



Chronicles of Israel

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

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #14 – Tuesday, April 25, 2023

The Good, Bad, and Mediocre (2 Chronicles 25:1 – 28:27)

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 sixth 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 kings:

- Amaziah, the king who should have known better. He was initially devoted to the Lord and God gave him success; however, he lapsed into idolatry and God withdrew His blessing. (2 Chronicles 25:1-28)
- Uzziah, the king who got above himself. Uzziah served God, but when he attempted to take over the duties reserved for the priest, God punished him with leprosy. (2 Chronicles 26:1-23)
- Jotham, the righteous king. Jotham was a righteous king, obedient to God and successful in his affairs. (2 Chronicles 27:1-9)
- Ahaz, the king who went from bad to worse. Ahaz brought ruin on himself and the kingdom with idolatry. He increased in evil as he got older. He was likely the worst king Judah ever had based on his committing every conceivable act of idolatry. His life was a testimony that **abandonment of God inevitably leads to abandonment by God**. (2 Chronicles 28:1-27)

The four kings of Judah we'll discuss in this lesson, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz, represent four different ways that people respond to God, some being positive and some negative. As we do each week, 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. King Joash departed from the throne and left a kingdom deeply mired in idolatry and unrest. The next four kings, who are the subject of this lesson, covered the spectrum in terms of their devotion to God. Obviously, there are no guarantees in terms of our children pursuing God, but if you were to advise a couple with young children on what could contribute to their children pursuing God, what would you tell them? Try to be specific in terms of your recommendations.
2. Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-28. Is there any plausible reason for why Amaziah would reject God and suddenly embrace the Edomite gods?
3. Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-23. Was Uzziah's decision to burn incense in the Temple a sign of devotion, arrogance, or defiance?
4. Uzziah started off well but did not finish well. What makes the difference between those who finish well and those who do not?
5. In reading about "good king" Jotham, it's interesting that his reign seems to be a bit bland. In writing about Jotham, Ezra certainly didn't seem to provide many details in that he was only given 9 verses, although 2 Chronicles 27:6 makes a pretty powerful statement: Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the Lord his God. Given he was a good king, why does his story seem a bit bland in comparison to some of the other kings?
6. Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-27. There is no doubt Ahaz was an evil king. What are some factors that contribute to people's rejection of God that cause them to shut themselves off from truth and experience the disastrous consequences that result?

Next Meeting (Lesson #15, Tuesday, May 9th; I'm out of town in Nashville on May 2nd): In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 29:1 – 32:33 and discuss "true reformation" under the reign of the good king Hezekiah.