



Chronicles of Israel

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

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #9 – January 17, 2023

Woosh, There Goes the Empire! (2 Chronicles 10:1 – 12:16)

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 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 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 1st and 2nd 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 downfall of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. It's a sad story of a king who was literally handed a fully functioning kingdom. Unfortunately, he wasn't exactly set up for success in watching the downfall of his father, his many wives, and lack of focus on honoring God with his life. **We should be warned that the same thing can happen to us if we stop honoring God with our lives.** We must "keep our eye on the prize"!

In covering the remaining portion of 2 Chronicles, 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. Read 2 Chronicles 10. This scene almost seems like something out of a modern-day movie. The new king decides to seek the counsel of his buddies and their answers lack the alternative wisdom provided by the older men of his day. Answer the following questions.
 - a. What options were provided to Rehoboam? To which group did he listen?
 - b. What were the consequences for the decision he made?
 - c. We have all been in leadership positions before. As a leader, how important is sound advice? When you've been given opposing viewpoints, how have you made the final decision?
2. In 2 Chronicles 11:1-23 we read about Rehoboam settling in as king.
 - a. In verses 1 through 4 what did God tell Rehoboam to do? Why do you think he obeyed?
 - b. As bad as Rehoboam was, he was not nearly as bad as Jeroboam. What are some things Jeroboam did and how did it benefit Judah and Rehoboam?
 - c. In verses 18-23 we read about Rehoboam's family. What are some "wise" things Rehoboam did that his father (and perhaps grandfather) did not do?
3. Read 2 Chronicles 12.
 - a. Verses 1 and 2 tell us a lot about Rehoboam's response to success as he "established himself." What happened after he was established and what did the Lord do?
 - b. In verse 6 we read, "The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, 'The Lord is just.'" What was God's response after they repented?
 - c. As with many of the kings we'll study in this series, Jeroboam was not a great king. As noted in 2 Chronicles 12:13-14 he was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years. Verse 14 says he did evil in the eyes of the Lord. What are some common traits we see in both Rehoboam and Jeroboam and what can we learn from them?

Next Meeting (Lesson #10, 1.31.23): In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 13:1 – 16:14 and discuss how the Kingdom survives.