

**MON) April 29****Ch. 17 – King Jehoshaphat (Kingdom of Judah), Passion for the Word**

This chapter records religious reform by Jehoshaphat, the fourth king of Judah. Note his efforts to teach the Law to his citizens. This shows the importance of religious education of the people using the Word of God. (Vv. 7-9). "They went about through all the cities of Judah and (.....) among the people."

**Ch. 18 – The beginning of the fall of Jehoshaphat**

Although Jehoshaphat achieved great wealth and glory by the grace of God, the Bible also records his weaknesses and failures. His failures began with the formation of a marriage relationship with evil king Ahab (Kingdom of Israel) (verse 1). It was a mistake to take Athaliah (daughter of Ahab and Jezebel) as his daughter-in-law (21:6). Additionally, Jehoshaphat's alliance with Israel extended to Ahab's evil son Ahaziah (20:35). Fatal consequences of these relationships will be suffered by Jehoshaphat's sons Jehoram and Joash. Do we maintain relationships for our benefit even though we know that they are not pleasing to God.

**Ch. 19 – Reforms of King Jehoshaphat**

Here, Jehu the seer informs King Jehoshaphat of the good things and of the evil things that the king has done. Write down the details.

- 1) Evil things:
  
- 2) Good works:

**Ch. 20 – Jehoshaphat's war with Aram (Syria)**

In verses 35-37, Jehoshaphat became friends with Ahaziah (Ahab's son and the king of Israel), and together they built ships and planned maritime trade. What does Eliezer predict about the plan?

**TUE) April 30****Ch. 21 – King Jehoram walked in the way of the kings of Israel**

Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram was one of the most evil kings in Judah's history. Verse 6 notes that "he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done." God was not pleased. Prophet Elijah prophesied that Jehoram would die from a disease. What is this disease?

**Ch. 22 – King Ahaziah walked in the way of the kings of Israel**

King Jehoram died after eight years of tyranny, and his only surviving son, Ahaziah, became king. King Ahaziah also maintained an alliance with Joram (son of Ahab), his in-law. Ahaziah was killed while visiting Joram when Joram was ill. Ahaziah was killed by Jehu who was rebelling against Joram in the Kingdom of Israel. Athaliah (Ahab's daughter and Ahaziah's mother), upon hearing the news of Ahaziah's death, immediately purged all progeny of David (the royal seed) to seize power and claim rulership over Judah. This is the tragic result of the seed sowed by Jehoshaphat. But a prince was rescued by Jehoshabeath and survived the purge. Who survived and how long did he hide and where did he hide?

**Ch. 23 – Athaliah's 7 years of darkness; the ascension of 7-year-old King Joash**

Jehoshabeath, Ahaziah's sister and the wife of Jehoiada the priest, secretly hid Prince Joash when Athaliah was slaughtering the princes of the royal family. This is what God does in situations of despair. Athaliah is eventually killed, and the country regained stability. Who was the priest who looked after Joash in the Temple for 7 years and crowned him king according to God's will?

**Ch. 24 – King Joash and Jehoiada the Priest**

Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest. However, after Jehoiada's death, Joash was corrupted. God sent (.....), son of Jehoiada, to deliver a message of judgment to the people, and Joash had (.....) stoned to death in the Temple court.

**WED) May 1 ****Ch. 25 – King Amaziah did right, but not with a whole heart.**

King Amaziah (Kingdom of Judah) hired 100,000 mercenaries from Kingdom of Israel for 100 talents of gold for his war against the Edom (Seir), the descendants of Esau. However, after hearing the prophet's words that he would win even without them, he sent the mercenaries back. Amaziah was so proud that when he returned from the victory, he brought with him Edomite idol and worshiped it as his god and burned incense to it. King Amaziah served God yet not wholeheartedly and ended his life as someone who left God. Write verse 2.

**Ch. 26 – King Uzziah, a strong but arrogant king**

Uzziah became King at the age of 16, and he reigns for 52 years. While Uzziah served God, God helped him (vv 7, 15). But when he grew (.....), his heart became (.....) and he sinned against the Lord his God. (V. 16). (When everything is going well, it is easy to think that this is due to my abilities. This is pride. Practice confessing God's grace every moment to avoid going down the way of Uzziah.)

**Ch. 27 – King Jotham**

Jotham acted as honestly as his father Uzziah (v. 2), and although he did not meet God's standards, he upgraded the Temple and built fortifications for the country. He won wars against Amon. "So Jotham became (.....), because he (.....) his ways before the Lord his God."

**Ch. 28 – King Ahaz, the peak of idolatry and corruption**

Jotham's son Ahaz caused Judah to sin and be unfaithful to the Lord. For this, God humbled Judah. (verse 19) Although Ahaz was disciplined by God, he took it lightly and committed further sins by serving foreign gods. (verse 23) What were the sins of Ahaz recorded in verses 24-25.

**THU) May 2****Ch. 29 – King Hezekiah, a king who did as David.**

Hezekiah became king at a time when the nation's spiritual corruption was at its peak due to the evil influence of his father Ahaz. But Hezekiah knew his calling was before God, and he did the following:

- 1) Cleansing of the temple– 16 days (Vv. 3-19)
- 2) Offering burnt offerings, sin offerings, and thanksgiving offerings (verses 20-35)

V. 36 records that "Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God had (.....) for the people, for the thing came about (.....)."

**Ch. 30 – King Hezekiah's First Passover**

This chapter records King Hezekiah's celebration of the Passover on a large scale. It was the first time since the division of Israel into southern Judah and northern Israel about 200 years ago that the people of northern Israel gathered in Jerusalem from Dan to Beersheba to celebrate the Passover. There was a great (.....) in Jerusalem, which celebrated the Passover, the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, and extended the feast for 7 more days (verse 26). The festival of joy ended with the (.....) of the priests and Levites. (V. 27)

**Ch. 31 – King Hezekiah, the nation decides to obey God**

King Hezekiah does not stop with the observations of the Feasts (recorded in chapter 30), he continues with overall religious reform. The grace they received through the holy feasts continued to their determination to obey the Lord. Write down what each person did.

- 1) People (v. 1): Breaking down the pillars and Asherah poles, and removing the high places and altars.
- 2) Priests and Levites (v. 2):
- 3) King (verse 3):
- 4) The people who heard the king's command (v. 5):

**Ch. 32 – Hezekiah's Prayer**

This chapter records the incident in which Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came to attack Judah in the 14th year of Hezekiah's reign, and the incident in which Hezekiah fell ill and almost died. What did Hezekiah do when he was facing these difficult times? (Vv. 20, 24)

**FRI) May 3****Ch. 33 – King Manasseh and King Amon**

Manasseh, who does not in any way resemble the piety of his father Hezekiah, became king at the young age of 12 and commits all the evil that God hates.

Later, Manasseh's son Amon became the King. Both Manasseh and Amon were evil in the sight of the Lord; yet there was a difference. Manasseh, when he was in distress, (.....) himself and (.....) before God. (verses 12, 13). In contrast, Amon would not (.....) himself or (.....) to God.

**Ch. 34 – King Josiah, spiritual reform that began with the Word**

Josiah became king at the age 8 and began to seek God of David in the 8th year of his reign. In the 12th year of his reign, he began a spiritual reform to restore the spiritual foundation that had been destroyed and by previous kings Manasseh and Amon. Josiah's reforms began with (.....) found in the temple. (Vv. 14-19) He gathered all the people together, told them all the words of the Book of the Covenant, and decided to live according to its words. (V. 33) (When we hear the Word, we learn that there must be determination, obedience, and change in our lives.)

**Ch. 35 – King Josiah, the Passover, and his death**

Josiah celebrated the last Passover (before Judah's destruction) with the greatest celebration since the days of Samuel the prophet (verse 18). Josiah, who became king at the age of 8, ruled for 31 years, and died on the battlefield at a young age of 39, reigned with zeal for God. Who is mourned the death of Josiah?

**Ch. 36 – The destruction of the Kingdom of Judah and the promise of restoration**

God eventually gave the Kingdom of Judah into the hands of Babylon. The Temple, which seemed like it would last forever, was destroyed before the eyes of the people. The Temple utensils and vessels were looted by Babylon. However, as Jeremiah prophesied, after 70 years, God, through the King of Persia (.....), brought back the Israelites and had them rebuild the Temple. (Vv. 22-23)

**SAT) May 4** **Ezra Ch. 1 – The captives return.**

The Book of Ezra deals with the return of the people of Judah from the land of Babylon. After Cyrus (King of Persia) conquered Babylon, he pursued a policy of tolerance, allowing people of various nations to return to their land. Cyrus returned the vessels of the Temple to the returning Jews. Other people willingly gave gold, silver, and gifts to the returning Jews. To what end?

**Ch. 2 – Those who returned**

This chapter lists the exiles who returned in 538 BC (The First Return). There were people who had stayed in Babylon for 70 years and were immersed in the life and culture, as well as working and living there. Yet, they leave the comfort of their life in Babylon to return with a mission to restore the Temple of God. How many people returned at this time? (Verse 64)

**Ch. 3 – Burnt offerings; Beginning of the construction of the Temple**

The returnees kept the Feast of Tabernacles, offered burnt sacrifices, and laid the foundation for the Temple. Who cried out aloud and why?

**Ch. 4 – People who disrupt buildings**

The Temple construction was halted for 14 years until the 2nd year of Darius (521 BC) due to opposition from people from surrounding areas. Who are the two people that sent messages to King Artaxerxes opposing the construction of the Temple?

(Establishing a church is often opposed by Satan and his cohorts who approach the church pretending to cooperate yet wishing to oppose the church)