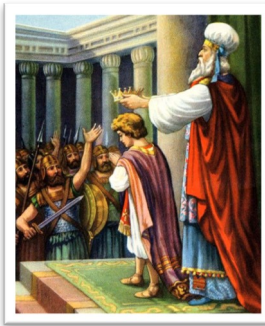


## The Boy King

When the wicked king Ahaziah died, his mother, Athaliah, took control of Judah. While men in power are often ruthless, Athaliah proved to be the match for any evil dictator. She seized the throne and began murdering her own grandchildren. A daughter of Ahaziah named Jehoshabath saved one of her brothers—an infant son of Ahaziah named Joash. She and her husband Jehoiada, who was a priest, hid the boy for six years. During the boy's seventh year, Jehoiada organized a rebellion against Queen Athaliah to restore the proper king. Athaliah was defeated without a fight, and Joash was crowned king at the age of seven. He reigned for forty years, and began as a good king. Second Chronicles 24:2 says, "Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest." As long as Jehoiada was around to give counsel, Joash served God. He even saw to it that the Temple was repaired since it had fallen to some ruin over the years. Sadly, however, when the priest died, Joash turned away from God. He refused to listen to the prophets God sent him, and followed after idols. Joash is a grave reminder that even though we begin strong, we must stay faithful, and make sure we don't lose our way in the end. He also reminds us to make our faith our own. While all people need encouragement, admonition, and exhortation from others at times, it will never do for our faith to be held up by others. When that happens, our faith is lost when we lose the one who props us up. Children, spouses, friends—we all must come to a point where they follow God for ourselves, not others. Otherwise, our ending may be a tragic one like that of king Joash.



## Questions

1. Did Abijah win or lose the battle against Jeroboam? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Azariah told Asa, "The Lord is with you while you are \_\_\_\_\_. If you \_\_\_\_\_ Him, he will be found by you, but if you \_\_\_\_\_ Him, he will forsake you." (ESV)
3. Did the people honor Asa in his burial? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Ahab hate the prophet Micaiah? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why were Jehoshaphat and the people told to not be afraid of the great horde of enemies that threatened them? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long did Ahaziah reign as king? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where was Joash hidden for six years? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where was the prophet Jehoiada buried, and why? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How was Joash killed? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Was Joash buried in the tombs of the kings? \_\_\_\_\_

# "That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



## Second Chronicles 13-24

### Chronicles of God's People: Abijah through Joash

#### Overview

During the reign of Rehoboam (Solomon's son), the nation of Israel divided, forming two nations: The northern 10 tribes became the nation of Israel while Judah and Benjamin became the nation of Judah. Unlike the books of Kings, Chronicles only focuses on the kings that reigned in Judah. All of Israel's kings were evil, but at least some of Judah's kings were righteous. Second Chronicles focuses particularly on the righteous kings. Chapters 10 through 36 cover the reigns of 20 rulers (19 kings and 1 Queen). Roughly 70 percent of this section is devoted to the eight righteous (at least partially) kings, while the remaining 30 percent covers the reigns of the 12 evil rulers<sup>1</sup>. This week's reading takes us through the reign of seven rulers. You'll read of some righteous kings like Asa and Jehoshaphat, as well as some evil rulers like Jehoram, Ahaziah, and Athaliah.

<sup>1</sup> Talk through the Bible, Bruce Wilkinson © Kenneth Boa, pg. 111

#### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: 2 Chronicles 13-15  
Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 16-18  
Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 19-20  
Thursday: 2 Chronicles 21-22  
Friday: 2 Chronicles 23-24

### Bad Leaders & Good People

When reading the books of Kings and Chronicles, the focus is typically on the leaders. Typically, when kings were evil, they led the people to evil also. Conversely, when the kings were righteous, they led the people into righteousness. Does this mean that people will only ever be as good as their leaders? Not quite. While leadership is very important, and the Church needs godly leaders, every individual must remember their responsibility to serve the Lord. Even when men are poor leaders, people can still choose to follow God. Chronicles tells us very little about Abijah, but 1 Kings 15 tells us he walked in the sins of his father. Despite his evil and short (3 year) reign, it was under his rule that Judah defeated Jeroboam's Israel. Why? According to 2 Chronicles 13:18, "...the men of Judah prevailed because they relied on the Lord." Abijah may have only paid lip-service to God, but the people truly trusted in God, and thus were successful. While we desire Godly leaders, we must always ensure we are following the Lord, whether or not our leaders choose to do so.

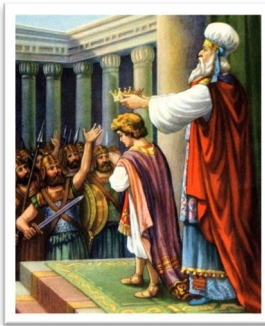
### Not Sad to See Him Go...

While Jehoshaphat was a righteous king, his son Jehoram was not. We get an idea of how evil he was when he begins his reign, and immediately proceeds to murder his brothers. He made the terrible choice of marrying a daughter of Ahab (a very wicked Israelite king), and then began to follow the idolatrous ways of Ahab. He reigned for eight years, and this is the final verdict on his reign: "...And he departed with no one's regret" (2 Chron. 21:20). It's also recorded that he wasn't even buried in the tombs of the kings. How awful to live such a terrible life, that when you die, no one's sad to see you go! Evil, selfish living will typically push others away and hurt them. Worse still is the eternal fate that awaits. But those who live righteously will be a blessing to others—a blessing that will be missed once gone. As one saying goes, "When you were born you cried and the world rejoiced. Live so that when you die, the world will cry and you will rejoice."



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