



# Chronicles of Israel

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

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #13 – Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Lifelong Immaturity (2 Chronicles 23:1 – 24:27)

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 fifth of nine lessons dealing with the kings of Judah after Solomon. In this lesson we'll discuss a cast of characters that include the following men and women:

- Athaliah                      Former wife of Ahaziah and "imposter" queen, grandmother of Joash
- Jehoshabeath                Step-daughter of Athaliah; aunt of Joash
- Jehoiada                      High priest, wife of Jehoshabeath, uncle of Joash, lived 130 years
- Joash                            Child who became king at 7 years of age, reigned 40 years
- Zechariah                     Son of Jehoiada, cousin of Joash, killed by Joash

The section of Scripture is divided into five passages.

- 2 Chronicles 23:1-11      Joash crowned by king of Judah
- 2 Chronicles 23:12-21    Death of Athaliah
- 2 Chronicles 24:1-14      Joash repairs the Temple
- 2 Chronicles 24:15-22    Apostasy of Joash and murder of Zechariah
- 2 Chronicles 24:23-27    Death of Joash

This is one of the most action-packed lessons we've had in this series, so please read all of the passages. In this text we read about a 7-year old being named king, the death of an evil woman who claimed herself to be king, the "rule" of a Godly priest who guided a nation and a king, temporary reign of a king who followed God for a period of time, rebellion of a king and nation to the things of God, the murder of the high priest Zechariah, and the death of Joash.



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 23:1-15. Describe what happens in the lives of each of the following people.
  - a. Athaliah
  - b. Jehoiada
  - c. Joash
  - d. Levites
2. As long as Jehoiada was alive, Joash walked with God. However, after Jehoiada died, Joash walked away from God. Read 2 Chronicles 24:15-22. What were some of the horrible things that Joash and the leaders of Judah did?
3. Read 2 Chronicles 24:23-27. What happened to Joash and how was he remembered?
4. It's easy to read the stories of what happened in the lives of Jehoiada and Joash and think, "Well, that couldn't happen to me or my family." Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2.
  - a. What responsibilities do we have as "those entrusted" with the teaching of God?
  - b. What responsibility do we have to teach others, especially our children and grandchildren.
  - c. What are you doing to pass down "things entrusted" to the next generation?
5. Read about Aaron (Leviticus 10:1-5), Eli (1 Samuel 3:13), and Samuel (1 Samuel 8:1-3). All of these men were Godly men who loved Him and followed His ways.
  - a. What happened to their sons?
  - b. What mistakes do you think these fathers might have made?

**Next Meeting (Lesson #14, Tuesday, 4.25.23; I'm out of town on 4/18):** In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 25:1 – 28:27 and discuss the reigns of Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz. Their combined reigns might be described as "the good, the bad, and the ugly."