



The Book of 2 Chronicles

The book of 2nd Chronicles is a Narrative History.

The author appears to be the prophet Ezra who wrote it circa 430 B.C.

It covers the events from the beginning from King Solomon's reign in 970 B.C. up to the beginning of the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C.

A cursory look at the key personalities:

King Solomon:

Solomon was the third and final king of the unified nation of Israel, succeeding King Saul and King David.

He was the son of David and Bathsheba, the former wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had killed to cover his infidelity with Bathsheba while her husband was on the battlefield.

Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon, the book of Ecclesiastes, and much of the book of Proverbs.

His writing of Ecclesiastes is disputed by some, but Solomon is the only "son of David" to be "king over Israel in Jerusalem" (Ecclesiastes 1:1-12), and many of the descriptions of the author fit Solomon well.

Solomon ruled for 40 years (1 Kings 11:42). The queen of Sheba:

Rehoboam:

We read about Rehoboam's ascension to King of Israel and Judah, upon the death of his father Solomon, in 1 Kings 11:43 and 2 Chronicles 9:31.

Most of Rehoboam's story is told in 1 Kings 12 and 1 Kings 14:21-31 as well as in 2 Chronicles 10-12.

He's mentioned only two more times (in passing).

First, in 2 Chronicles 13:7 (as Jeroboam's enemy).

Second, in Matthew 1:7 (as a forefather of Jesus Christ).

Imagine what could have been written if Rehoboam had proved to be a wise son who wholeheartedly loved and obeyed the Lord God. If only...

Asa:

2 Chronicles 11-14 (NIV)

11The events of Asa's reign, from beginning to end, are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

12In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord, but only from the physicians.

13Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his ancestors.

14They buried him in the tomb that he had cut out for himself in the City of David.

They laid him on a bier covered with spices and various blended perfumes, and they made a huge fire in his honor.

Jehoshaphat:

Jehoshaphat's name means "Jehovah judged."

This is similar to Daniel's name of "may God be my judge."

Both were very godly men.

What may come as a surprise to readers is we run into Jehoshaphat's name more than once in the Bible, and the instances don't always refer to the king of Judah.

Jehoshaphat, son of Asa, takes the throne about halfway through his life.

He seeks after God's own heart throughout his reign.

Previous kings had sought the help of foreign gods such as Baal.

Instead, Jehoshaphat removes places of worship to foreign gods such as Asherah poles, and he fortifies Israel's defenses against their enemies.

He builds many forts and attempts to help the kingdom prosper in a financial sense.

Nevertheless, King Jehoshaphat has one moral weakness, similar to his father who came before him.

Asa, his father, followed in the footsteps of God until the end of his reign.

He concluded with a foot disease instead of a bang on the throne.

Jehoshaphat stumbles as well.

He makes a bad alliance by marrying his son to the wicked king of Israel's daughter.

Ahab, the father of the daughter, attempts to draw king Jehoshaphat into a war that God does not approve of.

Although God protects Jehoshaphat, the king should not have made this friendship in the first place.

After all, bad company corrupts good morals

(1 Corinthians 15:33).

Jehoram:

Jehoram (meaning "**Jehovah is exalted**" in Biblical Hebrew) was the name of several individuals in the Tanakh, Joash:

Tanakh: the Jewish Scriptures comprising the books of law, the prophets, and collected writings

His personal and domestic life were tragically wrong. His wife, Athaliah, brought with her the corruption of the Baalism (fertility cult religion) of her mother's Phoen; ancestors (viz. Jezebel).

As a result, Jehoram “walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done; for the daughter of Ahab was his wife” (**2 Chron 21:6**).

Less than a year after his decease his widow, the unspeakable Athaliah, engineered the assassination of all Jehoram’s offspring save one grandson (**2 Kings 11:1ff.**).

We can hardly doubt that it was she who had previously engineered the assassination of his six brothers and other “princes of Israel” (**2 Chron 21:4, cf. v. 1**).

The motive may have been either to gain their wealth with which the prosperous father Jehoshaphat had richly endowed them, or because they opposed his ruinous political and religious policies.

At any rate, the direct line of the reigning family was in consequence reduced to one male descendant (**2 Chron 21:16, 17**) during his reign, as it was again shortly after his death when the bloodthirsty Athaliah, his mother, superintended the slaughter of all Jehoram’s grandsons except Joash.

Everything recorded of this man indicates complete religious and moral apostasy, even worse than that of the Baal-worshiping heathen of his time.

Apostates usually find themselves in complete reaction against the holy faith and practice of the Biblical religion.

Uzziah:

At age 40, Uzziah became the sole monarch over the Kingdom of Judah.

Job number one?

Avoid assassination!

Job number two?

Wake up every day committing to serving Judah's ultimate Sovereign, the Lord God, Maker and Creator of heaven and earth.

It's amazing what Uzziah accomplished with the Lord's blessing.

You can still see some of his phenomenal public works in Jerusalem to this day.

Of course, untold hundreds or thousands of men did all the hard, heavy labor.

And their labors were successful thanks to God's blessings.

Then Uzziah made the classic mistake of giving in to the pride of thinking, quite wrongly, "Look at all I have done!"

The last 12 Years of Uzziah's Life

At age 56, Uzziah was forced to make his oldest son, Jotham, co-regent and de facto monarch over the Kingdom of Judah.

Why?

Uzziah had become terribly proud.

So proud that he burned incense to the Lord as though he were a priest. "Pride was his downfall," indeed.

When rebuked by the chief priest and other leading priests, Uzziah became enraged.

Then the Lord struck Uzziah with leprosy.

Few temporal judgments of God are worse.

What the Bible calls leprosy covers a wide range of horrible conditions, not just leprosy we think of today.

In ancient times, any such condition instantly made you leprous...untouchable.

You instantly and permanently lost your spouse, family, home, and the blessing and well-being of everyone else you knew and loved.

From that moment on, and for the rest of your days, you were a sickly exile.

Eventually, you became disfigured and hideous...the walking dead.

Even worse?

There is no record of Uzziah humbly and earnestly repenting before the Lord.

Twelve years later, Uzziah died...alone.

What's more, his body did not receive a kingly burial.

Unlike Uzziah, may you and I humbly keep the Lord as King of our hearts and lives.

Ahaz:

A grandson of Jonathan (**1 Chronicles 8:35 ; 9:42**).

The son and successor of Jotham, king of Judah (**2 Kings 16 ; Isaiah 79 -9; 2 Chr. 28**).

He gave himself up to a life of wickedness and idolatry.

Notwithstanding the remonstrances and warnings of Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah, he appealed for help against Rezin, king of Damascus, and Pekah, king of Israel, who threatened Jerusalem, to Tiglath-pileser, the king of Assyria, to the great injury of his kingdom and his own humiliating subjection to the Assyrians (**2 Kings 16:7 2 Kings 16:9 ; 15:29**).

He also introduced among his people many heathen and idolatrous customs (**Isaiah 8:19 ; 38:8 ; 2 Kings 23:12**).

He died at the age of thirty-five years, after reigning sixteen years (B.C. 740-724), and was succeeded by his son Hezekiah.

Because of his wickedness he was "not brought into the sepulchre of the kings."Hezekiah:

Manasseh:

The Story of King Manasseh

King Manasseh in the Bible knew God's delight firsthand.

From his grimy cell on Babylon's death row, he looked back on years of unspeakable crimes—worshipping the sun and stars in the Lord's own Temple, shedding the blood of innocent people, sacrificing his own sons to idols.

He realized his high-handed rebellion against God had brought him nothing but pain.

Then he looked up to the God of his fathers and cried out for help.

Thankfully, the Lord always hears the cries of the humble and delights to answer their prayers.

The Prayer of Manasseh

Interestingly, the Bible doesn't tell us *what* King Manasseh told the Lord God.

Instead, it simply tells us *how* he prayed.

“In his distress he [King Manasseh] sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors.

And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom.

Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God”
(2 Chronicles 33:12-13 NIV).

Humanly speaking, even God’s holy prophets must have thought King Manasseh had gone too far for the Lord to bring him back.

After all, his sins had led the kingdom of Judah so deeply into idolatry that the Lord’s judgment on the nation could not be cancelled.

And his despair over his wickedness could not bring back to life the people he had killed and the families he had crushed.

Yet, because of God’s forgiveness, King Manasseh could come into God’s Temple a forgiven man.

Freed from Babylon and given another chance to reign, Manasseh took big, bold steps to show his repentance was real tearing down pagan altars, restoring the Temple, and worshipping the Lord publicly.

I certainly cannot always undo the damage of my actions.

But I know that the sins of my past are never so great that God’s love and mercy cannot forgive me, restore me, and give me a new start.

All I have to do is greatly humble myself before the Lord my God, turn from my sins, turn back to God, and ask for His forgiveness.

Josiah:

The name Josiah in the Bible means “Healed of the Lord” or “The Lord will Support,” according to Easton’s Bible Dictionary.

In his day the Lord did indeed bring healing and restoration to the people of Judah.

Josiah was only 8 years old when he became king of Judah.

His father had been wicked, as had the Jewish kings and culture for generations before him.

“In the eighth year of his reign,” Scripture records that Josiah began to seek the Lord (**2 Chronicles 34:3**).

In his seeking, he set about restoring the house of the Lord.

The workers found the lost and forgotten Torah.

When it was brought to Josiah’s attention and the words read aloud, he wept, tore his clothes, and grieved deeply for the ways he and his people had turned away from the Lord.

He sought the counsel of the Lord through Huldah the prophetess (a rare occurrence of a female prophet), and she encouraged him with the Lord’s words of blessing.

After that Josiah led the people in a Passover celebration to rival all Passovers.

And for the rest of Josiah's days, the people of Judah sought the Lord (**2 Chronicles 34-35**).

There are a number of sweet encouragements readers can take away from this joyful time in Judah's history:

You're never too young to be used mightily for the Lord.

Josiah was 8 years old when God providentially set him on the throne.

In the years when Josiah was just stepping into adulthood, God wooed his heart.

Josiah had a soft heart that responded wholly to the Lord.

If you are young (or praying for a young person), don't doubt for a second that God can use you in the midst of your growing years.

A lot of healing change can happen in a short time.

Josiah tore down all the places of false worship that had ensnared the people of Judah for over 70 years.

Some of those places and idols had been set up much longer.

Sometimes, it feels like the strongholds in life or things that need to change have just been there too long to change.

Maybe we are so tired of pushing against them, we start to give up hope we will ever be free of them.

But the story of Josiah can encourage us that when the Lord's timing is just right, in a flash God can set everything right, release what binds us, and bring us into a time of restoration.

We can't give up hope to pray for these things in our life or in the lives of those around us!

God can use unlikely people to speak into our lives.

- **Josiah:** Josiah was young, yet the Lord used him to realign the people with their calling and their God. At a time when he was probably young enough that most of his subjects could have been his parent or grandparent, God used him to steer their hearts home to Him.
- **Huldah:** It was unusual for a woman to be a prophet, but the Lord used Huldah, the prophetess, to bring Josiah words of promise and encouragement.
- **Neco:** Finally, the Lord used Pharaoh Neco to warn King Josiah, yet he didn't listen, and Josiah was ultimately killed in battle at a young age (2 Chronicles 35:20-27).

God can, and does, speak through unlikely sources because He cares so much for us, that He uses anything and everything to reach out to us.

It is wise to make sure that what someone speaks into our life matches up with Scripture, but we also don't want to miss something just because it comes from an unusual place!

Like Josiah, we want to have tender hearts.

It was written to emphasize the blessings of the righteous kings and to expose the sins of the wicked kings.

It parallels some parts of **1st and 2nd Kings**.

Like 1st Chronicles, it is written from the viewpoint of a priest who spoke from spiritual perspectives, including revivals.

It too, was written after the exile and focuses on correct worship to YHWH.

Chapters 1-9:

Teach the details of the reign of King Solomon.

It covers the wisdom of Solomon, the building and construction of the temple in Jerusalem, which was dedicated to the Lord God.

2 Chronicles 7:14. (NIV)

14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Chapters 10-36:

Describe the events in the split of the nation of Israel.

The nation split into two kingdoms: North and South.

The Northern Kingdom revolted against King Rehoboam, and took a new king; his name was Jeroboam.

2nd Chronicles focuses mainly from here, on the events of the Southern Kingdom.

These include 20 kings and are a dynasty from King David.

These chapters describe the events all the way up through the Northern Kingdom and its captivity to Babylon.

Nevertheless, the mercy of the Lord is seen in the last two verses of this book.

Cyprus, King of Persia declares that the remnant of Israel may return to Jerusalem:

2 Chronicles 36:22 (NIV)

22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing

Please Remember: You cant buy your way into heaven or out of hell!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio ED