

# 2 Chronicles 21-28

## Decline and Reforms

Study Written by Holli Worthington

### Day 1- 2 Chronicles 21-28

Read 2 Chronicles 21-28 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 21-22:9

1. According to 21:4-6, what did the alliance of Jehoram and Athaliah, the daughter of the evil king Ahab, bring about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What great mercy did God show in 21:7?

Digging Deeper: The evil of Jehoram makes the goodness and mercy of God stand out even more. Read Psalm 111:5-10. Why did God preserve the house of David according to this passage? What practical difference does it make in your life that God is trustworthy and his promises are eternal?

3. What other evils did Jehoram do throughout his reign, and what were the consequences?

4. What influence did Athaliah have over her son, Ahaziah according to 22:3?

### **Day 3- 2 Chronicles 22:10–24**

5. What put the line of David in peril again according to 22:10?

6. What are the ways that Jehoshabeath was the exact opposite of Athaliah?

Scholar's Note: "To confront the king (or queen) with the demands of God's law was supposed to be the role of every priest in every generation. Tragically, many priests shied away from this duty, and thus only a few made a difference in the nation." – Chronological Life Application Study Bible

7. How did Jehoiada, the priest make a difference in the life of the nation of Judah?

## 8. What is noteworthy in 24:2?



The life of Joash is heartbreaking! At first we are so encouraged by the story of the young king. He was rescued from certain death and raised by a godly couple. He restored the temple of the LORD that had been ignored by his father and grandfather. He used the taxes to make extensive repairs and restore the furnishings of the temple. He reinstated the daily burnt offerings to God.

All of this would seem to indicate to us that he loved God. But the rest of Joash's life shows us that he didn't. He was following Jehoiada and following the law, but neither Jehoiada nor the law could give him a heart that loved God. Following the law does not motivate us to love God. But loving God does motivate us to obey his commands.

Those who love God will persevere in obedience to the end. Those who are just trying to follow the rules will always grow weary of their own works. Only by grace through faith in Jesus will we ever experience true heart change.

- Are you in danger of following a person instead of God? Do you rely too heavily on a relationship with someone to facilitate your relationship with God?
  
- What ways do you substitute rule following for a relationship with God?

## Day 4- 2 Chronicles 25 and 26

For Discussion: What does grudging obedience, like Amaziah had (25:2), reveal about what we believe?

9. What logic did the prophet use in his question to Amaziah in 25:15?

-An idol is anything that occupies our heart more than God. It's anything we set our heart on to give us significance, security, safety, fulfillment or comfort other than God. How does the logic the prophet used with Amaziah ring true in your own struggle against idols in your life?

10. What did Uzziah have going for him according to 26:4-5?

11. What was Uzziah's success due to, according to verse 7?

12. What did Uzziah's great strength and success lead to, according to 26:16?  
How does burning incense on the altar demonstrate pride? (26:16-18)



In the early days of Uzziah's reign we see a humble king who is instructed in the ways of the LORD by Zechariah. But as he experiences success and grows strong, he also becomes proud, taking on the role of the priest that was not meant for him. His success came because he sought the LORD, but as is common to the human experience, pride gradually began to seep in. He forgot that it was God who had made him prosperous and successful.

Charles Spurgeon said that "pride is busy in the heart." If we are not consciously combatting pride everyday it is probably gaining ground in our lives. Thankfulness is one weapon against pride.

- Begin the habit of thanking God each morning, before your feet hit the floor, for everything, whether it is much or little, difficult or easy, exciting or tedious. Humility comes from accepting God's sovereign reign in our life, acknowledging and trusting that all things are from him, through him and to him. (Romans 11:36)

## Day 5- 2 Chronicles 27 and 28

13. According to 27:6, what kind of king was Jotham?

14. How far did Ahaz fall from the good example of his father according to 28:2-4?

15. Even though God was using Israel as his instrument of judgment what was Oded's warning to the army of Israel in 28:9-11?

16. In 28:14-15, how did God intervene to help Judah even as they experienced his judgment?

17. Ahaz had followed in the ways of the kings of Israel, making idols and worshipping them, even offering his own sons as burnt sacrifices to these false gods, yet 28:22 tells us that he became even more faithless to the LORD. From 28:16-25 list all the ways Ahaz displayed his contempt for God.

Digging Deeper: God in his great mercy gave Ahaz many opportunities to turn back from his rebellion. Even his judgment of Ahaz's grievous sins was a chance for him to repent and run to God. During the reign of Ahaz God sent the prophet Isaiah to him to warn him to relent from his evil course and turn to God, but the king refused and so ultimate destruction would eventually come to Judah. Read Isaiah 7:10-25. How does God, in the midst of his prophecy of doom, also give hints of future redemption for his people?

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.