



Chronicles of Israel

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

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #11 – Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Choose Your Friends Carefully (2 Chronicles 17:1 – 21:3)

Provided in the table below is a high level overview of 1st and 2nd 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 second of nine more lessons dealing with the kings of Judah after Solomon. In this lesson we'll discuss the reigns of King Jehoshaphat of Judah and the evil King Ahab. You cannot find two more different kings who descended from King David (in title only, not genetically); however, these two men apparently became friends and enjoyed spending time together. It's a great story in terms of not only what happened to both of them, but as a reminder to us for being careful with whom we associate. We have a choice in whom we befriend and in whom we place our trust.

In reading through 2 Chronicles 17 through 20 and the first part of 21, consider some of the good things Jehoshaphat did, as well as some of the "not so good" things. In reading through these verses I couldn't help but think that Jehoshaphat is probably not too different than some of us. For the most part I love the Lord and try to honor Him with my life, but there are times when I drop the ball. I have a tendency to do what I want to do when I want to do it. However, I am also reminded in 2 Chronicles 20 that God forgives us and provides us with a second chance if we repent and seek to honor Him with our lives. Asking for forgiveness and repenting are things that should define our lives as men 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. As king of Judah, Jehoshaphat was a good leader. Read 2 Chronicles 17 and list some of the good things he did as king?
2. 2 Chronicles 18:1 through 19:3 provides an interesting story about King Jehoshaphat of Judah and the evil King Ahab of Israel.
 - a. What are some things Jehoshaphat should have done that he did not in this relationship?
 - b. According to 2 Chronicles 18:28-33, what happened to Jehoshaphat and Ahab in battle?
3. Read 2 Chronicles 19. What wise decision to Jehoshaphat make as a ruler in terms of his relationship with the people and desire to govern wisely as Godly leader?
4. Read 2 Chronicles 20 and answer the following questions.
 - a. Who were the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites? What family relationship did these people have with the nations of Israel and Judah?
 - b. Read verses 1 through 30. How did King Jehoshaphat and the people respond to the news of the invading army? What was the eventual outcome?
 - c. When did Jehoshaphat become king and how long did he reign?
 - d. According to verses 35 through 37, what happened to the fleet on ships built by Jehoshaphat and why? Are there aspects of this story that can apply to our lives?
5. Why is it important for Christians to maintain a separate identity to show the world that we are different from non-Christians? Consider 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 in developing your answer.
6. What steps might a Christian take if they see a brother or sister in Christ entering into a destructive relationship?

Next Meeting (Lesson #12, Tuesday, 3.07.23): In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 21:4 – 22:12 and discuss how the reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah were disasters because they did not honor God.