

2 Chronicles 17-20

Decline and Reforms

Study Written by Holli Worthington

Day 1- 2 Chronicles 17-20

Read 2 Chronicles 17-20 in your Bible.

- Pray as you read, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding, confession, thanksgiving, and petition in light of the truth you are reading.
- Underline/highlight key words, phrases, and verses that stand out to you.

Day 2- 2 Chronicles 17

1. Write a description of Jehoshaphat from verses 1-6.
2. What correlation do you see in verses 3 and 4?

For Discussion: From the information in verse 6, why do you think Jehoshaphat would be described as courageous? What areas do you see the need for courageous hearts in the ways of the LORD in our culture?

3. What kinds of blessings did the teaching of God's Word bring to Judah?

Day 3- 2 Chronicles 18

Ahab was the most evil of the northern kingdom of Israel's kings. The Bible tells us he did more to provoke the anger of God than any other king.

4. According to verses 2-3, what were the results of the unwise marriage alliance Jehoshaphat made with Ahab? (Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram married Ahab's daughter Athaliah)

Digging Deeper: Look up 2 Corinthians 6:14-16a. What is the reason God does not want believers linked in partnership with unbelievers? How is this different than having unbelievers as friends?

Scholar's Note: "Evil kings did not like God's prophets bringing messages of doom. So many hired prophets who told them only what they wanted to hear. These men were false prophets because they extolled the greatness of the king and predicted victory regardless of the real situation."- Chronological Application Study Bible notes

5. How did Jehoshaphat show discernment in verses 4 and 6?

6. How is the prophet Micaiah different from the other prophets that Ahab called according to verse 13? What was the source of the false prophet's information?

7. How was Jehoshaphat's life saved from the evil plan of Ahab according to verse 31?



Jehoshaphat was almost killed because of his sinful alliance with Ahab. He most certainly would have been killed had not God intervened. We will see more of the tragic consequences of this alliance down the road, but we will also see God's mercy. Isn't it comforting to know that God does not leave us alone to face the consequences of our own sin when we cry out to him for help? Only God can take even our sin and use it for good in our life if we run to him in repentance.

- Spend time now thanking God that Jesus took the ultimate consequences of our sin on himself when he died on the cross. Thank God for his mercy toward you, his child, that as a loving Father he comes to help when you call, even when it is your own sin that caused the predicament.

Day 4- 2 Chronicles 19

8. From the information in verses 4-7 what can we surmise was Jehoshaphat's response to Jehu's rebuke?



At the end of Jehu's rebuke he adds an encouraging *nevertheless*. Jehoshaphat had set his heart to seek God. This is an ongoing theme in 2 Chronicles. Some form of "set your heart" is seen 6 times and some form of "seek the LORD" is found 15 times. "Set" is to be firm and established. When we say, "I have my heart set on it" we mean there is something we really want and we won't be moved. It calls for singularity of purpose, for organizing your life around God, not fitting God into your life.

- Is there anything that is keeping you from setting your heart on God- doubt, distraction, fear, lack of desire, unbelief, guilt...?
 - Talk to God about this, asking him to expose, forgive and heal anything that would be keeping you from being wholly devoted to him. Pray daily that your desire would be for God, that you would set your heart on seeking him and that nothing would move you from it.
9. What truths did Jehoshaphat remind the newly appointed judges of as he admonished them not to distort justice?

Scholar's Note: "Judicial authority depended upon the rule of the Lord and was to reflect his own attributes of righteousness, justice, and fairness." –Thompson

10. List the three ways the Levitical judges were to carry out their job according to verse 9.

Day 5- 2 Chronicles 20

11. What did Jehoshaphat do when he was afraid?

12. What did Jehoshaphat remind himself and the people of in his prayer?



When we are afraid, maybe in times of sickness, financial hardship, overwhelming responsibility, uncertainty, change or sorrow, we would do well to remember who God is and all that he has done for us. In those fearful times, as you pray remind yourself of God's sovereign activity in your life. Your trust is grounded in God who did not even spare his own perfect Son for you.

- Consider memorizing Romans 8:31-32 to remind yourself of God's love and provision for you. *"...If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"*

13. What kind of attitude did Jehoshaphat display in verse 12 that was so pleasing to God?

14. What was imperative that the people do according to verse 20?

Picture and Ponder: 2 Chronicles 20:29 tells us that “the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.” But what if no enemy had ever come against Judah? Or what if the people had not believed what God said? An amazing opportunity for God to be glorified would have been lost. Resolve in your life to look at things you are fearful of as opportunities for God to be glorified. Then take the next step and believe what God says about you and himself in his Word and step out in faith in spite of your fear. Then watch and see how God is glorified.

15. What lesson did Jehoshaphat have a hard time learning? (Verses 35-37)

16. How was Jehoshaphat’s reign characterized? Even after the reforms Jehoshaphat made to teach the people God’s word and rule them with godly judges, what heart attitude persisted in the people of Judah? (Verses 32-33)

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

Copyright © 2015 Holli Worthington. This document may be reproduced for learning purposes but not for profit.