



The Boy King: Parts 2 and 3

Last week we learned about Joash—a boy who became king of Judah at age 7! This week, we read of two more boy kings: Manasseh, who began reigning at age 12, and his grandson Josiah who began reigning at age 8. Manasseh reigned for 55 years—the longest reign of all Judah’s kings. Despite having a godly father (Hezekiah), Manasseh was perhaps the most wicked king Judah saw. The Bible records he “*did what was evil...according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel*” (2 Chron. 33:2). He partook in nearly every form of idolatry possible, including the awful practice of child sacrifice.

God warned Manasseh, but the king wouldn’t listen. Thus, God allowed the Assyrians a measure of victory over Judah, and they took Manasseh captive. In great distress, Manasseh finally turned to the Lord. He prayed, and what a prayer it must have been! The Bible says God was moved by Manasseh’s entreaty and heard his plea. Manasseh returned to Jerusalem, and he tried to do away with idolatry and restore proper worship. Manasseh’s story reminds us that there can be awful consequences for sin. Sometimes God may even use hardship to get His people’s attention. The story also reminds us, however, that as long as we are alive, it’s not too late to turn back. Even the vilest of sinners can repent and turn to the Lord!

Manasseh’s grandson, Josiah, was also a boy king. He began reigning at age 8, and the Bible says that while yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David and to purge Judah of idolatry. His 31-year reign was one of righteousness as he “*walked in the ways of David...and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left*” (2 Chron. 34:2)

The boy-kings of Judah are three incredible stories which provide some great lessons for God’s children today. We’re never too young or too old to turn to, serve, and follow the Lord!

Questions

1. Did Amaziah do what was right with his whole heart? _____
2. What motivated Uzziah’s presumptuous sacrifice? _____
3. Did Jotham do right or evil as a king? What about the people he reigned over? _____
4. Ahaz walked in the ways of _____
5. After being defeated by Syria, what did Ahaz do? _____
6. Describe some of Hezekiah’s reforms: _____
7. Where was Sennacherib killed, and who killed him? _____
8. Josiah died in battle against _____ the king of _____.
9. Who is the last recorded king of Judah before the Babylonian captivity? _____
10. Which prophet is named several times in the final chapter of 2 Chronicles? _____

“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Second Chronicles 25-36

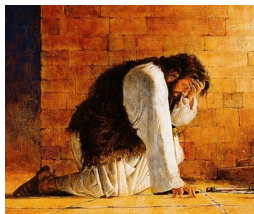
Chronicles of God’s People: Amaziah to Captivity

Overview

Our final week in Second Chronicles covers the last twelve rulers of Judah. This group is certainly a mixed bag. Some kings started righteous, but then turned to sin or idolatry, like Amaziah and Uzziah. Some kings were very righteous like Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah. Then there were some incredibly wicked kings including Ahaz and Amon. The worst king of all was Manasseh, but he repented later in life and returned to the Lord. While the righteous kings did what they could to restore proper living and worship, the downward trend in Judah continued, exacerbated by the evil kings. Ultimately, Judah was judged for her rebellion by being carried captive to Babylon, and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. Chronicles ends on a note of hope, however. The final verses record the Persian king Cyrus’ decree for the Jews to return to Jerusalem!

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: 2 Chronicles 25-27
- Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 28-29
- Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 30-31
- Thursday: 2 Chronicles 32-33
- Friday: 2 Chronicles 34-36



Faithful to the End

It’s easy to think of Judah’s kings as either good or bad. In reality, however, many did both good and bad things. Like everyone, the kings of Judah made mistakes, even when they sought to be righteous men. Amaziah began righteous, but ultimately followed the path of idolatry. Uzziah was a very righteous king, but pride caused him to enter the Temple and burn incense on the altar—something only a priest could do. For this sin, Uzziah was struck with Leprosy. Even righteous Hezekiah suffered from pride. Second Chronicles mentions Hezekiah’s pride briefly, but 2 Kings 20:12-19 provides more detail of Hezekiah’s foolish pride and its consequences. We should learn from these examples—a righteous beginning doesn’t ensure a righteous end. We must heed Scripture’s warning, “*let anyone who thinks that he stands, take heed lest he fall*” (2 Cor. 10:12). We must always guard our ways, and when we do stumble, we must humble ourselves and repent.

Revival and Restoration

The Bible records several instances of spiritual revival among God’s people. Of course Moses led a great revival among God’s people as he led them out of slavery and towards the land of Promise. After years of spiritual depravity, Israel was led in revival and restoration by the judge and prophet Samuel. King David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and began preparations for the temple. In this week’s reading from 2 Chronicles, two more great restorers are mentioned: Hezekiah and Josiah. Hezekiah’s father was a wicked and idolatrous king. Instead of following his father’s path, Hezekiah began his reign by purifying the temple and destroying idolatry throughout the land. He reinstated Passover celebration, and organized the priesthood. Like Hezekiah, Josiah later inherited a kingdom steeped in idolatry and evil. At the age of 8 the boy began to reign, and also began to seek the Lord! He too cleansed the temple, leading to the book of the law being found. Josiah then gave himself to restoring the nation to God’s Law. When God’s people depart from the truth, courageous men must rise to lead spiritual revival and restoration!



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Second Chronicles 25-36

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