rebellious ways.
 30:8 As Israel hardened their hearts and were judged, they became increasingly obstinate against the will of the Lord.
 30:9 *“For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful; He will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him.”*

- **According to 2 Chronicles 30:1, who did Hezekiah invite to the celebration of Passover?**
 - **Hezekiah invited all of the tribes of the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) kingdoms to come worship at the refurbished Temple.**
 - **He even invited the two tribes of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen 48).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 30:2-3, was a flexible Passover schedule pleasing to the Lord?**
 - **Yes - the schedule was flexible for obedience to the Spirit of the Law.**
 - **God had made this alternative one millennium before for His people who were traveling with Moses through the wilderness (Num 9:1-11).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 30:8, what does Hezekiah request Judah not to be?**
 - **Hezekiah did not want Judah to be obstinate like their fathers**

- As Israel hardened their hearts and were judged, they became increasingly obstinate against the will of the Lord.
- Explain 2 Chronicles 30:9
 - *“For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful; He will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him.”*

Read 2 Chronicles 30:10-20...Judah & Israel’s Response to Hezekiah’s Passover Invitation

30:10-11 Hezekiah sent word out to other Israelite tribes to return to the Lord; some mocked (Ephraim) while others humbled themselves (Asher)

30:12 God gave Judah a shared vision around the Word of the Lord (1 Cor 12:12; Eph 4:13; Col 3:14)

30:13-14 The populous general public rid Jerusalem of the idolatrous items. Crossing the Kidron Valley (“dark water”) was linked to the concept of death (2 Sam 15:3; 1 Ki 2:37; Jn 18:1), and idolatrous items were razed there (1 Ki 15:13; 2 Ki 23:6, 12; 2 Chron 29:16), but God can redeem the worst (Jer 31:40)

30:17 Those who had not sanctified themselves still wanted to partake of the worship

30:18-20 God is merciful, and accepts worship from those who unknowingly break His law. Just as Hezekiah interceded for the sinful people, so is Jesus the mediator for the fallen who seek the Lord. God “healed” the people; that is the great physician restored the sinners.

- According to 2 Chronicles 30:10-11, what were the two responses to Hezekiah’s invitation to get right with God?
 - Some mocked while others humbled themselves
- According to 2 Chronicles 30:12, what did the hand of God give those in Judah?
 - God gave a unified heart to obey the law of God
 - God gave Judah a shared vision around the Word of the Lord (1 Cor 12:12; Eph 4:13; Col 3:14)
- According to 2 Chronicles 30:15, what did the priests and Levites feel when all of the false altars were discarded?
 - The priests and Levites were ashamed and they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings
- According to 2 Chronicles 30:18-20, who was the mediator for God people?
 - Hezekiah performed an intercessory role
 - Just as Hezekiah interceded for the sinful people, so is Jesus the mediator for the fallen who seek the Lord.
 - God is merciful, and accepts worship from those who unknowingly break His law.
 - God “healed” the people; that is the great physician restored the sinners.

Read 2 Chronicles 30:23-27...The Celebration was Extended & God Heard Their Prayer

30:23 The people enjoyed the fellowship and worship together, so they extended another seven days. The number seven often represents “fulness” or “satisfaction”

30:24 The King and Princes of Judah had contributed tens of thousands of bulls and sheep.

30:25 Everyone rejoiced including Priests, Levites, the inhabitants of Judah as well as those who traveled down from the northern kingdom.

30:26 This massive revival of Judah turning to God with thousands of sacrifices was something unrivaled since Solomon’s days.

- According to 2 Chronicles 30:23, what did the people choose to do with the celebration?
 - The entire congregation had celebrated for seven (complete) days and then celebrated for seven additional days.
- According to 2 Chronicles 30:26, when was the last time Judah had felt such joy before God?
 - Such joy had not been experienced in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon; this revival of restoration and worship by Hezekiah resulted in mass rejoicing.
 - While Hezekiah’s Passover was likened to Solomon’s, Josiah’s was likened to Samuel’s (2 Chron 35:18).
- According to 2 Chronicles 30:27, how effective were the prayers?
 - The prayer of the priests and Levites entered “God’s holy dwelling place in heaven.”
 - Mankind devalues prayer as an action casually heard by God, but this verse speaks of the words of these men being permitted to enter the majesty of the set apart (holy) Lord.

Discuss 2 Chronicles 31:1...Judah & Israel Destroy the Asherah Poles & High Places

31:1 The worshippers from the northern kingdom (Israel) helped rid the southern kingdom of their idolatrous possessions. It is always easier to “purify” someone else’s life than your own.

- According to 2 Chronicles 31:1, what was the impact of the Passover Celebration?
 - The inhabitants of the northern kingdom, Israel had been included, and they returned home to destroy their idols.

Read 2 Chronicles 31:2-12...Priests & Levites are Provisioned to Study God’s Law

31:2 King Hezekiah structured the service at the Temple. Responsibilities for the burnt and peace offerings were assigned to minister while giving thanks and praise.

31:3 King Hezekiah gave personally for the morning and evening burnt offerings because he obeyed the law (Numbers 28:9)

31:4 Hezekiah commanded that priests and Levites should be paid so that they could devote their time to the Law of the Lord. Religious leaders are given income to supplement the time devoted to their Bible Study, so that they can convey the truths of God’s Word. So many religious leaders are distracted by events, plans, and programs away from the focus on the Word of the Lord.

31:5 Immediately, as soon as the order was given, those who came from Israel (the northern kingdom) gave the best of the produce as a tithe to the priests and Levites.

31:6 Israel had migrated away from Assyria and into Judah; everyone living in Judah (from the northern and southern kingdom) tithed to the Lord.

31:7-8 Just as Hezekiah had restored the Temple, the seventh month had also been the celebration of the opening of Solomon’s Temple (2 Chron 5:3; 7:10) – even after Babylon captivity, the people would resettle in Jerusalem on the seventh month. The leaders praised the Lord for the generosity of the people.

31:9 Hezekiah recognized the piles of supplies and asked the priests and Levites about it.

31:10 The chief priest, Azariah, explains that the stockpiles were leftovers not needed nor consumed by the priests and Levites.

31:11 Chambers in the Lord’s Temple were established to hold the abundant stockpiles of offerings

- **According to 2 Chronicles 31:4, why did Hezekiah command tithe be given to the priests and Levites?**
 - Hezekiah commanded that priests and Levites should be paid so that they could devote their time to learning, studying and conveying the Law of the Lord.
 - Religious leaders are given income to supplement the time devoted to their Bible Study, so that they can convey the truths of God’s Word.
 - So many religious leaders are distracted by events, plans, and programs away from the focus on the Word of the Lord.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 31:5-6, what percent of the people’s possessions was given to support the Priests and Levites?**
 - A tenth (or a Tithe)

Discuss 2 Chronicles 31:12-13...Levites Overseeing the Provisions

31:12 The Levites faithfully stored the three categories of offerings: 1.contributions 2.tithes 3.consecrated things

The Levites responsible for the stockpiles of extra offerings stored in the Lord’s temple. (2 Chronicles 31:12-13)		
1.	Conaniah	“God has set/sustained”
2.	Shimei	“Hear me”
3.	Jehiel	“God’s living one”
4.	Azaziah	“Who has the strength of the Lord”
5.	Nahath	“Rest”
6.	Asahel	“Creature of God”
7.	Jerimoth	“He that rejects death”
8.	Jozabad	“God has bestowed”
9.	Eliel	“My God is God”
10.	Ismachiah	“God will sustain”
11.	Mahath	“Snatching/Grasping”
12.	Benaiah	“Son of the Lord/Built up by the Lord”

God has sustained and listened to me by His living one Who has His strength and offers rest to His creation because He has discarded death and has given by the only God His sustenance by snatching and exalting His son.

Discuss 2 Chronicles 31:14-15...Oversight of Freewill Offerings

31:14 The team responsible for the eastern gate received the freewill offerings, any contributions and the most holy items.

The Levites responsible for the distribution of the freewill offerings. (2 Chronicles 31:14-15)		
1.	Kore	“One who proclaims”
2.	Eden	“Pleasure/Delight”
3.	Miniamin	“Right hand”
4.	Jeshua	“Savior/Deliverer”
5.	Shemaiah	“Hears”
6.	Amariah	“The Lord has said”
7.	Shecaniah	“Habitation of the Lord”

The One who proclaims the joy of His right hand Deliverer Who has heard and spoken from His dwelling place.

Read 2 Chronicles 31:16-...Priests & Levites are Provisioned to Study God's Law

31:16-17 Children dedicated to the Lord's service by the age of three and enter the Lord's service as priests at the age of twenty.

31:18 Beyond the male Levites, the wives and children (sons and daughters) were included in the enrollment and set apart for holy service as a family.

31:19 Distributors were designated to dispense portions to all of the Levites.

Read 2 Chronicles 31:20-21...Hezekiah Prospered because He Earnestly Sought the Lord

31:20-21 Hezekiah pursued God's work with all of His heart, and he prospered. These are wonderful testimonials – *“he did what was good, right and true before the Lord his God. Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.”*

10 2 Chronicles 32, 33

Read 2 Chronicles 32:1-8... Sennacherib Invades Judah

32:1 When the Believer is living a victorious Christian life, the world often attacks to disrupt.

32:2 Believers, like Hezekiah, can foresee the attacks coming and make plans to be watered (living water – Jn 7:38) from the inside.

32:3 Hezekiah was able to hide the wells of the water outside of the city which could not be used by Sennacherib's army for water as well as maintaining the flow of water into the city.

32:4 As a community, the people of Judah stopped up and hid the water outside of the walls of Jerusalem so as not to leave resources for Assyria. They were unaware that Assyria would never get that close to the city.

32:5 The wall had been torn down when Judah's King Amaziah was defeated by Israel's King Jehoash (2 Chron 25:23)

32:6 Hezekiah established strong leaders and encouraged the people of Jerusalem.

- *“Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of all the horde that is with him; for the one with us is greater than the one with him”*

32:7 There were more than 185,000 men in the Assyrian army (2 Kings 19:35)

- **According to 2 Chronicles 32:1, how did Hezekiah prepare for the upcoming attack by Assyria?**
 - **They cut off the water supply outside of the city.**

Read 2 Chronicles 32:9-19... Sennacherib Undermines Hezekiah

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 18-19**

32:9 While the Assyrian King was fighting at Lachish (“who walks”) thirty-five miles away, he sent messengers to berate Jerusalem into submission.

32:10 This first question is key to every Believer, “What are you trusting in?” (Ps 118:8; Prov 3:5-6; 2 Cor 1:9). The ambassadors consider the King of Assyria a truly great king, and they want to understand what explains the confidence of Hezekiah.

32:11 Rabshakeh warns against trusting in the Lord for protection.

32:12 Hezekiah had obediently followed the Lord in the unconventional way of removing the false high places; what the world mistook as disobedience was actually Hezekiah's faithfulness

32:13-14 Sennacherib (Assyrian King) judged the present interaction with God's people by his past success over idolatrous nations. Historically, Rabshakeh emphasized the fact that no god has been able to deliver his people from the Assyrian conquest; Rabshakeh equated Yahweh to the false gods of the other nations. Based on personal experience, Assyria had not experienced any god that could deliver their inhabitants/worshippers.

32:15 The world often likens all “gods” as similar when in truth there is only one God Almighty

32:16 The association is so strong that the Lord's servants are decried as He Himself is (Jn 15:19; 1 Jn 3:13)

32:17-18 The world assaults Believers through slander and raucous intimidation

32:19 The world mistakenly treats the Creator as the created.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 32:10, what was the initial question that Assyria had for Jerusalem?**
 - *“What are you trusting in?”*
- **According to 2 Chronicles 32:13, why did Assyria believe that they would be able to defeat Yahweh?**
 - **Assyria had defeated all of the false gods of other nations.**

Read 2 Chronicles 32:20-23... Assyria is Defeated While Judah is Esteemed

32:20 Judah's King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah were prayer partners.

32:21 Sennacherib is humbled by defeat and then judged/killed by his own sons; the “fruit” of his life killed him, and so it is that the fruit of any life will restore or destroy the individual.

32:22 The Lord is still the salvation of His people and the source of rest (Heb 4:9-11).

32:23 As Hezekiah reigned with God's favor, surrounding nations brought gifts to the King in order to garner his favor.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 32:20, who was Hezekiah's prayer partner?**
 - **The Prophet Isaiah**

- According to 2 Chronicles 32:21, who defeated the mighty Assyrian army?
 - The Lord sent an angel to destroy the army of Assyria
- According to 2 Chronicles 32:21, who killed the King of Assyria and where?
 - The children of the King of Assyria killed him in the temple of his false god.
- According to 2 Chronicles 32:23, what was the consequence of Hezekiah's favor with God?
 - King Hezekiah was exalted in all the nations who brought gifts and choice presents

Read 2 Chronicles 32:24-31.... Hezekiah's Pride & Humility

32:24 At the time of the Assyrian threat, Hezekiah became mortally ill.

32:25 Few individuals show appropriate gratitude for the blessings and answered prayers from the Lord. (Luke 17:11-19)

32:26 After being told of his sin, Hezekiah humbled himself which delayed the judgment until after Hezekiah's passing.

32:27-28 Hezekiah was an extremely wealthy king as well as honor.

Hezekiah's Treasuries (2 Chronicles 32:27)	
1.	Silver
2.	Gold
3.	Precious Stones
4.	Spices
5.	Shields
6.	All Kinds of Valuable Articles

Hezekiah's Storehouses (2 Chronicles 32:28)	
1.	Grain
2.	Wine
3.	Oil
Hezekiah's Pens & Sheepfolds	
1,	Cattle
2.	Sheep

32:29 God was the source of Hezekiah's great wealth.

32:30 Hezekiah was known for developing waterways including the underground stream that fed into the pool of Siloam,

32:31 When Babylon visited King Hezekiah to better understand what had occurred in the heavens in regard to a sign (2 Kings 20:8-11). *"God left him alone only to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart."* (2 Kings 20:12-19)

- The Babylonians had become aware of the sign of the sun's shadow (2 Chronicles 32:31); it piqued their interest with all of their ziggurats and astrology. The Babylonians had a deep interest in astrology; the signs of the zodiac came from Babylon.

32:32 Hezekiah's "deeds of devotion" are documented in the books of Kings and Isaiah.

32:33 Hezekiah was honored at his death and buried in the upper section of the sons of David.

- According to 2 Chronicles 32:24, what else happened to Hezekiah during Assyria's assault?
 - Hezekiah's health declined as he became mortally ill
 - There were two major challenges during Hezekiah's lifetime:
 - Assyria & His Deadly Illness
 - Hezekiah's sickness was the same year as Assyrian taunts
- According to 2 Chronicles 32:25, what did Hezekiah's pride cause him not to do?
 - Hezekiah didn't give thanks for what the Lord had done for him.
 - *"He didn't respond to the benefit that had come to him"* reveals ingratitude.
- According to 2 Chronicles 32:25-26, how did God treat Hezekiah's pride contrasted to his humility?
 - Hezekiah's pride brought the wrath of God, but his humility brought about God's grace
 - God abundantly blessed Hezekiah materially after he humbled himself (2 Chronicles 32:29)
- According to 2 Chronicles 32:30, for what construction project is Hezekiah renowned?
 - Hezekiah was a good king who made systems for physical and spiritual water to come into Jerusalem.
 - Hezekiah's water tunnel is considered to be one of the greatest works of water engineering in that time (Hezekiah's "Siloam" Tunnel)
 - The objective was to channel the Gihon Spring waters from the Kidron Valley (east of Jerusalem), through the bedrock under the hillside of the City of David, into the Pool of Siloam inside of Jerusalem.
 - A siege of any invading army (e.g. the Assyrians) could not affect the water supply.
 - This tunnel diverted water from the Gihon (2 Sam 5:7-8) into the Gai wadi.
 - It was a 1,750 feet tunnel that was carved in a winding fashion following a natural crack in the rock; if it had been a direct path, the length would have been 1,070 feet (40% shorter).
 - The tunnel work was burrowed simultaneously from both ends until they met somewhere near the middle
- According to 2 Chronicles 32:31, what was God doing when the Babylonians visited Hezekiah?
 - God removed Himself from the situation and left Hezekiah to his own judgment in order to test Hezekiah's heart
 - God tested Hezekiah's self-righteous heart (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:27) with Babylonian emissaries so that Hezekiah would understand that he was not so perfect in grace as he thought he was, but had his weaknesses and frailties as other men.

- **This failure through pride of wealth kept Hezekiah from being proud of his holiness. Believers should know our own weaknesses and sinfulness, so that we do not become conceited or self-confident in our self-righteousness.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 32:32, where is Hezekiah’s life documented?**
 - **Two books of the Bible (Isaiah & 1/2 Kings)**

Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-9.... Wicked King Manasseh

33:1 Manasseh had been born 3 years into the 15-year extension of Hezekiah’s life. (2 Kings 20:5-6)

- **Had Hezekiah not survived Assyria or the deadly illness, the lineage of David would have been cut-off**

33:2 The sin of Manasseh was tantamount to the sin of the nations who were in the land of Canaan prior to Israel immigrating into the Promised Land.

33:3 Hezekiah reconstructed the high places of idolatry and set up altars to the Baals and Asherim. Manasseh began worshipping the stars under the influence of the Babylonians who had a deep interest in astrology and had originated the signs of the zodiac.

33:4-5 Manasseh(680BC) pursued the abomination of desecration centuries before Antiochus Epiphanes (169BC)

33:6 Manasseh offered his sons (in the lineage of David) as human sacrifices to the false god Molech.

33:7 Manasseh continued to pollute the holy temple of God as he placed false idols inside the Temple.

33:8 Yahweh had promised to sustain Israel in the Promised Land if His people would only obey.

33:9 Manasseh deceived the nation of Judah to become more wicked than those who inhabited Canaan prior to Israel.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 33:1, was Manasseh born before or after God extended Hezekiah’s life?**
 - **Manasseh was born to Hezekiah during his extended 15 years**
 - **Evil King Manasseh (“God has made me forget”) took over Judah at 12 years of age, and he had the longest reign lasting 55 years**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 33:9, how wicked was Manasseh relative to Canaanites prior to Israel?**
 - **Manasseh led Judah to become more wicked than those who inhabited the Promised Land prior to Israel.**
 - **Judah was not “as bad” as the Canaanites - Judah was far worse than the Canaanites that God destroyed.**
 - **KJV says Manasseh seduced Israel into sins**
 - **Thirteen actions that Manasseh took against God**

Manasseh’s 13 Wicked Actions Against the Lord (2 Chronicles 33:3-7)	
1.	He Rebuilt the High Places
2.	He Re-established altars for the Baals
3.	He made Asherah Poles
4.	He worshipped the whole heavenly host & served them
5.	He built altars in the Lord’s Temple
6.	He built altars to the heavenly host in the Temple courtyards
7.	He passed his sons through the fire in the Valley of Hinnom
8.	He practiced witchcraft
9.	He practiced divination
10.	He practiced sorcery
11.	He consulted mediums
12.	He consulted “spirit-ists”
13.	He set up the carved image of the idol he made in the Temple

Read 2 Chronicles 33:10-17.... King Manasseh Repents

33:10 Judah’s King and inhabitants disregarded and ignored the Lord’s message to them.

33:11 Although the Babylonian exiles were yet to come, Manasseh was exiled to Assyria as the northern kingdom had been.

- **When Assyria’s King Sennacherib died, nations to the west of the Euphrates began to rebel against Assyria. Sennacherib’s son, Esarhaddon (2 Kings 19:37), began to reconquer and reign in the extended kingdoms under Assyrian rule.**

33:12 Wicked Manasseh repented before the Lord through humility and prayer (Ps 51:17; Is 57:15, 66:2)

33:13 The merciful God was moved by Manasseh’s humility, and God brought the humbled king out of Assyria back to his throne in Judah. *“Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.”*

33:14 Scholars believe that Manasseh fortified Jerusalem’s wall on the northeast from the “Damascus Gate” across the valley of Gihon to the “Fish Gate”. The end of Manasseh’s reign corresponded with the loss of Assyrian dominance, so Manasseh may have been preparing to fend off any future Assyrian assaults.

33:15 Manasseh destroyed the false places of worship that he had constructed earlier in life. Manasseh cleaned the idols from the Temple as well as ridding the high places of Baal and Asherim poles.

- 33:16 After “cleaning house”, Manasseh began to fellowship with the Lord in gratitude through peace offerings and thank offerings.
- 33:17 The inhabitants of Judah continued to utilize the high places (hilltops) to worship Yahweh. While the people no longer pursued idolatry, their worship was lessened by tradition unsubstantiated by the Word of the Lord.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 33:10-11, what were the consequences of Manasseh’s idolatry?**
 - **God had Manasseh captured and taken into custody.**
 - **Man has a tendency to hear what aligns with their own will versus correction.**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 33:12-13, what was King Manasseh’s response to distress?**
 - **Even evil king Manasseh was repentant when in distress of Babylonian captivity.**
 - **Manasseh came to know that the Lord is God**
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 33:15-16, what actions did Manasseh take as a new believer?**
 - **Manasseh began to cleanse the idolatrous elements that he had earlier introduced.**
 - **As a restored sinner, Manasseh was able to fellowship with the Lord in gratitude**

Read 2 Chronicles 33:18-25.... The Death of Manasseh and His Son Amon

- 33:18 Manasseh’s prayer and interactions are documented in the book of Kings.
- 33:19 Some believe that the documentation of Hozai has been lost while others believe that Hozai refers to Isaiah. Most scholars believe that Isaiah was executed by Manasseh prior to Manasseh’s exile to Assyria. Jewish scholars have traditions of another prophet named Hozai living in that time; however, his records have been lost to history.
- 33:20 Judah did not bury Manasseh with the Kings of Judah, but instead Manasseh was buried at his own house.
- 33:21 Amon would have known a father broken by Assyrian exile and would have witnessed Manasseh’s repentance. Although God allowed Manasseh to reign the longest of any King (55 years), Amon would only be given two years to show his fallen nature.
- 33:22 Amon pursued false gods and did not realize that “the Lord was God” (2 Chronicles 33:13)
- 33:23 Amon failed to humble himself and repent.
- 33:24 Amon’s servants killed him because of his wickedness.
- 33:25 The inhabitants of Judah held Amon’s assassins responsible and executed them. At the age of 16, Amon had a son named Josiah who the people of Judah installed as King.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 33:22, what side effects occurred from Manasseh’s earlier sin?**
 - **Manasseh repented of his sins, but his heir to the throne, Amon, followed the sinful path of father; generational sin destroys the lives of many children who take neither the time nor inclination to learn from their father’s repentance.**
 - **Amon was entrapped by the polluted objects that his father, Manasseh had introduced during his rebellious time. Fathers should clean house of impurities and objects leading to sin.**
 - **Amon killed by servants, and then justice served to those murderers (2 Chronicles 33:24-25)**

11 2 Chronicles 34, 35, 36

Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-7... Good King Josiah Eradicates Idolatrous Worship Throughout Judah and Israel

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 23**
- 34:1, 3 Josiah was eight years old when he became king and begins to seek the Lord God after eight years of reigning. Eight symbolizes “new beginning.” Josiah was born when his father, Amon, was sixteen (2 Kings 21:19)
- 34:2 Josiah walked the “straight and narrow” path with the Lord not being distracted by the world.
- 34:3 At the age of 16, Josiah became serious about following the Lord. At the age of 20, Josiah begin to tear down the high places, the Asherim and the idolatrous images. Josiah destroys the Ashtoreth that Solomon had established for his wives. (1 Kings 11:1-8; 2 Kings 23:13)
- 34:4 He removed the Asherah pole from the Temple. Josiah throws dust of the smashed idolatrous object on the graves of the worshippers of the false gods (2 Kings 23:6,12).
- Josiah threw the dust on the graves of the idolaters because either the graves were already unclean or to make them unclean because they had participated in the idolatrous worship.
- 34:5 Josiah not only removed the objects of false worship, but desecrated the land so that false worship could not be re-established in those locations.
- 34:6-7 Good King Josiah of Judah traveled through the northern kingdom (through the Transjordan and up through Naphtali) destroying false idols.
- 34:7 Josiah destroyed Jeroboam’s altar as had been prophesied by the young prophet. The man of God had prophesied about Josiah by name approximately 3 centuries prior (1 Kings 13:2).
- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:5, what did King Josiah burn on the idolatrous altars?**
 - **Josiah burned the bones of the false priests on their altars (2 Ki 23:5).**

- **Josiah defiled all of the priests who had committed idolatry in the high places as well as destroying the high places themselves from the northernmost point of Judah (Geba) to the southernmost point (Beersheba).**
- **To defile a priest (2 Kings 23:14), the priest simply needed to be exposed to something unclean (e.g. corpse, dung, etc.).**
 - **This fulfilled the prophecy of the man of God to Jeroboam stating that Josiah would desecrate their idolatrous altars (1 Kings 13:2)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:6, where did Josiah tear down the places of idol worship?**
 - **Josiah of Judah traveled through the northern kingdom (through the Transjordan and up through Naphtali) destroying false idols.**

Read 2 Chronicles 34:8-13...Good King Josiah Repairs the Temple

34:8 Josiah had begun much of the renovation early in his reign (2 Chronicles 34:3, 8). Shaphan assisted King Josiah while his sons assisted the prophet Jeremiah later on (Jeremiah 26:24, 29:3); Shaphan is also the grandfather of Gedaliah who would be the governor under Nebuchadnezzar II. Maaseiah (the governor of Jerusalem) was the grandfather of Baruch (Jer 45).

34:9 The Kings emissaries brought the collections of the people to Hilkiah the prophet.

34:10 Beyond cleaning, the effort was to rebuild the Temple with structural construction. Carpenters are esteemed throughout Scripture. Just as with the practice of King Joash over two centuries before, accounting was not required from the carpenters (2 Kings 12:11-15). The carpenters were trustworthy Levites with specific areas of responsibility (2 Chronicles 34:12).

34:11 Josiah took the money from the priests and gave it to those who were actually working on repairing the Lord’s house (2 Kings 12:4-16).

34:12 The workers of the Lord were men of integrity.

The Levitical Carpenters Renovating the Temple under King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:12)		
Levites	Meaning	Clan
1. Jahath	“Broken in Pieces/Descending”	Merari
2. Obadiah	“Servant of God”	Merari
3. Zechariah	“Remembered by God”	Kohath
4. Meshullam	“Peace”	Kohath
Levites skilled with musical instruments		

34:13 The Levites were craftsmen, but also supervised the work while other Levites were scribes, officials and gatekeepers.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:14-21.... Hilkiah Discovered the Law While Cleaning the Temple

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 22**

34:14 After repentance and restoration began, Hilkiah the Priest discovered the Bible, and gives it to Shaphan, the scribe, to read. A century later, Hilkiah’s great-grandson Ezra enters the scene.

34:15 Just as Shaphan had brought the renovation funds from the King to the Priest Hilkiah (2 Chronicles 34:9), now the Priest Hilkiah gave the law to Shaphan to show the King.

34:16 Shaphan’s first words were that everything that King Josiah had directed towards the Temple was being accomplished.

34:17 The charity of Judah was now put to good use in the restoration of the Temple.

34:18 Shaphan expressed to King Josiah that the Priest Hilkiah had discovered a book which he read to the king. Shaphan was a Scribe suggesting that Shaphan was well educated and well versed.

34:19 King Josiah tore his clothes when he heard the reading of the newly found Law which revealed how far they had fallen (Rom 3:20, 5:20). Although the law was centuries old, Josiah believed the Word of God as truth and compared it to his life.

34:20 Shaphan’s grandson & Ahikam’s son (Gedaliah) was appointed Governor of Judah during Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 40:5)

34:21 King Josiah requested that his top officials inquire to understand what action should be taken. In simply reading the Scripture, King Josiah understood that the Lord must be angry about Judah and Israel walking away from the Lord. The King realized that God’s people were called to “do according to all that is written in this book.”

- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:14, what did Hilkiah, the high priest, find in the Temple that was being repaired?**
 - **Hilkiah, the high priest, found the book of the law (2 Kings 22:8), and gave it to Shaphan, the scribe, to read to King Josiah**
 - **100 years later, Hilkiah’s great-grandson is Ezra.**
 - **As believers clean their lives, the impact of God’s Word is found anew in them as Temples of the Lord (1 Cor 3:17, 6:19)**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:14, who did Shaphan say wrote the book of the Law?**
 - **Moses wrote the Book**

- According to 2 Chronicles 34:19, what was the reaction of King Josiah upon hearing the words of the Law?
 - King Josiah tore his clothes when he heard the reading of the newly found Law, which revealed how far they had fallen. (2 Kings 22:11)
 - Although the law was centuries old, Josiah believed the Word of God as truth and applied it to his life.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:22-28.... A Prophetess Portends Judgment

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 22:14-20**

34:22 Huldah, the prophetess, wife of Shallum, son of Tikvah, son of Harhas – the keeper of the wardrobe – Huldah said destruction is eminent, but because the King humbled himself and tore his clothes, he would die peacefully beforehand.

- The lineage of Huldah’s husband is listed; often in the Bible when a man of God is not found to lead, a capable woman supplements the void.

34:23 Huldah encouraged these emissaries to relay the message from God to the one who sent them (King Josiah).

34:24 Huldah confirmed Josiah’s fears that judgment would come on the disobedient and rebellious nation

34:25 The Lord was angry that Judah had worshipped and prayed to false gods instead of the one true God.

34:26 While judgment was foretold to “the man” who sent the emissaries (2 Chronicles 34:23), a blessing would be given to “the King” who sent them.

34:27 Because Josiah was humbled and inquired of the Lord, he would die in peace

- According to 2 Chronicles 34:23, what is strange about the way that Huldah references God?
 - Huldah (“mole” or “weasel”) uses the term “God of Israel” although she is prophesying about Judah
 - God refers to Himself as the “The Lord God of Israel in the message to the King of Judah in 2 Kings 22:15 & 18
 - This is after the Assyrian Exile
- According to 2 Chronicles 34:24, what does God say through Huldah to Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34:24?
 - Huldah confirmed Josiah’s fears that judgment would come on the disobedient and rebellious nation
- According to 2 Chronicles 34:25, how did God say that Judah had sinned?
 - Judah abandoned the Lord and burned incense to false gods (2 Kings 22:17)
 - God refers to Himself as the “The Lord God of Israel in the message to the King of Judah in 2 Kings 22:15 & 18
 - The Lord God of Israel
- According to 2 Chronicles 34:27, what reason does God give that He heard Josiah, the King of Judah?
 - Huldah affirms that destruction is eminent, but because the King humbled himself and grieved (tore his clothes), he would die peacefully beforehand (2 Kings 22:19)
 - God had told Solomon (1 Kings 11:12) and Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:19) that judgment would not come during their lifetime. Because Josiah had responded repentantly to the Word of the Lord, he would be spared.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:28-33.... Josiah applies what he has learned

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 23**

34:28 The judgment of the Lord would come upon Judah after the death of Josiah

Josiah’s Seven Actions After Grieving at the Discovery of God’s Law		
1.	2 Chron 34:29	Josiah shared the testimony throughout Judah
2.	2 Chron 34:30	Josiah & Guests went up to the Temple
3.	2 Chron 34:30	Josiah read all the words of the book of the covenant
4.	2 Chron 34:31	Josiah made a covenant to obey the Lord
5.	2 Chron 34:32	Josiah had all the people enter the covenant of obedience
6.	2 Chron 34:33	Josiah removed everything detestable
7.	2 Chron 34:33	Josiah required everyone to serve their God

34:30 King Josiah read the Words of the Book of the Covenant to all the people, and attempted to share his understanding of the Word of God with leaders of the people.

34:31 Josiah followed the commandments (firm direction), testimonies (witness), statutes (precepts/principles) with all his heart and soul; King Josiah took a stand with all of his heart and soul for the covenant (as did all of the people).

- The greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord with all of your mind and heart”. Love equates to obedience. Loving with all of the heart equates to unwavering faithfulness – consistent and persistent walk.
- King Josiah stood on the platform of the Temple designated for Kings (2 Chronicles 6:13).
 - Solomon constructed a bronze (strength/judgment) platform that was the same size (7 ½ by 7 ½ feet) as the Tabernacle’s altar (Ex 27:1-8, 38:1-7).
 - This platform may have been positioned by the pillars and utilized by the Kings throughout Israel’s history (2 Kings 11:14, 23:3)

34:32 Josiah led the southern kingdom (Judah and Benjamin) in committing themselves to the covenant of God.

34:33 Josiah even led the northern kingdom in rejecting idolatry and serving the one true God. As long as Josiah lived, even the northern kingdom of Israel was committed to the Lord.

- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:30, what action did Josiah take upon learning that God was holding Judah accountable to the law?**
 - **King Josiah gathered all of the people to ensure that they heard and understood the law as he did.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:31, what did King Josiah do after reading the law to all of the people?**
 - **King Josiah made a covenant with the Lord**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 34:33, what did Josiah do beyond committing the southern kingdom to God?**
 - **Judah's King Josiah of the southern kingdom also eradicated the idols of the northern kingdom and led Israel in following the Lord.**

Read 2 Chronicles 35:1-19...Josiah Celebrates Passover

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 23:21-27**

35:1 Before this act of reinstating the Passover Feast, Josiah spent much of his effort removing all of the evil elements from his kingdom. Believers should also spend time purifying their lives and getting rid of all encumbrances that could lead to evil (e.g. TV, contacts, hobbies, etc.)

35:2 The King appointed the priests to their positions with personal responsibilities and then he encouraged them in their work.

35:3 The ark of the covenant had been removed by Josiah for the reparation of the Temple, and now the ark could be restored to the Holy of Holies where it would not need to be moved from location to location. The ark (representing God's presence) would no longer be a burden on their shoulders (Mt 11:29-30).

35:4 King Josiah urged his priests to be prepared for their ministry and service. The priests were to learn their responsibilities through the application of God's law during the administration of David and Solomon (2 Chronicles 8:14).

35:5 Each one in the service of God was to take a stand in their place of responsibility and do their part. (Romans 12:4-8)

35:6 King Josiah charged God's people with three action: 1. Offer the sacrifices 2. Set yourself apart/sanctified & holy 3. Obey the word of God

35:7 King Josiah offered sacrifices from his personal possessions to the Lord's service

35:8 The King's Officers offered sacrifices from their personal possessions to the Lord's service

35:9 The Levites also offered sacrifices from their personal possessions to the Lord's service. The Temple was (again) re-established through a great sacrifice just as Believers are the Temple of God, and each one being established by the sacrifice of Christ Himself.

35:10 Each one in the service of God obediently did take a stand in their place of responsibility and do their part. (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27-31)

35:11 The priests performed the holy work of sacrificing the animals while the Levites assisted with the laborious task of skinning the sacrificed animals.

35:12 The burnt offerings (representing dedication) were separated according to the word of God (Leviticus 1)

35:13 The Passover animals were sacrificed in fire while the Temple utensils were kept properly sterile and pure. There was a sense of urgency at the sacrifice as the inhabitants of Judah were served.

35:14 After the lay people were served, the ministers were served. The priests were busily offering sacrifices into the night, so the Levites served the priests who were ministering.

35:15 The worship team was also fulfilling their responsibility. The gatekeepers did not need to leave their posts because the Levites took care of them as well.

35:16 The Passover was carried out according to the commands of the King.

35:17 Beyond the southern kingdom of Judah, the inhabitants of the northern kingdom Israel who were able to attend also took part of the Passover feast as well as the Feast of Unleavened Bread showing a purity apart from sin.

35:18 No Passover had been celebrated since Samuel the Prophet; while Hezekiah's Passover was likened to Solomon's (2 Chron 30:26), Josiah's was likened to Samuel's.

35:19 King Josiah had ruled for 18 years before being prepared to host the Feast of the Passover.

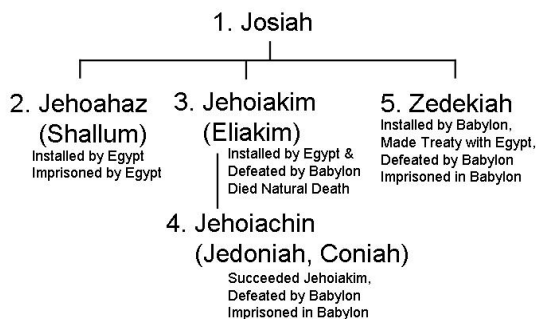
- **According to 2 Chronicles 35:1, what feast did King Josiah reinstitute for the people?**
 - **The Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 35:3, who were holy to God and the teachers of Israel?**
 - **The Levites**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 35:6, what guidance did King Josiah give to the Levites?**
 - **Prepare the offerings; purify/sanctify themselves; obey the Word of God**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 35:7-9, what three categories of people contributed to the sacrifices?**
 - **The King, The Kings Officers; The Leaders of the Levites**

Read 2 Chronicles 35:20-27...Josiah Killed by Neco, the Egyptian Pharaoh

35:20 King Josiah had established the Temple and offerings prior to going out to battle the Egyptians.

- 35:21 Although the Pharaoh claimed to be led by God to assist Assyria against the Babylonians, King Josiah intervened and died while fighting Pharaoh Neco at Megiddo. Afterwards, Judah fell under Egyptian control.
- 35:22 Josiah would not listen to the warnings. Josiah disguised himself so as not to appear as the person that he truly was. Josiah desired to make war.
- 35:23 The Egyptian archers shot Josiah who requested to be removed from the battlefield because of his fatal wound.
- 35:24 King Josiah's initial chariot was inadequate to carry him away from the battle, so he was transferred to another chariot to be removed from the battlefield.
- 35:25 A dirge or lamentation was written by Jeremiah for Josiah's death, and an annual event was established to honor his passing.
- 35:26 Josiah had been devoted to the Law of the Lord, but he died unnecessarily in battle.
- 35:27 The book of Kings documents Josiah's reign as well.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 35:21, who does Neco threaten might kill Josiah?**
 - God – who told Neco to hurry
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 35:22, was Neco telling the truth about God's message to him?**
 - Yes – “according to the mouth of God”
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 35:22, how did Josiah prepare for battle with Egypt?**
 - He would not listen and he disguised himself
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 35:24, how did Josiah's servants remove him from battle after he was fatally wounded?**
 - They transferred Josiah to a second chariot to take him back to Jerusalem to die
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 35:25, who sang a dirge at the passing of Josiah?**
 - A dirge or lamentation was written by Jeremiah for Josiah's death, and an annual event was established to honor his passing.

Last Five Kings of Judah



Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-3...Josiah's Son, Jehoahaz, is Crowned King by Judah

- **Parallel Passage: 2 Kings 23:31-33**
- 36:1 Jehoahaz was exalted as king of Judah by the people of the land as oppose to being anointed by a man of God.
- 36:2 Jehoahaz only reigned 3 months before Egypt removed him from office as they returned from Carchemish.
- 36:3 The Pharaoh of Egypt took Judah's king as well as their treasure.
- **According to 2 Chronicles 36:1, who made Jehoahaz King?**
 - The “common” people
 - **According to 2 Chronicles 36:1, after the battle of Carchemish, what did Egypt take from Judah?**
 - Neco summoned Josiah's successor Jehoahaz to meet him at Riblah (“fruitful” – as Babylon later did Zedekiah – 2 Kings 25:6). This town stood about 65 miles north of Damascus in central Aramea.
 - The meeting took place before the battle of Carchemish. Neco found Jehoahaz obstinate, as his father had been. So Neco had Jehoahaz arrested and imposed a burdensome tax on Judah.
 - Pharaoh Neco imprisoned Jehoahaz and sent him back to Egypt where Jehoahaz later died (Jer. 22:10-12).

Read 2 Chronicles 36:4-10...Josiah's Son & Jehoahaz' Brother, Eliakim (Jehoiakim), crowned King by Egypt

- 36:4 This would be the first King of Judah that did not descend directly from the prior King, but instead Egypt exalted the brother of the king that they had removed. Jehoahaz was replaced by Jehoiakim.
- 36:5 King Jehoiakim of Judah reigned during a tumultuous time of being torn between Babylon and Egypt; however, instead of turning wholeheartedly to the Lord, King Jehoiakim turned to idolatry and rebellion.
- 36:6 In the 606BC deportation, Babylon's Nebuchadnezzar removed Jehoiakim as well as the royal class of Judah to exile them in Babylon.

36:7 Babylon's Nebuchadnezzar also removed holy articles from the Temple to be stored in Babylon. This removal, the king would unknowingly protect these precious articles during the next few riotous years.

36:8 King Jehoiakim of Judah is documented in the book of Kings. King Jehoiakim of Judah eventually swore allegiance to Babylon instead of Egypt and was returned to power where King Jehoiakim would rebel against Babylon again.

36:9 Babylon besieged Jerusalem when King Jehoiakim rebelled, and during the siege King Jehoiakim died. King Jehoiakim's son, Jehoiachin, was put on the throne of Judah for 3 months during the conclusion of the siege.

36:10 In 597BC, Nebuchadnezzar deported Jehoiachin/Jeconiah/Coniah

- **According to 2 Chronicles 36:4, who installed Eliakim (Jehoiakim) as Judah's King?**
 - **Then Pharaoh Neco installed Jehoahaz's older brother Eliakim (Jehoiakim) on Judah's throne as his puppet king.**
 - **Just as the Lord changed the names of Abraham, Jacob, and Paul, this new kingly authority also changed the names of his subjects (2 Kings 24:17).**
 - **King Jehoiachin would have most likely held allegiance to Egypt since Egypt had coronated his father Eliakim (Jehoiakim).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 36:6, what was Babylon's response to Eliakim (Jehoiakim)?**
 - **In 605 B.C. Prince Nebuchadnezzar led the Babylonian army of his father Nabopolassar against the allied forces of Assyria and Egypt and defeated them at Carchemish.**
 - **Babylon's victory resulted in Egypt's vassals, including Judah, coming under Babylon's control.**
 - **Shortly thereafter Nabopolassar died, and Nebuchadnezzar succeeded him.**
 - **Nebuchadnezzar then moved south and invaded Judah (605 B.C.).**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 36:6-7, what actions did Babylon take after conquering Jerusalem?**
 - **He took some captives to Babylon including Daniel (Dan. 1:1-3).**
 - **This was the first of Judah's three deportations in which the Babylonians took groups of Judahites to Babylon. Jehoiakim submitted to Nebuchadnezzar for three years but then rebelled.**
 - **The Babylonians then took Jehoiakim to Babylon, but later they allowed him to return to Jerusalem where he died (Jer. 22:19).**
 - **Just as Nebuchadnezzar had deported the elite group from Judah, he also relocated some utensils (tools for serving the Lord) in Babylon**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 36:9, how long was the reign of Jehoiachin/Jeconiah/Coniah?**
 - **Only three months, and Coniah was the last recognized King in the line of David (Jer. 22:28-30)**
 - **The Jewish people believed Coniah to be the legitimate king of Judah which made it difficult for his successor to rule with authority**
 - **Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin, whose other names were Jeconiah and Coniah, succeeded him on the throne but only reigned for three months (598-597 B.C.).**
 - **When Jehoiachin was eight years old, his father made him co-regent, so that he could be trained in the responsibilities of leading a kingdom (2 Kings 24:8).**
 - **Jehoiachin then became officially a king at the age of eighteen, upon his father's death during the conclusion of Babylon's siege.**
- **According to 2 Chronicles 36:10, what cut Coniah's reign short?**
 - **Jehoiachin (and his mother, servants, commanders, officials) surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, and a large deportation of Judah's population occurred in 597 B.C leaving only the most impoverished to care for the land of Judah.**
 - **More utensils (tools for the Lord's service – like Ezekiel) of the Lord's Temple were removed.**

Read 2 Chronicles 36:11-21...Jehoiachin's Uncle, Zedekiah, crowned King by Babylon – 586BC Deportation

36:11 None of Jehoiachin's sons ruled Judah, as Jeremiah had prophesied (Jer. 22:30). Rather Nebuchadnezzar set up Jehoiakim's younger brother (Jehoiachin's uncle), Mattaniah, on the throne as his puppet and exercised his sovereign prerogative by changing his name to Zedekiah.

36:12 As Isaiah had prophesied that Jerusalem should stand alone against servitude to Assyria, Jeremiah now prophesied that it was God's timing to submit to the Babylonians.

36:13 Zedekiah (Mattaniah) was Josiah's third son to rule over Judah. He rebelled against the Lord which showed itself as a rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar by making a treaty with Pharaoh Hophra (589-570 B.C.) under pressure from the remnant remaining in Judah (Jer. 37—38).

36:14 Beyond the King, the Levitical leaders also practiced pagan rituals and defiled the Temple once again.

36:15 God sent His messengers to tell of His judgment because of compassion for His people and Temple.

36:16 Messengers of God are mocked; this ridicule comes from pride (Prov 21:24)

36:17-19 During this third Babylonian assault on Jerusalem, the city was razed and destroyed without mercy.

36:20 The world power of Persia would replace the world power of Babylon.

36:21 The Babylonian Captivity of 70 years (Jer 25:12, 29:10) is retribution for un-kept Sabbaths (Lev 26:34, 43; Ex 23:11) during the time of the kings (2 Chron 36:21)

- According to 2 Chronicles 36:16, how did Jerusalem treat God’s messengers who warned them about following the detestable practices of the nations?
 - Messengers of God are mocked; this ridicule comes from pride (Prov 21:24)
- According to 2 Chronicles 36:17-21, how did God use Babylon to judge Jerusalem?
 - Total destruction - During this third Babylonian assault on Jerusalem, the city was razed and destroyed without mercy.
- Explain 2 Chronicles 36:21
 - The Babylonian Captivity of 70 years (Jer 25:12, 29:10) is retribution for un-kept Sabbaths (Lev 26:34, 43; Ex 23:11) during the time of the kings (2 Chron 36:21)

Read 2 Chronicles 36:22-23...Persian King, Cyrus, Returns Israel to Jerusalem after 70 Years of Captivity

- Parallel Passage: Ezra 1:1-3

36:22 The Lord stirred the spirit of the King of Persia in order to fulfill Scripture.

36:23 The King of Persia had defeated Babylon and proclaimed that Israel could return to Canaan to reconstruct Jerusalem

- According to 2 Chronicles 36:22, whose spirit did God stir within them?
 - Cyrus the King of the Persian Empire
 - Cyrus the Great is known as the first civil rights advocate with the “Cyrus cylinder” as proof of his human rights philosophy.
 - Cyrus was foretold by Isaiah 100 years before (Isaiah 44:28-45:1)
- According to 2 Chronicles 36:23, since 2 Chronicles is the final book in the Jewish Scripture (Tanakh), how does Jewish Scripture end?
 - *“The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!”*