



# Chronicles of Israel

**A study on Israel, her kings, and truth versus consequence**

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #10 – January 31, 2023

The Kingdom Survives (2 Chronicles 13:1 – 16:14)

Provided in the table below is a high level overview of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles. As we go through this series it will be useful to keep this overview in mind in relation to the overall framework of this study.

Chapters	Content	Significance
1 Chronicles 1 – 9	Genealogies, emphasis on tribes of Judah and Levi	Preparing the stage for the Kingdom of Judah and the priestly tribe
1 Chronicles 10	Reign of Saul	Transition to David's Kingdom; declaration that the throne belonged to the tribe of Judah
1 Chronicles 11 – 29	Reign of David	Phase 1 of the ideal Kingdom; detailed preparation for the Temple
2 Chronicles 1 – 9	Reign of Solomon	Phase 2 of the ideal Kingdom; construction and installation of the Temple
2 Chronicles 10 – 26	Kings of Judah	Succession of kings, all of whom were descended from David; implemented the standards of David and Solomon to varying degrees

This is the first of nine more lessons dealing with the kings of Judah after Solomon. These kings reigned from 931 B.C. to Zedekiah's fall in 586 B.C. Ironically, in the remaining portion of 2 Chronicles we'll cover the reigns of 19 kings and 1 queen in the same amount of text it took us to cover three kings (that were mostly focused on David and Solomon). As you know, the history of the kings are contained in the books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, Kings, Chronicles. Unlike 1 and 2 Kings that deal with kings of both the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) tribes, 2 Chronicles deals primarily with the kings of Judah.

In this lesson we'll discuss the reigns of King Abijah and his son, Asa. These men demonstrated a trust in God; however, Asa showed that one wrong decision combined with an unrepentant heart can alienate one from the Lord. A common theme we'll see in this and future lessons is that good kings focused on re-aligning the hearts of the people towards God. Often, this involved destroying shrines, idols, and altars set-up away from Jerusalem that contributed to the sins of the people and distracting them from the worship of God.

As we'll do each week in 2 Chronicles, let's ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Was the king good or bad?
2. For the bad kings, what factors contributed to their downfall?
3. For the good kings, what factors contributed to their success?
4. What lessons can we learn from these kings that apply to our own lives?



### Questions

1. Read 2 Chronicles 13. Once again, this scene almost seems like something out of a modern-day movie as Abijah proclaims truth in front of his troops and the forces of Jeroboam. Answer the following questions.
  - a. How large were the armies Abijah and Jeroboam?
  - b. What were some of the important elements listed in Abijah's speech? Especially consider the sins of the northern tribes.
  - c. Who won the battle and how did they win (look specifically at verse 14)?
  - d. How long did Abijah reign (see 1 Kings 15:2)?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 14 and 15.
  - a. What were some of the significant accomplishments of Asa listed in these two chapters?
  - b. When Asa was confronted by Azariah, how did he respond? List some of the things he did.
3. Read 2 Chronicles 16:1. Verse 1 states, "In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah."
  - a. How did Asa respond this time to an attack against his country? How was this different than before?
  - b. According to 2 Chronicles 14:10-13, how did Asa's reign end? Look specifically at vs. 10.
4. I would imagine the good kings of Judah were cognizant of times that God had intervened on their behalf. Can you think of a time when you clearly saw God's Hand directing or protecting you?
5. Read (and consider memorizing) 2 Chronicles 16:9. How does this verse speak to us today?
6. What would have been a Biblically based response for Asa when confronted by Hanani the seer? List any previous kings who responded appropriately when confronted with their own sin.

**Next Meeting (Lesson #11, Wednesday, 2.15.23):** In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 17:1 – 21:3 and discuss how King Jehoshaphat, who was a good king, should have chosen his friends more wisely.