

Sabbath Brothers

2 Chronicles: The Fourteenth Book of Scripture

1 & 2 Chronicles were written as a single book that was separated into two books when the Septuagint was written for practical reasons due to the length of the scroll.

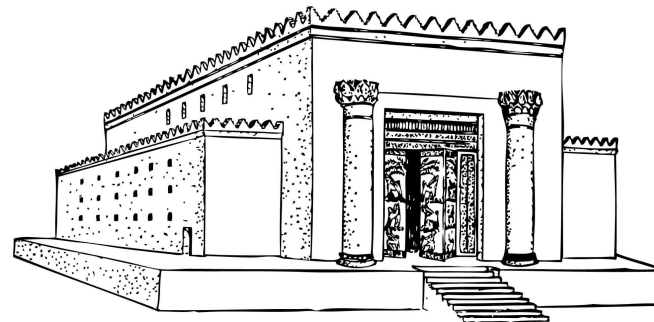
Although the author is not named, Ezra may have penned Chronicles around 400BC.

2 Chronicles records the history of the Southern Kingdom of Judah from Solomon to the Post-Captivity Return

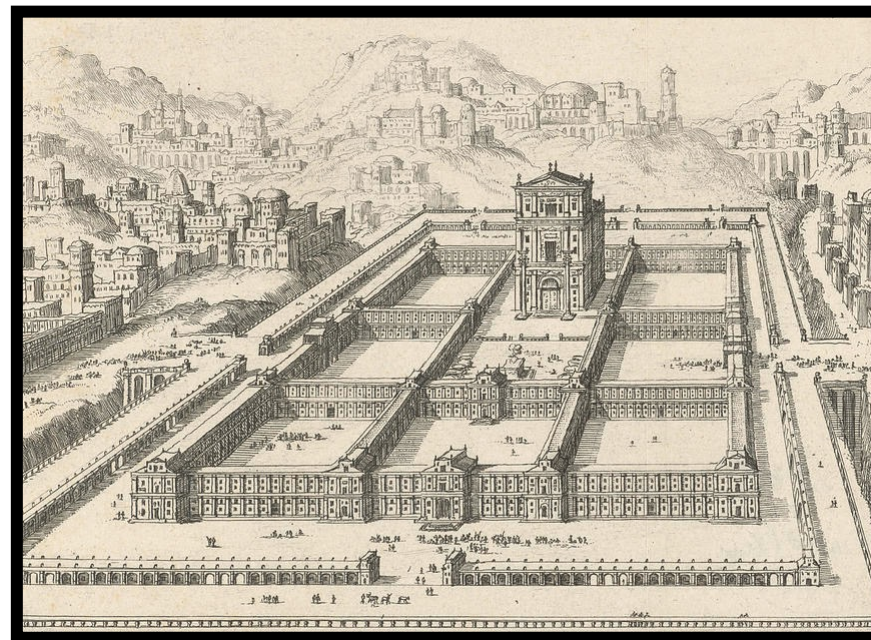
Although Judah was in decline, little is documented about the bad kings & the faults of the good kings

Kings is written from a Prophet's perspective; Chronicles is written from a Priest's perspective

The Ark of the Covenant is a focus of Chronicles as well as the Temple where it is housed. Believers are the Temple, and the details of the Temple apply (spiritually) to their lives.



As the Jewish community was being restored to Jerusalem after their captivity in Babylon, the construction & role of the Temple would have held more importance (1 Kings 6-8)



Chronicles is the last "sequenced" Book in the Jewish Bible (Old Testament - Tanakh)

Southern Kingdom (“Judah” in the Lineage of David)

Descendants of Solomon – Kings of the Southern Kingdom, Judah (1 Chronicles 3:10-16)

	<u>King of Judah</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Hebrew Meaning of Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Reign</u>
1.	Rehoboam	Evil	“The Family is extended”	41	17
2.	Abijah/Abijam	Evil	“The Lord is my Father”	-	3
3.	Asa	Good	“Healer/Physician”	-	41
4.	Jehoshaphat	Good	“The Lord Judges”	35	25
5.	Jehoram	Evil	“Exalting the Lord”	32	8
6.	Ahaziah	Evil	“The Lord has grasped”	22	1
7.	Joash/Jehoash	Good-to-Fallen	“The Lord has given”	7	40
8.	Amaziah	Good	“The Lord is Mighty”	25	29
9.	Azariah/Uzziah	Good	“The Lord is my Strength”	16	52
10.	Jotham	Good	“The Lord is Perfect”	25	16
11.	Ahaz	Evil	“He has Grasped”	20	16
12.	Hezekiah	Good	“The Lord has Strengthened”	25	29
13.	Manasseh	Evil-to-Repentant	“One who causes to forget”	12	55
14.	Amon	Evil	“The Lord has given”	22	2
15.	Josiah	Good	“The Lord will Support”	8	31
16.	Jehoahaz	Evil	“The Lord has Grasped”	23	3 Months
17.	Eliakim/Jehoiakim	Evil	“The Lord raises up”	25	11
18.	Jehoiachin/Coniah or Jeconiah	Evil	“The Lord will uphold”	18	3 Months & 10 Days
19.	Zedekiah	Evil	“The Lord is my righteousness”	21	11
	8 Good	11 Evil	Averages:	22	20

The Capital/Temple is Located in Jerusalem

Solomon's Sacrifice

(2 Chronicles 1:1-13)

¹ Now Solomon the son of David established himself securely over his kingdom, and **the LORD his God *was* with him and exalted him greatly.**

² And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands, of hundreds, and to the judges and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' households.

³ Then **Solomon and all the assembly with him went to the high place which was at Gibeon, because God's tent of meeting was there which Moses, the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.**

⁴ However, David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.

⁵ Now the bronze altar which Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was there before the tabernacle of the LORD, and Solomon and the assembly sought it out.

⁶ And Solomon went up there before the LORD to the bronze altar which ***was* at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.**

⁷ In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."

⁸ And Solomon said to God, "You have dealt with my father David with great faithfulness, and have made me king in his place.

⁹ Now, LORD God, Your promise to my father David is fulfilled, for You have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

¹⁰ Now give me wisdom and knowledge, so that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours?"

¹¹ Then God said to Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you did not ask for riches, wealth, or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor did you even ask for long life, but you asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge so that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king,

¹² wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. I will also give you riches, wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed, nor ***will* those who will come after you.**"

¹³ So Solomon went from the high place which was at Gibeon, from the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem, and he reigned over Israel.



God had been with David; God's presence (Emmanuel) brings victory (1 Chronicles 11:9).

The determining factor (1 Chronicles 22:11) of Solomon's success would be the presence of the Lord. (Genesis 39:21; 1 Sam 3:19, 16:18, 18:12, 14, 28).

The altar of sacrifice (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 (Joshua 21:17)

Solomon makes an unselfish request for wisdom to lead God's people.

Solomon went to Gibeon (5 miles northwest of Jerusalem) because Moses' tent of meeting had been set up there (1 Chronicles 16:39).

When the Philistines returned the Ark (1 Samuel 4-5), it was consigned to Abinadab's home at Kiriath-jearim (1 Samuel 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 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 1:29).

The ark of the covenant was placed in a tent that David had prepared for it (2 Samuel 6:17).

David influenced Solomon (1 Chron 22:5, 12; 29:1).

The King of Tyre (2 Chronicles 2:4-14)

⁴ Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, dedicating it to Him, to burn fragrant incense before Him and *to set out* the showbread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on Sabbaths, on new moons, and on the appointed feasts of the LORD our God. *This is to be done* in Israel forever.

⁵ The house which I am about to build *will be* great, for our God is greater than all the gods.

⁶ But who is able to build a house for Him, since the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? And who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn *incense* before Him?

⁷ Now send me a skilled man to work in gold, silver, brass, iron, and in purple, crimson, and violet *fabrics*, one who knows how to make engravings, to *work* with the skilled workers whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David provided.

⁸ Send me also cedar, juniper, and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber of Lebanon; and indeed my servants *will work* with your servants,

⁹ to prepare timber in abundance for me, **for the house which I am about to build *will be* great and wonderful.**

¹⁰ Now behold, I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand kors of crushed wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil."

¹¹ Then Hiram, king of Tyre, answered in a letter sent to Solomon: "Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them."

¹² Then Hiram continued, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who will build a house for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

¹³ "Now then, I am sending Hiram-abi, a skilled man, endowed with understanding,

¹⁴ the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father, who knows how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, *and* in purple, violet, linen, and crimson fabrics, and *who knows how* to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which is assigned to him, *to work* with your skilled workers and with those of my lord, your father David.



Solomon listed three reasons for constructing the Temple:

1. Incense (prayer)
2. Bread of Presence (provision)
3. Burnt Offerings (dedication)

The greatness of Solomon's Temple was meant to exemplify the greatness of Yahweh

The cedars of Lebanon are mentioned 103 times in Scripture (Psalm 92:12; 104:16).

Sidon was the Phoenician "sister city" of Tyre that constructed boats and houses of wood (1 Kings 5:6).

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

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

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)

The real name of the craftsman "Hiram" is Hiram-abi (2 Chronicles 2:7, 13-14). The name "Abi" means "my Father"

God the Father sent God the Son (same in Name) to construct His Temple in this world

Hiram's mother was Jewish while his father was Phoenician; Hiram probably learned his trade from his father.

Mount Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1-2)

¹ Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

² He began to build on the second day in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

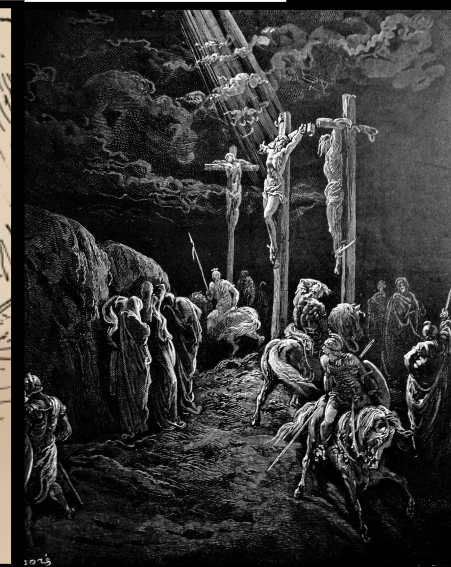
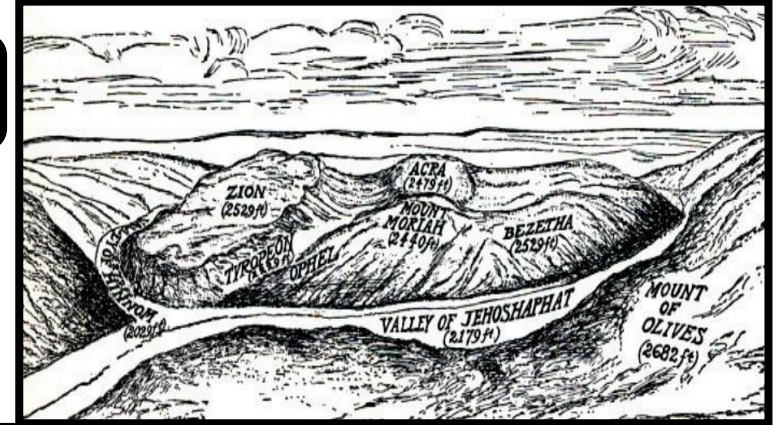
"Ornan the Jebusite" is also called "Araunah the Jebusite" (2 Samuel 24:16) who is also called "Ornan" in 1 Chronicles 21:15,18-27,28

Estimated year of 966BC

Mount Moriah was one of the seven hills of Jerusalem which was the site of the offering of Isaac

Mount Moriah is a mountain north of Jerusalem with an elevation of approximately 2,520 feet

"Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.'" (Genesis 22:2)



Constructing the Temple
Dimensions & Materials (3:3-16)
Furnishings (4:1-22)



The Altar & "Sea" (2 Chronicles 4:1-6)



¹ Then he made a **bronze altar**, twenty cubits in length, twenty cubits in width, and ten cubits in height.
² He also made **the Sea of cast metal**, ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height *was* five cubits and its circumference thirty cubits.
³ Now figures like oxen *were* under it *and* all around it, ten cubits, entirely encircling the Sea. The oxen *were* in two rows, cast in one piece.
⁴ It was standing on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east; and the Sea *was set* on top of them and all their hindquarters turned inward.
⁵ It was a **hand width thick**, and its brim was made like the **brim of a cup**, *like* a lily blossom; it could hold three thousand baths.
⁶ He also made ten basins in which to wash, and he set five on the right side and five on the left to rinse things for the burnt offering; but the Sea *was* for the priests to wash in.

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 (Exodus 27:1-8, 38:1-7).

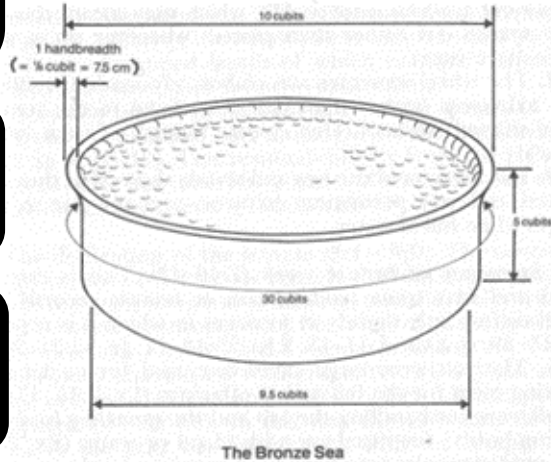
This reservoir (molten sea - 2 Chronicles 4:2-6) was cuplike with a brim like a flower (1 Kings 7:26).

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).

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.

Unlike the Tabernacle's laver which had no measurements, the Temple's laver was 15 feet across (1 Kings 7:23).

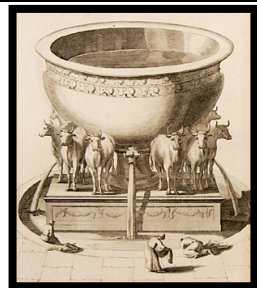
The basin contained between 2000 baths (when in use) and 3000 baths (when filled to brim – 2 Chronicles 4:5), which equates to 11,000 gallons of water (1 Kings 7:26)



The laver often represents the washing of God's message/word.

While the number "12" represents "organizational witness" and the oxen represent "strong servants."

The oxen faced north and west; then south followed by east.



In regards to early trigonometry, Pi (3.142), is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. π 30 cubits divided by 10 cubits is 3 which is .142 less than pi.

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 "handbreadth" (or palm) was slightly over one-seventh of a cubit which equates to the pi measurement.

The Ark In the Temple (2 Chronicles 5:1-10)

¹ So all the work that Solomon performed for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that his father David had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and all the utensils, *and he put them* in the treasuries of the house of God.

² Then Solomon assembled at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, *and* the leaders of the fathers' households of the sons of Israel, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the city of David, which is Zion.



³ All the men of Israel assembled themselves before the king at the feast, that is *in* the seventh month.

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites picked up the ark.

⁵ They brought up the ark, the tent of meeting, and all the holy utensils that *were* in the tent.

The Levitical priests brought them up.

⁶ And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel who had assembled with him before the ark were sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

⁷ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

⁸ For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles.

⁹ The poles were so long that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; and they are there to this day.

¹⁰ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put *there* at Horeb, where the LORD made *a covenant* with the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

The only items in the ark were the two tablets (1 Kings 8:9).

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)

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.

The priests placed the ark of the covenant (God's presence) under the wings of the cherubim.

"It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look." (1 Peter 1:12)



The length of the poles reflects the respect that was given to the holiness of the ark.

In the seventh ("7" equates to "complete satisfaction") month, the ark was transferred into the Holy of Holies.

The ark was moved into the Temple (Ex 23:16; Lev 23:39; Deut. 16:13) during the September/October time frame (1 Kings 8:1-10) which was the Feast of Tabernacles.

Three categories of items were moved to the Temple: 1.The Ark 2.The Tent of Meeting 3.The Holy Utensils

The Manna (symbolizing provision - Exodus 16:32-34) and Aaron's rod (representing fruitful leadership - Numbers 17:10) were both removed (Hebrews 9:4) when the Philistines captured the ark (1 Samuel 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 (The Way)	Lord (King)
2.	Golden Pot of Manna	Ex 16:32-34; Num 17:10	God's Bread (The Truth)	Provider (Prophet)
3.	Aaron's Rod that had Budded	Ex 16:32-34; Num 17:10	God's Rod (The Life)	Guide (Priest)

The Glory of God (2 Chronicles 5:11-14)

¹¹ When the priests came out from the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to divisions),
¹² and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them 120 priests blowing trumpets
¹³ in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they raised their voices accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other musical instruments, and when they praised the LORD saying, "He indeed is good for His kindness is everlasting," then the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,
¹⁴ so that the priests could not rise to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

Regardless of their calling, everyone anointed for a purpose of the Lord sanctified themselves as holy unto His service.

There were three Levitical singers: Asaph ("collector"), Heman ("faithful") and Jeduthun ("perpetual praise") that were dressed in fine linen (which represents "purity").

Another 120 priests also blew trumpets; factors of 12 often represent "organizational witness" in Scripture.

Shekinah Glory is a visible manifestation of God on earth (observation of the divine presence of God in this world)

"God is good, For His mercy endures forever"

The Shekinah Glory Cloud filled Temple (Leviticus 16:2, 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chron 7:1-2)

"David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service some of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who were to PROPHECY with lyres, harps and cymbals." (1 Chronicles 25:1)

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Throughout their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. For throughout their journeys, the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel." (Exodus 30:34-38)

The word shekinah (shakhan השכינה) is a Hebrew name meaning "dwelling" or "one who dwells."

The House of God (2 Chronicles 6:1-11)

1 Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick darkness."
2 I have built You a lofty house, And a place for Your dwelling forever."
3 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.
4 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and fulfilled it with His hands, saying,
5 'Since the day that I brought My people from the land of Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel *in which* to build a house, so that My name might be there, nor did I choose a man to be *the* leader over My people Israel;
6 but I have chosen Jerusalem so that My name might be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.'
7 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
8 But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.
9 Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he shall build the house for My name.'
10 Now the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
11 There I have placed the ark in which is the covenant of the LORD, which He made with the sons of Israel."

The presence of the Lord descended into the Temple (2 Chronicles 5:14)

The king "blessed" Israel by "blessing" the Lord; when the Lord is praised, blessing follows.

It is emphasized in this passage that no ruler was chosen to be prince over God's people until David.

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.

The name of the Lord refers to the essence of Who He is (1 Kings 2:12)

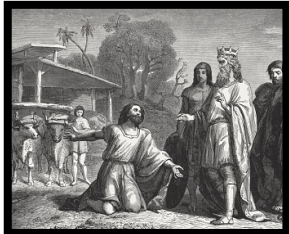
The focus of Chronicles is towards the covenant with the children of Israel unlike the earlier passage concentrating on the forefathers in the exodus from Egypt (1 Kings 8:21).

"He also bowed the heavens down low, and came down with thick darkness under His feet. He rode on a cherub and flew; And He sped on the wings of the wind. He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, Darkness of waters, thick clouds. From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, Hailstones and coals of fire." (Psalm 18:15)

It was God's choice of place and person – Jerusalem and David (Predestination)

"They have set up kings, but not by Me; They have appointed officials, but I did not know it." (Hosea 8:4)

God judges the attitude, motive & heart



Yahweh means the only living, ever living God



Celebration Post-Dedication (2 Chronicles 7:1-11)

¹ Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house.

³ All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, *saying*, "Certainly He is good, certainly His faithfulness is everlasting."

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the LORD.

⁵ King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

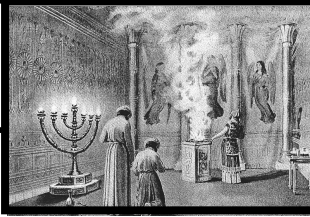
⁶ The priests stood at their posts, and the Levites also, with the musical instruments for the LORD, which King David had made for giving praise to the LORD—"for His faithfulness is everlasting"—**whenever David gave praise through their ministry; the priests on the other side blew trumpets and all Israel was standing.**

⁷ Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that *was* before the house of the LORD, for he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings there, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat.

⁸ **So Solomon held the feast at that time for seven days,** and all Israel with him, a very great assembly *that came* from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt.

⁹ And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, because they held the **dedication of the altar for seven days**, and the feast for seven days.

¹⁰ **Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy in heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David, to Solomon, and to His people Israel.**



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

The Temple could only be filled with God's Glory (Ex 40:34, Lev 16:2, 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5:13) and would not be shared with the priests.

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.

"He indeed is good for His kindness is everlasting," (2 Chronicles 5:13)

This is the second (witness) time the words were recorded in Scripture (2 Chronicles 5:13; 7:3).

Dedication & worship includes sacrifice to the Lord.

The congregation of Israelites stood with the priests.

The Israelites were not being entertained, but instead joining in the worship of God and praise for His eternal faithfulness.

Because the newly constructed altar could not satisfy the abundant sacrifices, the entire courtyard was set apart for the three offerings: 1. burnt 2. grain 3. fellowship

The first week commemorated the Temple, and the second week was a dedication of the altar.

The reason that the Israelites were happy was because of the goodness of God towards David, Solomon and the Israelites.

God's Warning (2 Chronicles 7:11-22)

¹¹ So Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's palace, and successfully completed everything that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace.



¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

¹³ If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people,

¹⁴ and **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, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**

¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer *offered in this place.*



¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house so that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there always.

¹⁷ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, to do according to everything that I have commanded you, and keep My statutes and My ordinances,

¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man *to be* ruler in Israel.'

¹⁹ **"But if you turn away and abandon My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,**

²⁰ **then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight; and**

I will make it a proverb and an object of scorn among all peoples.

²¹ As for this house, which was exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done these things to this land and to this house?'



²² And they will say, 'Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them from the land of Egypt, and they adopted other gods, and worshiped and served them; therefore He has brought all this adversity on them.'"

Solomon accomplished all that came into his heart with success as a blessing from the Lord.

The Lord appears to Solomon amidst his success to remind him of the importance of obedience.

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)

"Shut up the Heavens"

Required of God's People:

1. Pray
 2. Seek God
 3. Repent
- In Humility

God's Response to Humble People:

1. Hear Their Prayers
2. Forgive Their Sin
3. Heal Their Land

If God's Word is obeyed, the royal lineage will be passed from father to son through the generations

God's Presence will be a blessing to His Faithful People

God specifically warns against worshipping false gods; 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.

Throughout the history of the world, anti-Semitism ("against Shem") has been foremost bigotry and hatred (1 Kings 9:7).

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.

The Reign of Solomon (2 Chronicles 8:1-12)

1 Now it came about at the end of the twenty years in which Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own house, **2** that he built the cities which Hiram had given him, and settled the sons of Israel there.

3 Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it.

4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness and all

the storage cities which he had built in Hamath.

5 He also built upper Beth-horon and lower Beth-horon, which were fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars;

6 and Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for his chariots and cities for his horsemen, and everything that it pleased Solomon to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and all the land under his rule.

7 All of the people who were left of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of Israel,

8 that is, from their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the sons of Israel had not destroyed, Solomon raised them as forced laborers to this day.

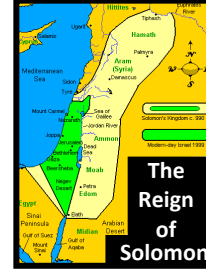
9 But Solomon did not make slaves from the sons of Israel for his work; for they were men of war, his chief captains and commanders of his chariots and his horsemen.

10 These were the chief officers of King Solomon, 250 who ruled over the people.

11 Then Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the city of David to the house which he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not live in the house of David king of Israel, because the places where the ark of the LORD has entered are holy."

12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built in front of the porch;

13 and he did so according to the daily rule, offering them up according to the commandment of Moses, for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths.



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

Hamath-zobah means the "heat/wall of an army"

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

When Solomon made the alliance with the worldly Pharaoh of Egypt, Solomon understood that his wife was not holy to God.

Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings habitually

Burnt offerings were intended as a sign of whole-hearted commitment which Solomon lost over time.

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.

Tadmor (modern day Palmyra) was located northeast of Damascus as defense against northern invaders

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

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

God's people were not slaves to the King, but instead fought in battles for the King (Ephesians 6:12).

Solomon met the "appointed time" (Hebrew - Mow'ed) requirement of the three annual (Jerusalem) feasts: Unleavened Bread, Weeks, Tabernacles (Ex 23:15-16)

The Queen of Sheba (2 Chronicles 9:1-12)

¹ Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with riddles. She had a very large entourage, with camels carrying balsam oil and a large amount of gold and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about everything that was on her heart.

Nothing is too difficult for the King

² Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from Solomon which he did not explain to her.

³ When the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he had built, ⁴ the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his ministers and their attire, his cupbearers and their attire, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, she was breathless.

⁵ Then she said to the king, "It was a true story that I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

Tradition: They were married & had a son, Menyelek I

⁶ But I did not believe their stories until I came and my own eyes saw it all. And behold, not even half of the greatness of your wisdom was reported to me. You have surpassed the report that I heard.



⁷ How blessed are your men, how blessed are these servants of yours, who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom!

⁸ Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you, setting you on His throne as king for the LORD your God; because your God loved Israel, establishing them forever, He made you king over them, to carry out justice and righteousness."

⁹ Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold and a very great amount of balsam oil and precious stones; there had never been balsam oil like that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

¹⁰ The servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir, also brought algum trees and precious stones.

¹¹ From the algum trees the king made steps to the house of the LORD and for the king and lyres and harps for the singers; and nothing like them was seen before in the land of Israel.

¹² King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba her every desire, whatever she requested, besides gifts equal to what she had brought to the king. Then she turned and went to her own land with her servants.

The Queen of Sheba ("captivity/old man"), representing the Gentiles, came up to Jerusalem to pay him homage as all the nations will to Christ during the millennium (Zech. 14:16).

- Sheba's gifts may be a foreshadowing of the wise men at the nativity (Is 60:6).
- The fame of Solomon was meant to draw attention to God and not to himself.

The Queen of Sheba brought offerings to the king (Matthew 2:11) and hid nothing from him (Psalm 69:5; Ecclesiastes 12:14), but instead was completely open to the king's insight (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The queen witnessed the blessings of Solomon through his household. (Gen 18:19) It seems that the queen had initially wanted to challenge Solomon, but her competitive spirit gave way – the same term is used in Joshua 5:1.

A firsthand experience of the King was more powerful than the testimonies. (Deuteronomy 11:7, 29:2; John 4:42, 20:29; Luke 10:23-24)

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

Rehoboam Is ~~Anointed~~ Becomes King

Anointings of the Kings

1.	Saul	Samuel	1 Samuel 9:5	Zuph	"Honeycomb"
2.	Saul	Israel	1 Samuel 10:17	Mizpah	"Watchtower/Lookout"
1.	David	Samuel	1 Samuel 16:1	Bethlehem	"House of Bread"
2.	David	Judah	2 Samuel 2:1	Hebron	"Friendship"
3.	David	Israel	2 Samuel 5:3	Hebron	"Friendship"
1.	Solomon	Zadok	1 Kings 1:33-34	Gihon	"Valley of Grace"
2.	Solomon	Israel	1 Chronicles 28:1, 29:22-25	Jerusalem	"City of Peace"
1.	Rehoboam	Not Anointed	1 Kings 12:1	Shechem	"Shoulder/Strength"

*"Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam became king in his place."
(1 Kings 11:43)*

*"And Solomon lay down with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place."
(2 Chronicles 9:31)*



Anoint

Preparation for
a calling/mission

After the Death of Bathsheba's son:
*"So David got up from the ground,
washed, anointed himself, and changed
his clothes; and he went into the house
of the Lord and worshiped.*
(2 Samuel 12:20)

*"Throughout the tribes of Israel, all the people were arguing among
themselves, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our
enemies; he is the one who rescued us from the hand of the
Philistines. But now he has fled the country to escape from
Absalom; and Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, has died in
battle. So why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?"."*
(2 Samuel 19:9-10)

Last Anointed Kings
Joash (2 Kings 11:12)
Josiah (2 Kings 23:30)



*"The Lord is their strength,
And He is a refuge of salvation
to His anointed."* (Psalms 28:8)



Unwise Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 10:1-13)

1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, because all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

2 When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard *about it* (he was in Egypt where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

3 So they sent *word* and summoned him. When Jeroboam and all Israel came, they spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

4 “Your father made our yoke hard; but now, lighten the hard labor *imposed by your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.*”

5 He said to them, “Return to me again in three days.” So the people departed.

6 And then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still

alive, saying, “How do you advise *me* to answer this people?”

7 They spoke to him, saying, “If you are kind to this people and please them and speak pleasant words to them, then they will be your servants always.”

8 But he ignored the advice of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and served him.

9 He said to them, “What advice do you give, so that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us’?”

10 The young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “This is what you should say to the people who spoke to you, saying: ‘Your father

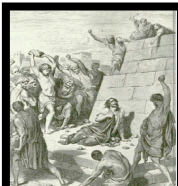
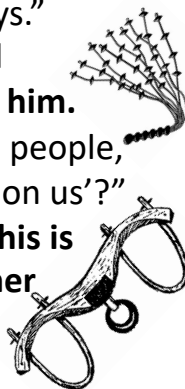
made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter for us!’ You should speak this way to them: ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist!

11 Now then, my father loaded you with a heavy yoke; yet I will add to your yoke.

My father disciplined you with whips, but *I will discipline you with scorpions!*”

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had directed, saying, “Return to me on the third day.”

13 The king answered them harshly, and King Rehoboam ignored the advice of the elders.



Rehoboam rejected wise elder advice for ignorant peer prattle.

Unlike his father, Solomon, Rehoboam thought that he was capable to make judgments

Rehoboam was 41 years of age (1 Kings 14:21)

Rehoboam disrespected his father (Solomon) with a crude, juvenile reference.

The manner in which one treats authority could give insight into the inclination of a person towards God.

On the third day, the answer (the truth of Rehoboam’s heart) would be revealed.

Rehoboam does not go to the Lord in prayer, but instead goes directly to fellow man.

Jeroboam led the northern kingdom back to Rehoboam on the third day; Jeroboam understood how to lead the people according to the King’s command

God used Rehoboam’s weaknesses to bring about his downfall while fulfilling His Word (1 Kings 11:31).

This is the first time in Scripture where the term “Israel” is used to define the 10 tribes of the “northern kingdom.”

922BC Separation of the Kingdom
722BC Assyrian Exile of the Northern Kingdom
538BC Jerusalem re-established as capital (Post-Babylon Captivity)

The northern kingdom will be called “Israel”, “Ephraim”, or “Samaria”.

Being politically inept, Rehoboam sent the overseer of forced labor instead of a sympathetic ambassador to Israel. (2 Chronicles 10:18)
Adoram may have been in charge of David’s forced labor as Adoniram (1 Kings 4:6)

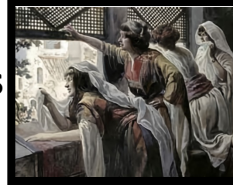
The Levitical Priests Join Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 11:14-23)

¹⁴ For the Levites left their pasture lands and their property and went to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the LORD.



¹⁵ He set up priests of his own for the high places, for the satyrs and the calves which he had made.

¹⁶ Those from all the tribes of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the LORD God of Israel followed them to Jerusalem, to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.



¹⁷ They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam the son of Solomon for three years, for they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.



¹⁸ Then Rehoboam married Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David *and of* Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse,

¹⁹ and she bore to him sons: Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.

²⁰ After her, he married Maacah the daughter of Absalom, and she bore to him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.

²¹ Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom more than all his *other* wives and concubines. For he had taken eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

²² Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maacah as head and leader among his brothers, for he *intended* to make him king.

²³ He acted wisely and distributed some of his sons through all the territories of Judah and Benjamin to all the fortified cities, and he gave them plenty of provisions. And he sought many wives *for them*.



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.



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

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

Satyrs were believed to be male spirits with horse ears/tail and a permanent sexual erection. Satyrs were believed to be lovers of wine and dancing as they incessantly raped and seduced leud women. Worshippers may have practiced bestiality.

Rehoboam followed Yahweh faithfully for three years, but in the fourth year, he fell away.

Rehoboam turned 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).

Like his father, Solomon, the marriages of Rehoboam symbolized his unfaithfulness (1 Kings 11:4)

Rehoboam reigned for 17 years in total (1 Kings 14:21).

Because of Rehoboam’s love for Maacah, Rehoboam elevated her firstborn (Abijah) above all other brothers with the ambition of making him king.

Rehoboam loved Maacah (meaning “depression”). Her father (his uncle) Absalom had failed a coup of David’s throne. Maacah may have been a more thoughtful, reflective beauty (2 Samuel 14:25)

Scripture commends Rehoboam for quelling the competition for the throne by moving the brothers apart and satisfying their desires.

God's Judgment on Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 12:1-8)

¹ When the kingdom of Rehoboam was established and strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the Law of the LORD.

² And it came about in King Rehoboam's fifth year, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem ³ with 1,200 chariots and sixty thousand horsemen. And the people who came with him from Egypt were innumerable: the Lubim, the Sukkiim, and the Ethiopians.



⁴ And he captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

⁵ Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says: 'You have abandoned Me, so I also have abandoned you to Shishak.'"

⁶ So the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous."

⁷ When the LORD saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves, so I will not destroy them; and I will grant them a little deliverance, and My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak.

⁸ But they will become his slaves, so that they may learn *the difference between* My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

God gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5)

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

God used Egypt as judgment on Judah for turning to idolatry

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

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

Shemaiah ("heard of Jehovah") was a prophet who came to Rehoboam and Judah's elders as they hid in Jerusalem

Although Rehoboam's father, Solomon had been friends with Ethiopia, they (Cushites) also were in the attack.

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)

Shishak was the prince of Libya who founded the 22nd dynasty of Egypt as Pharaoh Sheshonq I where he ruled for 21 years.

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

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.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other" (Matthew 6:24)

Humbled by Shishak of Egypt

(2 Chronicles 12:9-16)

⁹ So Shishak king of Egypt went up against Jerusalem, and he took the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's palace. He took everything; he even took the gold shields which Solomon had made.



¹⁰ Then King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guards who guarded the entrance of the king's house.

¹¹ As often as the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards came and carried them and *then* brought them back into the guards' room.



¹² And when he humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned away from him, so as not to destroy *him* completely; and conditions were also good in Judah.

¹³ So King Rehoboam became powerful in Jerusalem and reigned *there*. For Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. And his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess.

¹⁴ But he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵ Now the acts of Rehoboam, from the first to the last, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, according to genealogical enrollment? And *there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.*

¹⁶ And Rehoboam lay down with his fathers and was buried in the city of David; and his son Abijah became king in his place.

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 (Exodus 12:36), and now the other way around.

Rehoboam would replace the glorious golden shields with shields of bronze (symbolizing judgment).

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

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

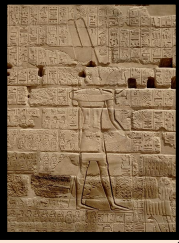
Rehoboam was King over Judah from the age of 41 until the age of 58 years old.

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

Rehoboam continued to struggle against Jeroboam.



The "Inscription of Sheshong I" concerning his invasion of Megiddo



Rehoboam's mother was from the Ammonite tribe who had descended from Lot's youngest daughter. (Genesis 19:36 – 38)

The "works" of Rehoboam were captured by Shemaiah the prophet and Iddo the Seer.

Abijah took over as King just as Rehoboam had planned. (2 Chronicles 11:22)

Abijah (Son of Rehoboam) Against Israel

Abijah Trusts the Lord (2 Chronicles 13:4-17)

⁴ Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, "Listen to me, Jeroboam and all Israel:

⁵ Do you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?

⁶ Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his master,

⁷ and worthless men gathered to him, wicked men, who proved too strong for Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, when he was young and timid and could not hold his own against them.

⁸ "So now you intend to assert yourselves against the kingdom of the LORD through the sons of David, being a great multitude and *having with you the golden calves which Jeroboam made for you as gods.*

⁹ Have you not driven out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests like the peoples of *other* lands? Whoever comes to consecrate himself with a bull and seven rams, even he may become a priest of *things that are not gods.*

¹⁰ But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not abandoned Him; and the sons of Aaron are ministering to the LORD as priests, and the Levites attend to their work.

¹¹ Every morning and evening they burn to the LORD burnt offerings and fragrant incense, and the showbread is *set* on the clean table, and the golden lampstand with its lamps is *ready* to light every evening; for we perform *our* duty to the LORD our God, but you have abandoned Him.

¹² Now behold, God is with us at *our* head, and His priests with the signal trumpets to sound the war cry against you. Sons of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you will not succeed."

¹³ But Jeroboam had set an ambush to come from behind, so that *Israel* was in front of Judah and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴ When Judah turned around, behold, they were attacked both from front and rear; so they cried out to the LORD, and the priests blew the trumpets.

¹⁵ Then the men of Judah raised a war cry, and when the men of Judah raised the war cry, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶ When the sons of Israel fled from Judah, God handed them over to them.

¹⁷ Abijah and his people defeated them with a great slaughter, so that **five hundred thousand chosen men of Israel fell slain.**



The size of Jeroboam's army (800K) was twice the size of the army of Abijah (400K). (2 Chronicles 13:3)

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).

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.

King Abijah refers to David's lineage as the Kingdom of the Lord.

Abijah denounced Jeroboam's idolatrous calves that had been made to be worshipped instead of Yahweh

Jeroboam had rejected God and then rejected God's Priests

Jeroboam allowed anyone who donated an adequate offering to become a priest; priesthood could be purchased

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you." (John 15:18)

Judah cried out to the Lord and slaughtered most of Jeroboam's army

Asa Against Ethiopians

Asa Trusts the Lord (2 Chronicles 14:1-15)

¹ So Abijah lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and his son Asa became king in his place. The land was undisturbed for ten years during his days.

² And Asa did *what was good and right* in the sight of the LORD his God,

³ for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the memorial stones, cut down the Asherim,

⁴ and commanded Judah to **seek the LORD God** of their fathers and to **comply with the Law** and the commandment.

⁵ He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom was undisturbed under him.

⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land was undisturbed, and there was no one at war with him during those years, because the LORD had given him rest.

⁷ For he said to Judah, "Let's build these cities and surround *them* with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

⁸ Now Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah, carrying large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, carrying shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors.

⁹ Now Zerah the Ethiopian went out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

¹⁰ So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹ Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; help us, LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You."

¹² So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

¹³ Asa and the people who *were* with him pursued them as far as Gerar; and so many Ethiopians fell that they could not recover, for they were shattered before the LORD and before His army. And they carried away a very large *amount of plunder*.

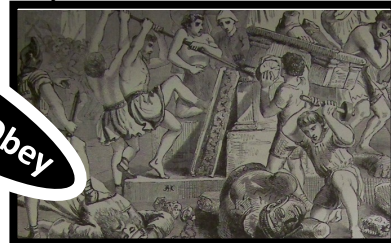
¹⁴ They destroyed all the cities around Gerar, for the dread of the LORD had fallen on them; and they pillaged all the cities, for there was much plunder in them.

¹⁵ They also fatally struck those who owned livestock, and they led away large numbers of sheep and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.



Asa pleased God by removing the wicked & idolatrous influences in Judah

Beyond the stones of Baal and the Asherah poles, Asa eliminated all of the high places.



Seek God & Obey

Asa built up the fortified cities again, but the Lord gave Asa rest because of his obedience.

Asa's one shortcoming was that he 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.

God Gives Peace



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.



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).

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

The invading enemy was pushed back beyond the Philistine city of Gerar (Gen 20:1) and plundered



The Fear of the Lord energized His people while incapacitating Judah's enemies

Beyond the spoils of war, Judah attained massive numbers of sheep and camels

Asa "Cleans House" (2 Chronicles 15:1-16)

¹ Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded,
² and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all 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 abandon Him, He will abandon you.**



After Asa's victory over Zerah's army, the Spirit of God came upon Azariah ("helped by God").

The reference to Israel could refer to the unified kingdom under Rehoboam or the northern kingdom under Jeroboam.

³ For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without *the Law*.

⁴ But in their distress they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.



⁵ In those times there was no peace for him who went out or him who came in, because many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.

⁶ Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.

⁷ **But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is a reward for your work."**

⁸ Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the LORD which was in front of the porch of the LORD.

⁹ And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰ So they assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

¹¹ They sacrificed to the LORD on that day seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep from the spoils they had brought.



¹² They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul;

¹³ and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

¹⁴ Moreover, they made an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting, trumpets, and with horns.

¹⁵ All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.



¹⁶ He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the *position of queen mother*, because she had made an abominable image as an Asherah, and Asa cut down her abominable image, crushed *it*, and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.

The Ungodly Nation (Israel) had Lost Three Treasures (2 Chronicles 15:3)

	Characteristics of an <u>Idolatrous Society</u>	Attributes <u>of Jesus</u>	
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;

Wholeheartedly getting 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.

The feast in the third month of Sivan, is the Pentecost.

This does not say that anyone was killed, but that those who rebelled against God should be killed.

Asa reduced the queen-dowager who was Absalom's daughter & Rehoboam's favorite wife (2 Chronicles 11:21)

Asa Relies on the World (2 Chronicles 16:1-12)

¹ In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent *anyone* from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.

² Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent it to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

³ "A treaty *must be made* between you and me, *as there was* between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."

⁴ And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa, and he sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali.

⁵ When Baasha heard *about it*, he stopped fortifying Ramah and put an end to his work.

⁶ Then King Asa brought all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had been building, and with it he fortified Geba and Mizpah.

⁷ At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, for that reason the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.

⁸ Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He handed them over to you.

⁹ **For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.**

You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will have wars."

¹⁰ Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa mistreated some of the people at the same time.

¹¹ Now, the acts of Asa *from* the first to the last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

Asa ("physician/healer") walked with the Lord as his great-great-grandfather (David) had done and reigned a year longer.

Asa descended from Absalom's lineage (2 Samuel 3:3; 13:37-38)

Baasha built Ramah only 4 miles north of Jerusalem to intercept those traveling to Jerusalem

"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).

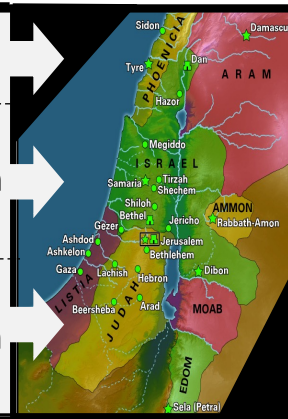
Asa took from the Temple to give to Syria for an alliance

Hanani ("gracious") the seer tells Asa that he missed an opportunity by relying on treaties instead of God.

King Asa had been concerned about Baasha (Israel) when God was willing to give him all the way up to Ben-Hadad (Syria).



Syria
Aram
Israel
Northern Kingdom
Judah
Southern Kingdom



The "feet disease" was symbolic of Asa's spiritual walk away from God (2 Chronicles 15:2)

Asa trusted worldly doctors without praying to God for His healing blessing



Jehoshaphat was the son of Good King Asa

Good King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 17:1-10)

¹ His son Jehoshaphat then became king in his place, and he proved himself strong over Israel.

² He placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and placed garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which his father Asa had captured.

³ And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals,

⁴ but sought the God of his father, followed His commandments, and did not *act* as Israel did.

⁵ So the LORD established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah gave tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor.

⁶ He took great pride in the ways of the LORD, and again removed the high places and the Asherim from Judah.

⁷ Then in the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah;

⁸ and with them the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, the Levites; and with them the priests Elishama and Jehoram.

⁹ They taught in Judah, *having* the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; and they went throughout the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

¹⁰ Now the dread of the LORD was on all the kingdoms of the lands which *were* around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

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.

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

The Lord was with Jehoshaphat 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

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

In the third (3) year of Jehoshaphat's Reign, he began "State Sponsored" Bible Studies (2 Chronicles 20:7-8)

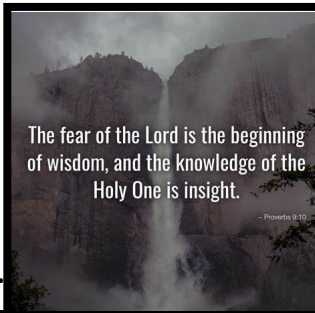
State Sponsored Bible Studies

Officials	Meaning
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	Meaning
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	Meaning
1. Elishama	"God has heard"
2. Jehoram	"Exaltation of the Lord"

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



Jehoshaphat Allies with Ahab (2 Chronicles 18:1-13)

¹ Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor; and he allied himself by marriage to Ahab.

² Some years later he went down to *visit* Ahab at Samaria, and Ahab slaughtered many sheep and oxen for him and the people who were with him. And he incited him to go up against Ramoth-gilead.

³ Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me *against* Ramoth-gilead?" And he said to him, "I am as you are, and my people as your people, and we will be with you in the battle."

⁴ However, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please request the word of the LORD first."

⁵ So the king of Israel assembled the prophets, four hundred men, and said to them, "Should we go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or should I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for God will hand it over to the king."

⁶ But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of him?"

⁷ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him, for he never prophesies *anything* good regarding me, but always bad. He is Micaiah the son of Imlah." But Jehoshaphat said, "May the king not say so."

⁸ Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Imlah quickly."

⁹ Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting, each on his throne, dressed in *their* robes, and they were sitting at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them.

"4" often symbolizes "Test/Trial"
"Do not be unevenly yoked with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14)

¹⁰ Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made horns of iron for himself and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed!'"

¹¹ All the prophets were prophesying this as well, saying, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and be successful, for the LORD will hand it over to the king."

¹² Then the messenger who went to summon Micaiah spoke to him saying, "Behold, the words of the prophets are unanimously favorable to the king. So please let your word be like one of them, and speak favorably."

¹³ But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever my God says, I will speak it."

Although Syria had assisted the Southern Kingdom (Judah) against the Northern Kingdom in the past (1 Kings 15:16-22), Judah would now be pulled into an alliance with the Northern Kingdom against Syria.

Syria would eventually join the Northern Kingdom against the Southern Kingdom.

Jehoshaphat emphasized the similarities with the Northern Kingdom instead of the distinction between a nation following God contrasted to an idolatrous nation.



In the time of Elijah, Jezebel had 400 prophets of Asherah (1 Kings 18:19)

Before joining his worldly friend in war, Jehoshaphat wanted to ask the Lord (Matthew 6:33)

Ramoth-Gilead ("Heights of 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.

The threshing floor which often represents a place of judgment

The King focuses on the messenger instead of the message

Micaiah's Message will not be influenced by the World

Ramoth-gilead was 20 miles east of the Jordan River



Horns and iron symbolize strength, but Zedekiah made this symbol of his own will without the direction of the Lord.

Micaiah's Prophecy (2 Chronicles 18:16-27)

¹⁶ So he said, "I saw all Israel. Scattered on the mountains, Like sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These *people* have no master. Each of them is to return to his house in peace.'"



¹⁷ Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy *anything* good regarding me, but *only* bad?"

¹⁸ And *Micaiah* said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw **the LORD sitting on His throne**, and all the angels of heaven standing on His right and on His left.

¹⁹ And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one *spirit* said this, while another said that.



²⁰ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' And the LORD said to him, 'How?'

²¹ He said, 'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You shall entice *him*, and you will also prevail. Go out and do so.'

²² Now therefore, behold, the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours, for the LORD has declared disaster against you."

²³ Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah approached and struck Micaiah on the cheek; and he said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?"

²⁴ And *Micaiah* said, "Behold, you are going to see *how* on that day when you go from *one* inner room to another *trying* to hide yourself."

²⁵ Then the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah and return him to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

²⁶ and say, 'This is what the king says: "Put this *man* in prison, and feed him enough bread and water to survive until I return safely.'"

²⁷ But *Micaiah* said, "If you actually return safely, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Listen, all you people!"

The world's persecution

Micaiah views the true King on His throne instead of the two human kings in front of him

The worldly kings were not good "masters" of the sheep.

King Ahab was self-centered as the prophecy was only about him; the prophecy was about Israel

While the Lord sat, the angels stood on the right and left of the Lord in heaven

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

Micah leaves the retribution for his persecution to the Lord (Romans 12:19)

Micaiah forewarns the other prophet of his fear & demise

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

The Lord put lying spirits (Judges 9:23)

Micaiah does not physically retaliate against Zedekiah, but leaves revenge in the hands of the Lord

into the false prophets (Ezekiel 14:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Syria Defeats Israel & Judah (2 Chronicles 18:28-34)

²⁸ So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up against Ramoth-gilead.

²⁹ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.

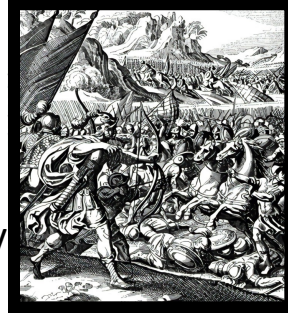
³⁰ Now the king of Aram had commanded the commanders of his chariots, saying, "Do not fight with the small or great, but only with the king of Israel."

³¹ So when the commanders of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "He is the king of Israel!" And they turned aside to fight against him. **But Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him, and God diverted them from him.**

³² When the commanders of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³³ Now one man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am severely wounded."

³⁴ The battle raged on that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot in front of the Arameans until the evening; and **at sunset he died.**



In this entire passage concerning Jehoshaphat, Ahab's name is only recorded in the heavenly discussion (1 Kings 22:20).

Jehoshaphat does not seem to realize that Ahab was setting him up to be the target

There were 32 Syrian chariot commanders (1 Kings 22:31) reminiscent of the 32 drunken kings assisting Syria against Ahab's 232 young leaders (1 Kings 20:15-16)

Jehoshaphat cried out (possibly to God – Aram would not have cried out to God);

Syria turned back from chasing Jehoshaphat because God intervened (they may have recognized him by sight or voice)

Ahab was inadvertently struck by an arrow. There is no such thing as coincidence, and God guided that arrow through the small gap in Ahab's armor.

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



When the armies of Israel & Judah realized that Ahab had died, each army fled.

Elijah's prophecy (1 Kings 21:24) and Micaiah's prophecy (1 Kings 22:17) are fulfilled

Jehoshaphat Follows God (2 Chronicles 19:1-11)

¹ Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem.

² And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, **“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD, and by doing so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?”**

³ But there is *some* good in you, for you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you have set your heart to seek God.”

⁴ So Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem and went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

⁵ He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city.

⁶ He said to the judges, **“Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for mankind but for the LORD who is with you when you render judgment.**

⁷ Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; be careful about what you do, for the LORD our God will have no part in injustice or partiality, or in the taking of a bribe.”

⁸ In Jerusalem Jehoshaphat also appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers’ *households* of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

⁹ Then he commanded them, saying, **“This is what you shall do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and wholeheartedly.**

¹⁰ Whenever any dispute comes to you from your countrymen who live in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, **you shall warn them so that they will not be guilty before the LORD, and wrath will *not* come on you and your countrymen. This you shall do and you will not be guilty.**

¹¹ Behold, Amariah the chief priest will be over you in every matter that pertains to the LORD, and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all that pertains to the king. Also the Levites shall be officers before you. Act resolutely, and may the LORD be with the upright.”



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

Jehu (son of Hanani the seer – 2 Chron 16:10) warned the King of Israel & later another Jehu killed his grandson Ahaziah.

This Jehu asked King Jehoshaphat 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.

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 – 2 Chronicles 12:14)

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

God’s is the ultimate Judge

Matters of the Lord (Amariah) are separated from Matters of the State (Zebadiah).

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.

**Ammon, Moab & Edom
Against Judah**

Jehoshaphat Seeks God's Refuge (2 Chronicles 20:1-13)

¹ Now it came about after this, that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

² Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Aram; and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)."

³ Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD; and he proclaimed a period of fasting throughout Judah.

⁴ So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD in front of the new courtyard;

⁶ and he said, "LORD, God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.

⁷ Did You not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land from Your people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Your friend Abraham forever?

⁸ They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, or judgment, or plague, or famine,

we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house), and cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear and save us.'

¹⁰ Now behold, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whom You did not allow Israel to invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (for they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),

¹¹ see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance.

¹² Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

¹³ All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives, and their children.

When Jehoshaphat was afraid, he would turn to God

**Judah
Jerusalem
House of the Lord**



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.

The invasion came from Syria.



Hazazon-tamar means "in the wood of palm trees"

Beyond individual fasting, Jehoshaphat proclaimed a national fast through all of Judah.

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

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

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)

The view of God should alter the view of the situation instead of the situation changing our view of God

Judah stood in physical weakness as infants, wives and children.

**The Faithful
Prophecy of Jahaziel**

God's Salvation (2 Chronicles 20:14-25)

¹⁴ Then in the midst of the assembly **the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel** the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;

¹⁵ and he said, **“Listen, all *you of Judah* and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat: This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s.**

¹⁶ Tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷ **You *need* not fight in this *battle*; take your position, stand and watch the salvation of the LORD in your behalf, Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow, go out to face them, for the LORD is with you.”**

¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

¹⁹ The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and from the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

²⁰ They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, **“Listen to me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Put your trust in the LORD your God and you will endure. Put your trust in His prophets, and succeed.**”**

²¹ When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, **“Give thanks to the LORD, for His faithfulness is everlasting.”**

²² When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were struck down.

²³ For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, completely destroying *them*; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they turned toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* corpses lying on the ground, and there was no survivor.

²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoils, they found much among them, *including* goods, garments, and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were taking the spoils for three days because there was so much.



**Praise is
Powerful**



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.

Judah is told that they would not need to fight, but they do need to obey & watch.

**Jehoshaphat led all of Judah in falling upon their faces to worship the Lord.
Faith prior to the victory**

As one would develop an “attack plan” through various assignments and strategies, the people were divided into groups for praise.

Israel sang similar words to the praise when Solomon’s Temple was dedicated (2 Chronicles 5:13, 7:3)

When Judah began to praise, God ambushed the enemy, and the enemy was defeated.

Judah was blessed with the spoils of the enemy

Ammon & Moab attacked Seir before turning on themselves

Jehoram was the son of Good King Jehoshaphat

Wicked King Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:4-15)

4 Now when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and gathered courage, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and some of the leaders of Israel as well.

5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for eight years in Jerusalem.

6 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

7 Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David because of the covenant which He had made with David, and because He had promised to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

8 In his days Edom broke away from the rule of Judah, and appointed a king over themselves.

9 Then Jehoram crossed over with his commanders and all his chariots with him. And he got up at night and struck and killed the Edomites who were surrounding him, and the commanders of the chariots.

10 So Edom revolted against Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time against his rule because he had abandoned the LORD God of his fathers.

11 Furthermore, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unfaithful, and led Judah astray.

12 Then a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, "This is what the LORD, the God of your father David says: 'Because you have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat and the ways of Asa king of Judah,

13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unfaithful as the house of Ahab was unfaithful, and you have also killed your brothers, your own family, who were better than you,

14 behold, the LORD is going to strike your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a great plague;

15 and you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness, day by day."

2 Chronicles 18
 Good King Jehoshaphat is lured into military alliance with Israel's evil King Ahab. Jehoshaphat is warned about worldly alliances (2 Chronicles 19:1-2)
Situational Alliance

2 Chronicles 20:35-37
 Good King Jehoshaphat has business venture with Israel's evil King Ahaziah. Jehoshaphat does not learn his lesson about worldly alliances.
Contracted Partnership

2 Chronicles 21:6; 12-16
 Good King Jehoshaphat's Son, Jehoram married the daughter of the King of Israel (Athaliah) and walked in the evil ways of the Northern Kingdom
Marriage

2 Chronicles 22
 Jehoram killed brothers; Jesu kills Ahaziah while he is visiting the King of Israel (2 Kings 9:27) Athaliah killed Judah's royal family
Destruction

Decline Due to Worldly Influence

After securing the kingdom for himself, Jehoram killed all of his brothers and several other influential elders in Judah.

Jehoram named his son Ahaziah after the uncle of Athaliah (the king of Israel)

Jehoshaphat had befriended Ahab (2 Chronicles 18), and Jehoram fashioned his kingdom in the way of his father-in-law, Ahab.

As Jehoram rebelled against God, the nations under Judah's reign would also revolt against them.

Judah's king Jehoram was able to fight his way through the Edom ambush, but he was not able to control Edom going forward

Libnah was a fortified city of the priests that also rebelled against Jehoram (Joshua 21:13).



Idolatry is likened to adultery in Scripture (Jeremiah 3:20; Isaiah 1:21; 54:5; 57:8; Ezekiel 16:15-19. 30)

Sin harms Families

God judged some better than others

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

The Death of Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:16-20)

16 Then the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians;

17 and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

The Remnant

18 So after all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable sickness.

19 Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of his sickness, and he died in great pain. And his people did not make a *funeral* fire for him like the fire for his fathers.

20 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eight years; and he departed with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

The Lord stirred up enemies from the south (Philistines & Arabs) to invade His people

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.

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



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 king by the people.

Judah did not grieve the passing of wicked King Jehoram

King Jehoram died to no one's sadness

Ahaziah was the son of Wicked King Jehoram

Wicked King Ahaziah (2 Chronicles 22:1-12)

¹Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, for the band of men who came with the Arabs to the camp had killed all the older *sons*. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign.

² Ahaziah *was* twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri.

³ He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor to act wickedly.

⁴ So he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab, for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his own destruction.

⁵ He also walked by their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to wage war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead. But the Arameans wounded Joram.

⁶ So he returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which they had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. And Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram king of Judah, went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

⁷ Now the destruction of Ahaziah was from God, in that he went to Joram.

For when he arrived, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to eliminate the house of Ahab.

⁸ And it came about, when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, that he found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers attending to Ahaziah, and killed them.

⁹ He also searched for Ahaziah, and they caught him while he was hiding in Samaria; they brought him to Jehu, put him to death, and buried him. For they said, "He is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart."

So there was no one of the house of Ahaziah to retain the power of the kingdom.

¹⁰ Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she rose and eliminated all the royal children of the house of Judah.

¹¹ But Jehoshabeath the king's daughter took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and placed him and his nurse in the bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she would not put him to death.

¹² He kept himself hidden with them in the house of God for six years while Athaliah reigned over the land.



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

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

Jehoahaz/Ahaziah was talked into allying with his uncle (Israel's King Jehoram) for battle just as his grandfather, Jehoshaphat

Jehoahaz/Ahaziah had been influenced by his mother who had been raised in the northern kingdom as the daughter of Ahab and the granddaughter of Omri

Judah's Jehoshaphat rejected partnership with Ahaziah son of Ahab because the Lord sunk their fleet (2 Kings 22:48-49)

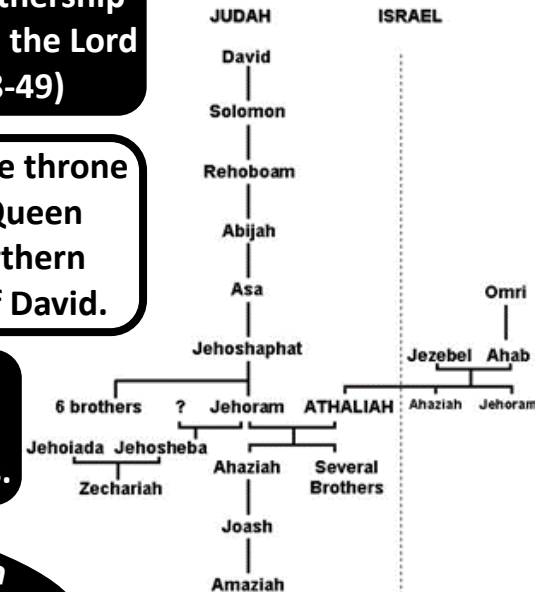
This is the only time when the throne of Judah was usurped as Queen Athaliah was from the Northern Kingdom and not the line of David.

She was Judah's only reigning queen and the strongest Baal advocate among Judah's rulers.

Jehoshabeath ("God is an oath")



QUEEN ATHALIAH'S FAMILY



High Priest Jehoiada
Rescues Good King Joash

Jehoiada Establishes the True King (2 Chronicles 23:12-21)

“Cleaning House”

12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she went into the house of the LORD to the people.

13 She looked, and behold, the king was standing by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpeters *were* beside the king. And all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets, the singers with *their* musical instruments leading the praise. **Then Athaliah tore her clothes and said, “Conspiracy! Conspiracy!”**

14 And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were appointed over the army, and said to them, **“Bring her out between the ranks, and whoever follows her is to be put to death with the sword.”** For the priest said, **“You shall not put her to death in the house of the LORD.”**

15 So they seized her, and when she arrived at the entrance of the Horse Gate of the king’s house, they put her to death there.

16 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king, that they would be the LORD’s people.

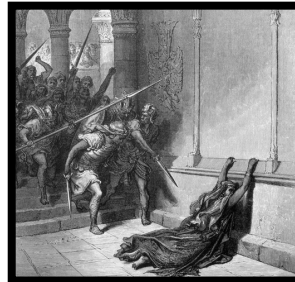
17 And **all the people went to the house of Baal and tore it down**, and they broke in pieces his altars and his images, and **killed Mattan the priest of Baal** before the altars.

18 Moreover, Jehoiada placed the offices of the house of the LORD under the authority of the Levitical priests, whom David had assigned over the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses—with rejoicing and singing according to the order of David.

19 He stationed the gatekeepers of the house of the LORD, so that no one would enter *who was* in any way unclean.

20 He took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went through the upper gate to the king’s house. And **they seated the king upon the royal throne.**

21 So all of the people of the land rejoiced and the city was at rest. For they had put Athaliah to death with the sword.



Athaliah heard the commotion of people rushing to the new king and praising him.

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.

Not only was the queen guilty of capital punishment, but also were all of her treasonous followers

To be “killed by the sword” is symbolic of being condemned by the Word of the Lord).

As Jezebel had promoted Baalism in Israel, so her daughter did in Judah. During Athaliah's six-year reign (841-835 B.C.),

Balism gained its most secure foothold in the Southern Kingdom, but it was never as influential in Judah as it was in Israel.

Judah rejoiced in the King and rested from the tyranny of the idolatrous queen

**Good King Joash Rescued
by High Priest Jehoiada**

Young King Joash Restores Temple (2 Chronicles 24:4-14)

⁴ Now it came about after this that **Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD.**

⁵ He gathered the priests and Levites and said to them, **“Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the house of your God annually, and you shall do the work quickly.”** But the Levites did not act quickly.

⁶ So the king summoned Jehoiada, the chief *priest*, and said to him, **“Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the contribution of Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the congregation of Israel, for the tent of the testimony?”**

⁷ **For the sons of the wicked Athaliah had broken into the house of God, and even used the holy things of the house of the LORD for the Baals.**

⁸ **So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside by the gate of the house of the LORD.**

⁹ And they made a proclamation in Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the contribution *commanded* by Moses the servant of God on Israel in the wilderness.

¹⁰ **All the officers and all the people rejoiced, and they brought in *their contribution* and dropped it into the chest until they had finished.**

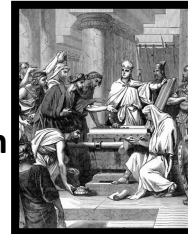
¹¹ **It happened that whenever the chest was brought to the king’s officer by the Levites, and they saw that the money was substantial, the king’s scribe and the chief priest’s officer would come and empty the chest, and pick it up and return it to its place. They did this daily and collected a large amount of money.**

¹² **The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.**

¹³ **So the workmen labored, and the repair work progressed in their hands, and they restored the house of God according to its specifications and strengthened it.**

¹⁴ When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; and it was made into utensils for the house of the LORD, utensils for the service and the burnt offerings, and pans and utensils of gold and silver. **And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually, all the days of Jehoiada.**

**Lackadaisical
Priests were not
zealous for the
Lord’s work**



At 7 years of age, Jehoash was the youngest king to mount Judah's throne and ruled for 40 years (~836-796 B.C.).

Money was paid during each census (Exodus 30:12-13) as well as money collected to redeem individuals from the Lord’s service (Leviticus 27:1-8).

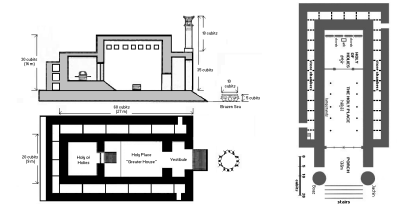
Although God’s people had given money to repair the Temple, the priests took the contributions for their own personal use instead of spending it on God’s work.

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



The King & High Priest distributed the collections to the workers.

Joash understood the Temple well since he had domiciled there for the first six years of his life



The Temple was approximately 130 years of age (the same age as Jehoiada the high priest). (2 Chronicles 24:15)

Joash told the priests to no longer collect funds because they did not use the collections to fund the Lord’s work

The officers & public were joyful for a secure way to donate funds to the Lord’s work

The King practiced perpetual (instead of periodic) worship (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Good King Joash Rescued
by High Priest Jehoiada

King Joash Fails (2 Chronicles 24:20-27)

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God covered Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest like clothing; and he stood above the people and said to them, "This is what God has said, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, He has also abandoned you.'"



²¹ So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the house of the LORD.

²² So Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as Zechariah died he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"



²³ Now it happened at the turn of the year that the army of the Arameans came up against Joash; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoils to the king of Damascus.

²⁴ Indeed, the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet the LORD handed a very great army over to them, because Judah and Joash had abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers. So they executed judgment on Joash.



²⁵ When they left him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they murdered him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

²⁶ Now these are the men who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabite.



²⁷ As to his sons and the many pronouncements against him and the rebuilding of the house of God, behold, they are written in the treatise of the Book of the Kings. Then his son Amaziah became king in his place.

Spirit of God covers
like clothing

Linen coverings are symbolic of the
righteous works of the saints

The High Priest Jehoiada
had saved the life of King
Joash from his wicked
grandmother, Athaliah

Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, asked
the people to consider the reasons that
they had walked away from the Lord
(and why they were not prospering)

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

When "Good" Kings will NOT accept reproach:

- Good King Joash (2 Chron 24:15-22),
- Good King Asa (2 Chron 16:7-12),
- Good King Amaziah (2 Chron 25:14-16)

Zechariah died in the courtyard of
the Temple while proclaiming the
message of the Lord

King Joash did not remember
that the prophet's father had
saved his life.

God used a small 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).

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 King Joash because
he had slain the high priest Zechariah.

Good King Amaziah is the son of Good King Joash

The Faith of King Amaziah (2 Chronicles 25:1-12)

¹ Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

² He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, only not wholeheartedly.

³ Now it came about, as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, that he killed his servants who had killed his father the king.

⁴ However, he did not put their children to death, but *did* as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for sons, nor sons be put to death for fathers; but each shall be put to death for his own sin."

⁵ Moreover, Amaziah assembled Judah and appointed them according to their fathers' households under commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds throughout Judah and Benjamin; and he took a census of those from twenty years old and upward and found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, *able to go to war and handle spear and shield.*

⁶ He also hired a hundred thousand valiant warriors from Israel for a hundred talents of silver.

⁷ But a man of God came to him saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel come with you, for the LORD is not with Israel *nor with any of the sons of Ephraim.*

⁸ But if you do go, do *it*, be strong for the battle; yet God will bring you down before the enemy, **for God has the power to help and to bring down.**"

⁹ Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what *are we* to do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD has much more to give you than this."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah dismissed the troops which came to him from Ephraim, to go home; so their anger burned against Judah, and they returned home in fierce anger.

¹¹ Now Amaziah gathered his courage and led his people out, and went to the Valley of Salt, and struck and killed ten thousand of the sons of Seir.

¹² The sons of Judah also captured ten thousand alive and brought them to the top of the cliff, and threw them down from the top of the cliff so that they were all dashed to pieces.



Sunk Costs

Cut the Losses

Amaziah lived longer as a king (29 years) than he did before he was a king (25 years).

Amaziah's mother, Jehoaddan ("pleasure/time of the Lord") was from Jerusalem.

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

Amaziah killed the servants who had murdered his father, Joash.; however, Amaziah withheld from killing the families of the servants because of the law's commands.

Amaziah supplemented his army of 300,000 Judeans with 100,000 hired warriors from Israel.

The northern and southern kingdom had a history of allying against Syria's army (2 Chronicles 18 & 22:5).

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.

Past investments do not determine God's will for the future.

God gives the victory

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

Amaziah had invested 3.75 tons of silver.

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

King Amaziah Fails (2 Chronicles 25:14-23)

Good King Amaziah is the son of Good King Joash

¹⁴ Now after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up as his gods. Then he bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

¹⁵ So the anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people who have not saved their own people from your hand?"

¹⁶ As he was talking with him, the king said to him, "Have we appointed you to be a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be put to death?"

Then the prophet stopped and said, "I know that God has planned to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

¹⁷ Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent *word* to Joash the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu, the king of Israel, saying, "Come, let's face each other."

¹⁸ But Joash the king of Israel sent a *reply* to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thorn bush that was in Lebanon sent *word* to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.' But a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thorn bush.

¹⁹ You said, 'Behold, you have defeated Edom.' And your heart has lifted you up in boasting. Now stay home; why should you provoke trouble so that you, would fall, you and Judah with you?"

²⁰ But **Amaziah would not listen, for it was from God**, so that He might hand them over to Joash, because they had sought the gods of Edom.

²¹ So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh, which belonged to Judah.

²² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and they fled, every man to his tent.

²³ Then Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits.

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

If Yahweh gave Judah military victory, Amaziah believed that collecting additional gods would increase his strength (the more-the better)

Amaziah sought his own glory instead of following the Lord.

The Lord's anger burned against Amaziah who adopted false gods of defeated people

Instead of exalting the name of Yahweh, success distracted Amaziah & made him proud

Amaziah asked facetiously whether he had appointed the prophet as his royal counsel.

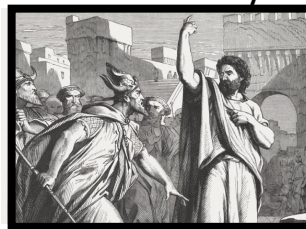
Amaziah warned the prophet that he would die if he continued to share God's message

God would destroy Amaziah for two reasons:
1. Idolatry 2. Rejection of God's Warning

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

The Jewish historian, 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 if the gates weren't opened – they were.



Good King Uzziah is the son of Good King Amaziah

Good King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:3-15)

³ Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jechiliah of Jerusalem.

⁴ He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, in accordance with everything that his father Amaziah had done.

⁵ He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him successful.

⁶ Now he went out and fought against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities in the area of Ashdod and among the Philistines.

⁷ God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians who lived in Gur-baal, and the Meunites.

⁸ The Ammonites gave tribute to Uzziah, and his fame extended to the border of Egypt, for he became very strong.

⁹ Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress, and he fortified them.

¹⁰ He also built towers in the wilderness and carved out many cisterns, for he had much livestock, both in the lowland and in the plain. He also had plowmen and vinedressers in the hill country and the fertile fields, for he loved the soil.

¹¹ Moreover, Uzziah had an army ready for battle, which entered combat by divisions according to the number of their muster, recorded by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the official, under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king's officers.

¹² The total number of the heads of the households, of valiant warriors, was 2,600.

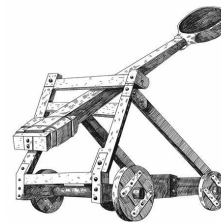
¹³ Under their direction was an army of 307,500, who could wage war with great power, to help the king against the enemy.

¹⁴ Moreover, Uzziah prepared for all the army shields¹, spears², helmets³, body armor⁴, bows⁵, and slingstones⁶.

¹⁵ In Jerusalem he made machines of war invented by skillful workmen to be on the towers and the corners, for the purpose of shooting arrows and great stones. So his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped until he was strong.

Victories over idolatrous enemies like Gurbaal ("the mountain of Baal") and Meunites who were the inhabitants of Maon on Mt. Seir among the Edomites.

King Uzziah had a "green thumb" as he was a prolific farmer.



Uzziah's mother, Jechiliah ("God will make strong") was from Jerusalem (like Amaziah's mother – 2 Chronicles 25:1)

Amaziah (Uzziah's Father) had begun strong before pride caused his downfall; the same would be true for Uzziah.

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)

Uzziah remained King for 52 years (2 Kings 14:21) which is the second longest reign of a king in Judah after Manasseh's 55 years.

Uzziah's military was innovative as they produced leading projectile weaponry,

Throughout history, the character of every leading nation has suffered from success as "national pride" replaces reliance on a higher power.

Good King Uzziah is the son of Good King Amaziah

King Uzziah Fails (2 Chronicles 26:16-22)

16 But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was untrue to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

17 Then Azariah the priest entered after him, and with him eighty priests of the LORD, valiant men.

18 They opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been untrue and will have no honor from the LORD God."



19 But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense.

20 Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him and behold, he *was* leprous on his forehead; and they quickly removed him from there, and he himself also hurried to get out because the LORD had stricken him.



21 King Uzziah had leprosy to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate house, afflicted *as he was* with leprosy, for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. And his son Jotham *was* over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, the first to the last, the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, has written.

Uzziah failed because of his proud heart from the success that the Lord had given to him.

Uzziah became so prideful that he believed that he could approach the altar of incense directly without a mediator.

God revealed to Uzziah his sin which is represented by leprosy.

The altar of incense had a "horn" at each corner which was similar to the altar of sacrifice

The high priest placed blood on the horns of the altar of incense for purification on the annual Day of Atonement.

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).

The leprosy began when King Uzziah rejected the correction with anger and self-righteous pride.

The priests noticed the leprosy (sin) on King Uzziah's forehead prior to the King being aware.

The forehead often reflects thoughts, reasonings and innermost meditations.

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.

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.

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

Bad King Ahaz is the son of Good King Jotham

Jotham-to-Ahaz (2 Chronicles 27:1-28:4)

¹ Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was **Jerushah the daughter of Zadok**.

² **He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done; however he did not enter the temple of the LORD. But the people continued acting corruptly.**

³ He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD, and **he built the wall of Ophel extensively.**

⁴ Moreover, he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and **he built fortresses and towers on the wooded hills.**

⁵ He fought with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed over them so that during that year the Ammonites gave him a hundred talents of silver, ten thousand kors of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. The Ammonites also paid him this *amount* in the second year and in the third.

⁶ **So Jotham became powerful because he directed his ways before the LORD his God.**

⁷ **Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, all his wars and his ways, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.**

⁸ He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years.

⁹ And Jotham lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and **his son Ahaz became king in his place.**



Jotham (Father) and Ahaz (Son) reigned 16 years

¹ Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. **He did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD as his father David had done.**

² **But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made cast metal images for the Baals.**

³ Furthermore, he burned incense in the Valley of Ben-hinnom, and burned his sons in fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from the sons of Israel.

⁴ He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

Leviticus 18:21



Jotham's mother was Jerushah ("inheritance") who was the daughter of Zadok ("righteousness"). Jotham had inherited "righteous living" from his father Uzziah.

This was a unique time in history where the King (Jotham) did what was right in God's sight while the people were corrupt.

The wall of Ophel ("the mount") was meant to reinforce the most vulnerable area on the southern slope of Jerusalem.

Beyond Jerusalem, Jotham took protective measures for the rural farmers and travelers.

The Ammonites (from Lot's youngest) provided crops for three years.

King Jotham purposely planned (directed) his walk with the Lord.

Not only did King Ahaz worship Baal, he made Baal images.

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

Good Uzziah was judged for burning incense in the Temple, and his grandson Ahaz would be judged for burning incense on the high places.

Ahaz was defeated by both Syria/Aram as well as Israel's northern kingdom (2 Kings 15:37; 2 Chronicles 28:5).

Bad King Ahaz is the son of Good King Jotham

Courageous Prophet Obed (2 Chronicles 28:5-15)

⁵ Therefore the LORD his God handed him over to the king of Aram; and they defeated him and carried from him a great number of captives, and brought *them* to Damascus. And he was also handed over to the king of Israel, who struck him with heavy casualties.

⁶ For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 in Judah in one day, all valiant men, because they had abandoned the LORD God of their fathers.

⁷ And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the ruler of the house, and Elkanah the second to the king.

⁸ The sons of Israel led away captive two hundred thousand of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters; and they also took a great deal of spoils from them, and brought the spoils to Samaria.

⁹ But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name *was* Oded; and he went out to meet the army which came to Samaria and said to them, "Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, He has handed them over to you, and you have killed them in a rage *which* has even reached heaven.

¹⁰ Now you are proposing to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem as male and female slaves for yourselves. **Are you not, however guilty yourselves of offenses against the LORD your God?**

¹¹ Now then, listen to me and return the captives whom you captured from your brothers, for the burning anger of the LORD is against you."

¹² Then some of the leading men of the sons of Ephraim—Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai—rose up against those who were coming from the battle,

¹³ and said to them, "You must not bring the captives in here, for you are proposing *to bring* guilt upon us before the LORD, adding to our sins and our guilt; for our guilt is great, and *His* burning anger is against Israel."

¹⁴ So the armed men left the captives and the spoils before the officers and all the assembly.

¹⁵ Then the men who were designated by name got up, took the captives, and they clothed all their naked people from the spoils; they gave them clothes and sandals, fed them and gave them drink, anointed them *with oil*, led all their feeble ones on donkeys, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brothers; then they returned to Samaria.



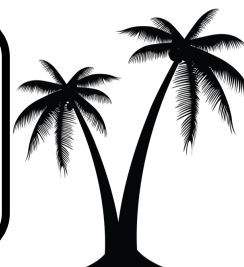
Ahaz followed the example of idolatry from the evil Kings in the Northern Kingdom.

The Lord would allow the Northern Kingdom to "consume" Judah

Before Pekah (King of Israel) was assaulted by Assyria, God gave him victory over Judah (2 Kings 15:27-31).

Zichri (an Ephraimite warrior) killed the top three men in the palace other than the king:

1. Maaseish (Ahaz's son)
2. Azrikim (governor of the palace)
3. Elkanah (second to the king)



Obed was a prophet of the Lord who intercepted Israel's numerous army

Obed shares that God allowed Israel to defeat Judah as a judgment because God was angry with them

In spite of the Lord's wrath, He sends a warning through Obed.

Obed warned that God's judgment could fall on Israel in the same way.

The prophets warning preceded God's judgment on Israel.

**Four Ephraim Leaders
Azariah—"God has helped"
Berechiah—"God blesses"
Jehizkiah—"God strengthens"
Amasa—"Springing the people"**

Beyond mercy, the northern kingdom's officers had grace on those who had been captured.

"The righteous person will flourish like the palm tree" (Psalm 92:12)

Bad King Ahaz is the son of Good King Jotham

2 Kings 16:1-9

Ahaz Invites Assyria (2 Chronicles 28:16-27)

¹⁶ At that time King Ahaz sent *word* to the kings of Assyria for help.
¹⁷ For the Edomites had come again and attacked Judah, and led away captives.
¹⁸ The Philistines had also invaded the cities of the lowland and of the Negev of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, and Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages; and they had settled there.
¹⁹ For the LORD had humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had brought about a lack of restraint in Judah and was very unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰ So Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him.
²¹ Although Ahaz took a portion out of the house of the LORD and out of the palace of the king and of the princes, and gave *it* to the king of Assyria, it did not help him.
²² Now during the time of his distress, this same King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD.

²³ For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus who had defeated him, and said, "Because the gods of the kings of Aram helped them, I will sacrifice to them so that they may help me." But they became the downfall of him and all Israel.

²⁴ Moreover, when Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of God, he cut the utensils of the house of God in pieces; and he closed the doors of the house of the LORD, and made altars for himself in every corner of Jerusalem.

²⁵ In every city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked the LORD, the God of his fathers, to anger.

²⁶ Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from the first to the last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷ So Ahaz lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him to the tombs of the kings of Israel; and his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.



Although the father and grandfather of Ahaz (Jotham and Uzziah), followed God, Ahaz was one of the worst kings of Judah. (2 Chronicles 28)

Ahaz took wealth from the house of the Lord to purchase Assyria's favor, but it did not.

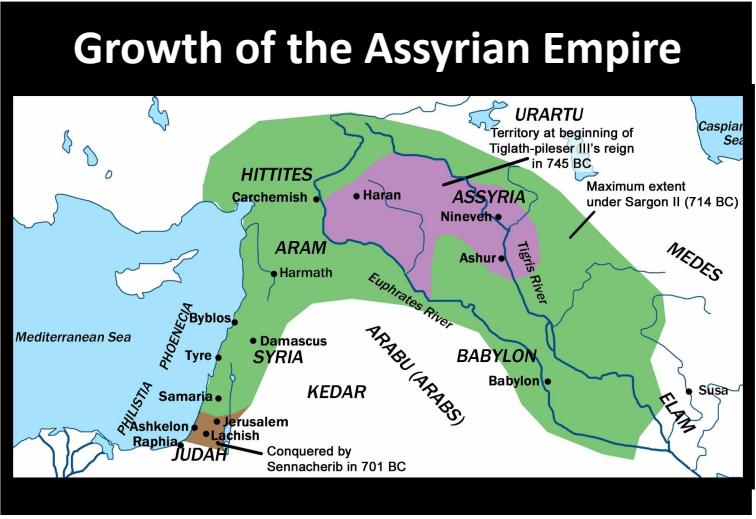
Instead of repenting and turning to God, King Ahaz rebelled further from God.

After removing the treasures from the house of God, Ahaz closed up the Temple and began idolatrous worship throughout Jerusalem.

Ahaz of Judah called on Assyria against Syria and Israel instead of joining them to rebuff Assyria.

King Ahaz was being attacked on every side because of his unfaithfulness to the Lord; Beyond the Edomites (south) & Philistines (southwest); Israel (north) & Syria (northeast) were also attacking. (2 Kings 16:5)

Ahaz led a society that rejected God & God's judgment resulted in a hardening of their hearts with more unfaithfulness



Southward Expansion of Nations Paying Tribute to Assyria	
Year	Paid Tribute to Assyria
743BC	Rezin of Damascus (Syria)
739BC	Menahem of Samaria (Israel)
734BC	Phoenicia/Philistia (Mediterranean Coast)

Isaiah warned Ahaz against being obliged to Assyria (Is 8:1-8), and Judah ended up paying tribute.

Good King Hezekiah is the son of Bad King Ahaz

Good King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29:1-11)

¹ Hezekiah became king *when he was* twenty-five years old; and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

² **He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, in accordance with everything that his father David had done.**

³ **In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.**

⁴ He brought in the priests and the Levites and gathered them into the public square on the east.

⁵ **Then he said to them, "Listen to me, you Levites. Consecrate yourselves now, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry the uncleanness out of the holy place.**

⁶ **For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done evil in the sight of the LORD our God, and they have abandoned Him and turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and have turned *their* backs.**

⁷ They have also shut the doors of the porch and extinguished the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel.

⁸ **Therefore the wrath of the LORD was against Judah and Jerusalem, and He has made them an object of terror, of horror, and of hissing, as you see with your own eyes.**

⁹ For behold, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons, our daughters, and our wives are in captivity because of this.

¹⁰ **Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, so that His burning anger may turn away from us.**

¹¹ My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and to be His ministers and burn incense."



Anti-Semitism (Anti-Shem) throughout the Ages

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

Hezekiah wasted no time, but immediately began work for the Lord when he became king after Ahaz.

Hezekiah re-established the Priests and Levites calling on them to be sanctified and be separated from the sinful world.

Believers are called to a separated walk.

A faithful walk with a new believer's excitement over a lifetime

Hezekiah had 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 as dedicated servants of the Lord)

God's wrath is deterred when a covenant from the heart is made with Him.



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 defeat, slavery & death