



Chronicles of Israel

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

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #12 – Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Implosion (2 Chronicles 21:4 – 22:12)

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 fourth of nine lessons dealing with the kings of Judah after Solomon. In this lesson we'll discuss the reigns of Kings Jehoram and Ahaziah, as well as the reign of the one single reigning monarch queen of Israel and Judah, Athaliah. In this week's lesson we see continued evil from the leadership of Judah, but we also see that God is always at work ensuring His work will be completed.

Last week I took my family to London. We found ourselves immersed "in the throes" of the British monarchs and all of the chaos and calamity that usually results from the selfishness and pride leaders. I could not help but think of the parallels we're observing in going through this study of the monarchs of Israel and Judah. The bottom line is **leadership matters**. When leaders of a nation put their own agendas, egos, and desires for accomplishment above the needs of the people they govern, problems are sure to arise. We are fortunate in America we can elect our leaders (although sometimes I wonder). However, there also comes great responsibility with the self-governance of a republic. We must teach our children and grandchildren the importance of truth and encourage them to become leaders in their families, churches, businesses, and even governments. Humanly speaking, they are our only hope!

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 Elijah's letter to Jehoram in 2 Chronicles 21:12-15.
 - a. What two good kings were referenced in the letter?
 - b. What was the horrible prophecy proclaimed by Elijah to Jehoram?
 - c. A lot can be said about whom we model our lives. What are some conscious good traits you've built into your life based on observations you've had from the lives of others? Think in terms of family members, bosses / co-workers, and friends.
2. Read 2 Chronicles 21:16-19 and Deuteronomy 18:22 and 13:5.
 - a. What happened to Jehoram in relation to Elijah's prophecies?
 - b. According to the Deuteronomy passages, what was the litmus test for determining if a prophet truly spoke for God? What were the consequences for someone who turned out to be a false prophet?
 - c. From a societal standpoint, what protections were provided to the nation of Israel by preventing false prophets to speak? In our world today, what have been the consequences for us listening to false prophets (prognosticators), especially over the past three years?
3. After Jehoram, Ahaziah the youngest son, became king.
 - a. How old was he and how long did he reign?
 - b. According to 2 Chronicles 22:3-4, who were his advisors and how did they do?
4. 2 Chronicles 21:10-12 provides us with a very interesting story.
 - a. After Ahaziah's death, who assumed the throne and what did they do?
 - b. Who was Jehoshabeath and what did she do? Think in terms of her family relationships.
5. God is always at work and has a plan to ensure His promises will be completed. It's really quite amazing how He's able to do it. Read ahead to one verse: 2 Chronicles 24:1.
 - a. Who was the next king? How old was he when Jehoshabeath took him into protective custody? When did he become king and how long was his reign?
 - b. In what ways do you see God at work in terms of demonstrating His power and control? Are there times you wish He would do it more?

Next Meeting (Lesson #13, Tuesday, 4.04.23): In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 23:1 – 24:27 and talk about the reign of Joash and how he remained Godly as long as his uncle, who also happened to be high priest, Jehoida, lived (an amazing 130 years!).