

## **QT Questions—for 2Chronicles**

(Here's a short introduction to the book of 2Chronicles from my Study Bibles.)

- Second Chronicles shows the power and importance of God's presence. The narrative of 1-2 Chronicles views Israel's story through the lens of God's covenant with David. David desired to build a temple for God; God responded by telling David that from his line would come one whose throne would be established forever. By showing Judah's history in relation to the house of David and the house of God, the temple, the book emphasizes the importance of proper worship and invites God's people to fully commit to following God's ways.
- Second Chronicles begins shortly after David's death (971 BC) as Solomon ascends the throne and establishes God's temple, a concrete sign of God's presence among His people. The narrative highlights the glory of these years by omitting Solomon's idolatry and lustfulness. The focus on the positive elements of the glory years of Israel is intended to encourage Jewish people living in the fifth century BC to honor God and be worshipful.
- Because the emphasis is on David's descendants, 2Chronicles says little about the kings of Israel (who are not in his lineage) and focuses on the Davidic kings of Judah. The book traces the history of Judah for more than 300 years, until Nebuchadnezzar's army destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and deported its people to Babylon (586 BC). Nonetheless, the book concludes on a hopeful note, reporting the royal decree—from a Persian king, who had conquered Babylon—allowing the exiles to return to Judah (538 BC). This decree connects 2Chronicles with the book of Ezra.

### **2Chron 1 (7/11/23)**

1. In 1:1-10, in v. 1, what are we told about Solomon; in vv. 3-4, what and why are we told about Gibeon; in vv. 7-10, what was Solomon's desire before God; what do you learn?
  2. In 1:11-17, how did God respond to Solomon's desire; why would Solomon accumulate chariots and horses and wealth when God's word was against it (Deut 17:16-17); how is this applicable to you?
- When we read verses 14-17, in light of God's response, especially verse 12, it seems that God was pouring His goodness on Solomon. So, the fact that Solomon was wealthy was God's doing. And yet, even in that blessing, God would still want His people to obey His word, and God had already spoken against accumulating horses. Here, we must remember, God does not contradict Himself. Sometimes, it's easy to get confused. Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to know how to lead God's people right. And though Solomon was wiser and more knowledgeable than any person, yet, he must have been confused about God's riches for him should also include what God had already forbidden. He should have remembered, God does not contradict Himself. We need a God-given humility, so that we would not place our understanding over God's revealed word. We would be wise to believe and submit under, "Let God be true and every person a liar" (Rom 3:4). The wisest act we can ever do, is to humbly believe and submit under God's word, for He truly is right, and we would learn to live under God's rightness when we submit and obey His word.

### **2Chron 2 (7/12/23)**

1. In 2:1-10, what is Solomon requesting from the King of Tyre; what is Solomon's vision of the temple and why; what is your vision of God's church and why?

2. In 2:11-18, because of David and Solomon, what does the King of Tyre say about Israel's God; who is Hiram-Abi and why was he sent; who did Solomon assigned this work to and why them; what do you learn?

- In vv. 11-12, I love that the King of Tyre is praising the God of Israel, calling Him Maker of heaven and earth. He could have been insulted that Solomon would call his God, "greater than all other gods," which will include his own god. Though we cannot know for certain if Hiram's confession was genuine, but for him to acknowledge Israel's God and to praise Him is simply amazing. It is a non-believer who is acknowledging our true God (though he could be a true believer by now). This is the influence of David and Solomon in his life. This is the influence we can also have with the non-believers who live in our midst. May our Lord use us to reach and touch the non-believers around us, so that they would also genuinely confess that our God is the true God, that He is the Creator of heaven and earth, that He alone is the Savior of our souls, and thus, for them to praise Him, for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### **2Chron 3 (7/13/23)**

1. In 3:1-14, where was the site of the temple chosen and why (Gen 22:2; 1Chron 21:18-22:1); why was the temple built with so much gold; what do you learn?
2. In 3:15-17, what are the names of the two pillars and their meaning; why do you think they named the pillars; what do you learn?

- In this chapter, it is somewhat surprising that this version is shorter than the account of 1-2 Kings. I was expecting a much longer description of the building of the temple. But, in another sense, this makes sense, because the main focus is not the temple itself, but the proper worship of God that occurs at the temple. The building is important only because it represents God's wonderful presence. It's easy to replace the essence with a representation. Sometimes, we can feel good just having read God's word without meeting the God the word is speaking of. Similarly, we can be content with our spirituality because we have participated in worship, though we have not met the Lord to whom we are worshiping. That's why, Nike's slogan, just do it, is not our Christian way. We never just do it, even the good deeds. We always must remember why and for whom we are doing, and there's only one overarching purpose in the lives of all Christians, "Whether we eat or drink or whatever you do (that is, anything and everything we do) do it all for the glory of God" (1Cor 10:31).

### **2Chron 4 (7/14/23)**

1. In 4, of all the Temple's furnishings, what catches your attention and why; can you think of a way that may apply to your worship today?
2. In 4, who are the two people singled out in this chapter and why (2Chron 2:12-14); if you were singled out for one thing in your life, what do you think that would be, and moving forward, what would you like it to be?

- Hiram reminded me of Bezalel and Oholiab and they remind me of people God used to bless His people to worship Him. Also, when I think of Abel, I think of a man who worshiped His God well, who gave his best in his worship of God. Ultimately, that's the kind of people God is seeking to dwell with Him eternally, true worshipers. The greatest deed, the greatest achievement, the greatest activity we can possibly ever do, is to worship our God well. In Heaven, we will do so perfectly. But on earth, this is our greatest endeavor and efforts we must pour ourselves into. And unlike the extreme sports or drugs that eventually lose the high

when done enough, true worship in this world will go deeper, the deeper we go. Of course, we don't simply go deeper the more we do. Actually, in many occasions, the more we do wrongly, i.e., mindlessly or habitually or half-heartedly, etc, the more shallow and empty our worship becomes. So, more worship does not always take us deeper. But true worship takes us deeper and deeper still, and the deeper we go, the more amazed and awed we will be in worshiping our God. And when we reach our climax in heaven, by the way, every time we worship will be perfect, never losing the wonder and joy of worship any single time or moment when we worship. In other words, perfect worship will be offered perfectly, every time, for all eternity, that's heaven, God's perfection every time, every day, for all eternity. Let's earnestly pray and wholeheartedly work to become the kind of worshiper our God is seeking.

### **2Chron 5 (7/15/23)**

1. In 5:1-10, when the Temple and her furnishings were finished, what were brought to the Temple and why; what's the festival on the seventh month and what was the significance (Lev 23:33-44); at this time, what was inside the ark of the covenant and what was the significance; later on, what were the three things in the ark of the covenant and why them (Heb 9:4); what do you learn?
2. In 5:11-14, who were the three musicians leading the worship and why them; what did they sing and what were the two messages and how true are they for you and how are these truths impacting your life?

- In v. 14, God's glory displayed by the cloud filled the Temple. The Temple was meant to be God's dwelling place and the center of Israel's worship. So, when God's glory, via the cloud, fills His dwelling place, we would think that the worship of His people will become intensely richer and more moving and powerful and an amazing experience for His worshipers to continue for as long as they can continue. But, strangely, we are told, precisely because of God's glory filled the Temple, the priests could not perform their services and the people obviously could not continue their worship. Instead of enhancing and enriching the worship, God's glory stopped it. **Why?** Let me offer one incomplete reason here. True worship to the Holy God will have many other components (I don't know what all of them are), but the one thing I see here is this, that His worshipers must learn to undo and seat still, to simply behold the wonder of His glory to His worshipers. To do nothing but to behold His glory is the worship God desired here. As we well know here, to do nothing is not passivity and inaction and unpreparedness. They were so ready and so prepared to do so much more, and yet, God stopped them from doing, so they could behold His presence. God did not desire service here, as beautiful and necessary they are in many instances. For now, He wanted His people to drop everything and simply be aware and be in awe of His holy, living, majestic, nearness presence. My prayer is that we would all learn how to undo our ways and seat in His presence because of the wonder of His holiness and goodness is all over us. Surely, there's a place and time to serve (and we should serve wholeheartedly), but for now, here, God wants His people to do nothing and only focus on His awesome presence.

### **2Chron 6 (7/17/23)**

1. In 6:1-11, in v. 1, where does God say He will dwell and what happens (Ex 19:9; 2Chron 5:14); what was the essence of Solomon's blessing for God's people (v. 10); how is this applicable to you?

2. In 6:12-42, in v. 13, what were Solomon's postures for prayer and why them; how is the Temple and the prayers of His people connected and why was that; how is the Temple and our prayers and heaven connected (vv. 26-27); what do you learn?

- In v. 40, Solomon prayed, "Now, my God, may Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." God's Temple is meant to open a bridge for God's people to bring all the concerns and needs to their God, and God to answer back with His goodness over His people. God's Temple is meant to be the open portal for this two-way highway, of God's people praying and God answering their prayers, to flow freely. Wow, how incredible is that. It's like that stairway that Jacob experienced in his dream, connecting earth to heaven (Gen 28:10-19). But, something more incredible happens in God's word. This magnificent Temple was actually only a sign post to something greater. In 1Cor 3:16, a remarkable, an unbelievable, an insane, an illogical, an actual absurd thing is said in God's holy, true word. God said, "Don't you know that you (how can God mean His people, me and you?) yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" Remember, the Temple Solomon built was filled with God's glory, is the temple that we are. God's temple that Solomon is kneeling before, lifting his hands up, instructing all people to look there to pray to their God for their every need is the temple that God's word says we are. I will stop here today, but think about what it means for you and I to be God's temple. Sometimes, I feel God's word is insane, illogical, too incredible and too marvelous to believe.

## **2Chron 7 (7/18/23)**

1. In 7:1-10, what happened after Solomon's prayer and why; after they couldn't, how did God's people worship their God (vv. 4-6); in v. 10, how did God's people return home from their worship; what is your prayer in light of this?
2. In 7:11-22, why would God appear to Solomon; in vv. 15-16, what is God's promise; in vv. 19-22, why would God respond with such harsh negativity; how is this applicable to you?

- In v. 5, we are simply told that 142,000 animals were offered and sacrificed and nothing more. May I ask you to pause here a little and ask, how long would it take to offer 142,000 sacrifices? They probably took the entire length of the festival, which lasted two weeks (v. 9). So, for these people in charge of these sacrifices, for 14 days, nothing but slaughtering the animals and burning them. Wow, what a way to worship our God. In one sense, I am thinking that this must not have been very pleasant, as their whole worship flowed with blood and death and burning and cleaning. Yet, another thought I have is, that they would have not only understood but experienced deeply how God ministers to His people, with His blood and sacrifice, with His burning for us and cleansing. Though they probably could not have joined in the kneeling and standing and singing with the other worshipers, I am thinking that our God would have touched and blessed their hearts to experience what other worshipers couldn't taste, the realness of God's sacrifice and offering of Himself for His undeserving people. What a worship for them, to see, to smell, to touch, and to partake in God's sacrifice for them. Wow, what a worship!

## **2Chron 8 (7/19/23)**

1. In 8:1-10, in v. 1, though we are told of two major constructions, which did we not see in this book and why (1Kgs 7:1-12); in v. 7, who are these people and why would they be recorded here (Deut 7:1-6); what do you learn?

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2. In 8:11-18, in v. 11, why did Solomon build a palace for his wife, the Pharaoh's daughter; in v. 14, what were the duties of the Levites here; what do you learn?
- In v. 16, this completes the building of the Temple that began in 2Chronicles 2:1. But, if we can go even further with David's preparation for the Temple, then we trace it back all the way to 1Chronicles 22. All together, we have 15 chapters (not counting 2Chron 1) devoted to the building of the Temple by kings David and Solomon. In other words, their kingship are not described by their great conquest of the nations, but by their devotion to building God's Temple. The author to these two books wants God's people to learn that the great conquests and achievements in this world is not what counts, but our devotion to building our worship before our holy God is what pleases our God and what our lives are truly meant to be as His people. Let's learn the lesson well here. Let's not live to achieve great things in this world, and if we should have the talent to do wonderful things, let's do them well for His glory. But, that is still not our great calling. We are sent into this world, to be ambassador of His kingdom. And the King of our homeland most delight when His people learn to worship our God, for that is whom He is seeking in this world. Said it differently, evangelism in this world is not to simply convert people into our faith, but to bless the idolaters in the world, to become true worshipers of our living God. God is seeking true worshipers, in His Spirit and in His truth (Jn 4:23). Let's learn to worship our God well, and help others to also become the kind of worshipers our God is delightfully seeking.

### **2Chron 9 (7/20/23)**

1. In 9:1-12, why would the Queen of Sheba want to test Solomon; what was her conclusion and how did she respond; in v. 8, how does she see Israel's God; what do you learn?
  2. In 9:13-31, how did Solomon gathered so much wealth; why did Solomon have so many horses and was that a good thing (Deut 17:16-17); why is the author telling the people that Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings; what do you learn?
- In vv. 29-31, the author closes Solomon's life, by choosing to omit to record his failures. Once again, it was not because Solomon did not have failures. But, that is how God's grace works. "But where sin increased, grace increased all the more" (Rom 5:20). That's our reality, all because of the greatest exchange there ever was. "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2Cor 5:21). That is amazing, unbelievable, isn't it? Solomon's sins were clearly known, and because of them, his son suffered the tearing of God's people into two nations. His lust and idolatries were visibly many, which only makes us think, how much more in his heart. As guilty as he was, yet, it seems as if his many sins went into hiding, because He who had no sin took them all upon Himself. Holding on to all of our sins, He did not go up to the rooftop to shout for all to hear and shame us. Instead, He buried them deep in His heart, so He could weep for our sins, so He could hurt for our sins, so He could pay the ultimate price for the debt of our sins, because He knew none of us, including Solomon and us, could pay the infinite debt we owed to God for our larger than our lives sins. And if paying and covering and cleansing our sins were not enough, He stripped Himself of His robe, so that we who were naked of any righteousness, would be forever robed in His eternally clean righteousness, forever changing our status and our appearance before the holy God—no longer sinners but only righteous always, forever.

## 2Chron 10 (7/21/23)

1. In 10:1-11, who succeeded King Solomon and what was his first decision and why did he do that; what was Jeroboam's request and why; what do you learn?
2. In 10:12-18, why did the King answered harshly; how was God involved in all these; what was the result from all these; how is this applicable to you?

- In v. 15, we are told, "for this turn of events was from God, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite" (1Kgs 11:29-39). Let's observe how God's sovereignty works in the midst of our free will. Solomon and Rehoboam acted freely, and freely they sinned. So, let's be clear here. Solomon and Rehoboam decisions to sin were their own choosing; it was their free will. But, in the midst of their free will, God's sovereignty reigned over them, as His will is fulfilled despite man's free will to sin against God. Israel was torn into two nations because of the sins of her kings, but God's will will not be torn, His will will not be rejected (though His people rejected Him). And in the midst of the people's sinfulness, God's sovereign will to ultimately deliver His people through His anointed King from a descendant of David, will become a reality, though "Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day" (v. 19). Simply said, man's free will was acting against God's will, but despite the clash, despite the opposite going ways of the two wills, God's sovereign will ultimately carries man's wrongfulness, for His grace is greater than our sinfulness (Rom 5:20). God's will, God's wisdom, God's grace is truly so much more powerful, wiser, forgiving, and more loving than what our sins can produce. His will will be done, on earth as in heaven.

## 2Chron 11 (7/22/23)

1. In 11:1-17, what did Rehoboam intended to do after the rebellion led by Jeroboam and why didn't he; which two tribes belonged to Rehoboam, David's line, and why these two; why did the priests and Levites leave the northern kingdom to come to Jerusalem; what do you learn?
2. In 11:18-23, how many wives and children did Rehoboam have and what do you think about that; why didn't Rehoboam have his firstborn son succeed him to the throne; what do you learn?

- In 11:1-4, I am pleasantly surprised, actually more shocked, that these people were so good in obeying their God, to not to go to war with their brothers. The reason why the nation was torn in two was because of their repeated disobedience to God's command. But, here, instead of disobeying as they have been doing, they obeyed and did not march out to war. We are like that, aren't we? Sometimes we obey well, while, other times, we don't. Did you know, selective obedience is not true obedience? We are meant to obey at all times, in all things, with a joyful and thankful heart because of our great love for our God. Even under the greatest duress, Jesus shows us the way, as He cried out, "Not My will, but Yours be done." That's true obedience. Knowing the pain He would endure, knowing how difficult it would be, in order to obey well, Jesus prayed, "And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground" (Lk 22:44). Though we are like the people in Rehoboam's day, may we pray and earnestly desire to grow more like our Lord, so whatever the difficulty may be, even if we have to pray sweat like drops of blood to prepare our hearts, may we desire to obey our God more, than to do what we think it's best for me (Judg 21:25).

**2Chron 12 (7/24/23)**

1. In 12:1-8, what did Rehoboam do after he established his kingship and why would he do such a foolish thing; how did God respond to his foolishness and why; how did the king respond to God's action and why; what did God want the king to learn; how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 12:9-16, what does humility look like here; what happens when our hearts are not set on seeking the Lord and how would that look like in your life; what kind of God do you meet in this chapter and how should that impact your life?
- In v. 5, the Lord clearly said that Rehoboam was receiving what He deserved. But as soon as he and the leaders admit they were wrong and that "The Lord is just," the Lord immediately has a change of heart, and would not carry out what He just said He would. We can call our God wishy washy, or that He doesn't carry out His words, or maybe His words has no weight. In our worldly sense, they would sound true. But, from heaven's viewpoint, God delights to bless His children because they are seeking the Father's will over theirs. Our God is slow to punish but quick to bless. Our God is slow to chastise but quick to encourage. Our God loves to delight in His children far, far, far more than strike with the rod. Many people in our world has such a wrong view of our God's anger and goodness. He is justly angry over our sins, but He is so much quicker, far more generous, and much more abundantly loving and forgiving than we understand. May we taste the goodness of our God deliciously and joyfully instruct the people around us, how truly good and beautiful He is, more than we know, or they know.

**2Chron 13 (7/25/23)**

1. In 13, what was the size ratio of the two armies and why did the smaller size army come out victorious; what do you learn about God and how should that impact you?
  2. In 13, how did the northern kingdom sinned before God; what ways do you see that Abijah was not fully walking with God; what do you learn?
- In vv. 10-11, Abijah points out that they are doing all the right actions, but the people of Jeroboam were not. While what they were doing was the right thing to do, we know God was not pleased with Abijah, for his reign lasted a short three years, clearly a sign of God's displeasure with him. In fact, in 1Kgs 15:3, we are told that "He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been." In other words, he did the right actions; however, his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord. Good deed without the heart is not God pleasing. Do we understand, "just do it," can never be our way? Just doing it, without our hearts motivated in His love, joyfully and thankfully offering our service to our God, displeases Him. Did you know, the primary reason why people "burn out" in their service to God and His church, is because, many times, we are simply doing the good deeds without our hearts fully devoted to our God, in love and with thankfulness? May we learn today, to always learn to do all the good deeds, with our hearts fully devoted to our God, in love and with thankfulness, so that there will be joy at the end of our service, rather than discouragement and even bitterness and regret.

**2Chron 14 (7/26/23)**

1. In 14, how did Asa do good and right in God's sight; what brought peace and rest for God's people; how can you do good and right today in God's sight; how can you experience peace and rest in your souls?

2. In 14, what were the sizes of the two armies at war; who came out victorious and why; in your battles, what do you want to learn about God and how should that impact your life?

- In v. 14, it reads, “for the terror of the Lord had fallen on them.” Because of God’s presence, the enemies were afraid to fight back, so they willingly surrendered before God’s people. God’s people can easily mistaken to think that because they were so powerful that the enemies were unable to fight back. We can easily attribute to our ability when it is God’s doing. When we forget to look up, then we will arrive to our conclusion from what we see in front of us. And since they look frightened, we can easily think we are more powerful. May we have God’s grace to always remember, the reason why the terror fell on others, was not because of our power, but because our Lord is hovering over them. When the enemy see God, they are afraid. When God’s people see Him, we cannot be arrogant or proud or self confident. We will be humble, thankful, joyful, peaceful, and deeper in love with our Lord, whom we see loves us more than we can ever do.

### **2Chron 15 (7/27/23)**

1. In 15, who was Azariah and what did he say and why would he say that; how did King Asa respond to the message; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 15, how did the people respond to God’s message; who was Maakah and what happened; what happened at the Kidron Valley and when other times was this place used; what do you learn?

- In v. 13, we encounter a frightening verse, “All who would not seek the Lord, the God of Israel, were to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.” Is there no freedom of religion as we believe so today? The answer is yes and no. There is freedom to believe as we wish, because our God gave us free will in our nature. We are never coerced or forced or manipulated or pushed to believe what we are not willing. Just as Adam had the freedom to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, despite God’s command to not eat from it, so we certainly have a free will to believe what we will. But, the frightening thing about our free will, it will get us killed eternally. When left to our free will, in our sinfulness, we will always choose within our nature, and that would be sinfully. So, free will in our sinful nature produces the most horrible result, an eternity of damnation, because we all fall short of the glory of God. As for the question, is there free will today, the other answer is no. God’s holy command for His people is, “whoever sacrifices to any god other than the Lord must be destroyed” (Ex 22:20; Deut 13:6-16). In light of this, what Asa did in 2Chron 15:13 would be right. Now, why would God make such a cruel law? Let’s remember, it was God who created His people out of nothing to give them life. It was God who saved them from the bondage of slavery to sin. It was God who kept them, protected them, provided for their needs through the wilderness, so that He could lead them into the Promised Land. So, it is clear, God made them, kept them, led them in order to give His people life. So, when God is commanding death for the people who would not seek Him, He is not merely destroying the people who were not following Him. The reason for their destruction is because they would be destroyed without God. And more applicably for God’s people, when there are people who would not seek the Lord, then they will influence God’s people away from seeking the Lord, as Solomon’s many wives would lead him away from God (1Kgs 11:1-6). Simply said, God gave this frightening command to destroy those who seek other gods, because they would lead astray God’s people from seeking the Lord alone. So, God’s fierce command was to protect His people from falling into sin.



**2Chron 16 (7/28/23)**

1. In 16, what were the significance of Asa's 15th, 35th, 36th, 39th, and 41st years (15:10, 19); what do you learn?
2. In 16, how were Asa's responses different with the two prophets Azariah and Hanani (15:1-8); how is this applicable to you?

- In v. 2, Asa was taking the silver and gold out of the Lord's temple treasuries, which were actually brought in by him (15:18). In chapter 15, he heard and believed in God's goodness. But sadly, in chapter 16, when he saw Baasha's attack, instead of leaning on his God, he saw the king of Aram's strength, and wanted to lean on him, by offering all his treasures, which he had actually already offered to God. When we lose sight of our God, that's what we do, we look for the next best strength, and desire to place our trust and hope there. Too often, God's people keep thinking, out of sight, must mean He is not here anymore. We must learn and always remember, just as His silence does not mean His absence, so Him being out of our sight, does not mean He is not here with us. Let's learn, He is Immanuel, He is always with us, everywhere, every time, which is why, we can believe, He will not leave us, forsake us, or abandon us. We may be faithless, but He is always faithful, because He will never act out of His character, faithfulness to the end, which really means, faithfulness for all eternity.

**2Chron 17 (7/29/23)**

1. In 17:1-9, who succeeded Asa and why does it say he followed his father David and not Asa; in what specific ways are we told that Jehoshaphat's heart was devoted to God; in what specific ways are you following God, that is, what are your dos and don'ts as you follow your God?
2. In 17:10-19, as Jehoshaphat followed the Lord, what did God do to the surrounding nations and why would He; who brought gifts to Jehoshaphat and why was that significant; how is this applicable to you?

- In v. 7, we are told that it was in the third year of his reign. Why would the time matter? Many Bible historians say that Jehoshaphat co-reigned with his father Asa the first three years, because Asa "was afflicted with a disease in his feet" in his thirty-ninth year and died in the forty-first years, thus three years (2Chron 16:12-13). Thankfully, Jehoshaphat did not wait until his third year to be devoted to God. But, with his father no longer there, Jehoshaphat goes full out to follow the Lord, and sends his officials to make sure that all God's people learn and follow the Lord. Though my faith is a private relationship between my God and me, yet, our relationship is always meant to overflow to everyone around us, thus, our faith must be lived out in public, influencing and impacting the people around us. A similar principle is about our worship. Though my worship to God is private throughout the week, but it must be displayed publicly in our corporate worship with other believers, in His church, which is not a building, but all Christians making body parts to make His church whole. What a blessing to be a blessing to the people around us because our God has first blessed us privately with Him.

**2Chron 18 (7/31/23)**

1. In 18:1-27, why would Jehoshaphat want to ally himself with Ahab; what and why were the prophets saying what they did; how was Micaiah's message different and why; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 18:28-34, why did Ahab enter the battle in disguise; despite his sinfulness, why was Jehoshaphat saved; how and when did Ahab die; what do you learn?

- This chapter, starting with v. 1, it's very sad to read. Chapter 17 was filled with how well Jehoshaphat trusted and followed the Lord. Though his wealth and honor came from the Lord, we are told, "he allied himself with Ahab by marriage." When God gave him what he needed, he wanted more, and did it his way, under his power and control. Contentment under the sovereignty of God is a difficult balance to get. For many of us, the more we have, the more we want. But, that would also be true the other way, the less we have, the more we also want. Craving for more seems like our nature. Contentment under our God seems very against our nature. We saw that with Adam and Eve, when they should have been perfectly content in the Garden, when they thought more was offered, they couldn't refuse the offer, and they ate, wanting more than what God had given them. This is so applicable to me. What I have, where I am, does not always seem enough. Contentment is not always in my heart. I want more, I crave more. So, for all of us who are struggling, let's behold His word, and pray that we would humbly submit to His truthful loving word and not to our feeling, "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (1Tim 6:6).

### **2Chron 19 (8/1/23)**

1. In 19:1-3, who dared to rebuke the king for his sin and what sin did he commit; who is Jehu's father and what did he do to Jehoshaphat's father (2Chron 16:7-10); what do you learn and how is it applicable to you?
  2. In 19:4-11, where is Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and what happened there; what were God's people to do and not do and why; why would they need courage to do what; how is this applicable to you?
- In v. 11, Amariah the chief priest was to be over any matter concerning the Lord, and Zebadiah will be over any matter concerning the king. Surely, different laws and principles will apply to the matters of God's law and the king. Some may use this to say, separation of State and Religion. But, that would be a wrong application. Sure, the laws for the king and for God's law would differ in many places. But, as we can see, they are to be applied under God, to serve and worship Him. Both Amariah and Zebadiah were to submit before the king, who was to submit before the Lord. So, there's no separation between the two. There's a separate application in how to better serve our God, but both have the same one intention, and that was, to learn God's way and apply them for His glory, which will best bless His people.

### **2Chron 20 (8/2/23)**

1. In 20:1-19, in vv. 1-4, when Jehoshaphat heard that a vast army (trouble) was coming against him, what does he do and why would he do that; how did God respond; how did Jehoshaphat respond to God's response; how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 20:20-34, in vv. 20-22, how did the people march out to war (how crazy was that?); how did God give His people the victory; what does the Valley of Berakah mean and how did that continue even when they returned home to Jerusalem; how is this applicable to you?
- In v. 13, we are told, "All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord." It wasn't only the men, or just the adults, or even grown children, but clearly included were the little ones, who all together stood before the Lord to plead to their God for their nation. The little ones were not too young to be included standing before God.

May we not treat the little ones in our homes and in our church as if they do not belong in the standing before God. Let's learn to include them, to invite and encourage them, to assist and nurture them, so they would learn how to stand before God. As we know, the best way for adults to teach our children is not for us to merely teach with our words, but for our children to catch what's good before the Lord through our actions, so they can see and hear, how to rightly stand before our living God. Godly lessons should be caught as well as taught.

### **2Chron 21 (8/3/23)**

1. In 21:1-11, which son succeeded his father Jehoshaphat to the throne and what did he do when he established himself and why would he do that; whose example was he following and why; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 21:12-20, why was it unusual for the prophet Elijah to write a letter to the king of Judah and what did he say; how did the prophet's words become reality; how did the people feel about the king's passing away; who would regret your passing away; what do you think about heaven, do you believe you will be going there, why?

- In vv. 4-6, Jehoram does the unthinkable, he murders all of his younger brothers, in order to feel safer. Though none of his forefathers had ever felt the need to commit such evil, Jehoram did, because he was not following his father's line, but his wife's fathers line. As we will know in the next chapter, his wife Athaliah would commit the same evil act, "she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah" (2Chron 22:10). Husband and wife committing the same evil acts, just like Ahab and Jezebel did; oh, by the way, Athaliah was Ahab and Jezebel's daughter. But Jehoram's marriage to Athaliah was actually his father Jehoshaphat's sinfulness (2Chron 18:1). As wonderful Jehoshaphat was in most things, he sinned greatly by allying himself and marrying his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter, Athaliah. How frightening to see one sin can do so much evil and damage. As godly Jehoshaphat was, yet, his one sin produce so much evil and destruction. Oh Lord, do not leave us to act as we will; don't let us do what we think it's best. May we learn to look to You in all things, at all times, or otherwise, as we see here, one of my sin we can destroy and damage so much. Despite such evil, thank You Lord for taking up the cross for our sins. In You, we find our forgiveness; we find our cleansing; we find Your righteousness on us, despite our sins.

### **2Chron 22 (8/4/23)**

1. In 22:1-9, how did Jehoram's evil act returned to his own sons (21:4); how is Ahaziah's reign described; how were Ahaziah and Joram related; what were God's intention on both and why; what do you learn?
  2. In 22:2, 10-12, how is Athaliah related to everyone in this chapter; what did she copied from her husband's life; how was Jehosheba related to everyone, including Joash, how is this applicable to you?
- Wow, what an evil family. Jehoram murdered all of his younger brothers. His wife, Athaliah, encourages their only surviving son, Ahaziah, "to act wickedly." And when he dies, mom "proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah." This family learned, taught, and encouraged each other to do more evil. Perhaps, unknowingly and unintentionally, our families are learning and encouraging each other to do evil, whether by example or even through silence. Will you humbly pray to our God for Him to show you if your family is doing this? And more importantly, will you humbly pray that our God will bless each of your hearts to earnestly repent for the sins committed? God gifted us our families to bless each other to love

and to help each other to grow more in Christ-likeness and not to follow the ways of this world. Will you see what you and your family encourage each other to do more?

### **2Chron 23 (8/5/23)**

1. In 23:1-15, who led the way for Joash's kingship and why was that significant; how was the young king guarded; what was the irony of Athaliah cry's; what do you learn about your God and how does that impact you?
  2. In 23:16-21, when the people made a covenant with God, what did they tear them (how does that look in your life); who was prevented from entering into the Lord's temple (and what does that say about God and how can that be lived out in your life); why did the land rejoiced and the city become calm; how is this applicable to you?
- In v. 12, we have the first mention of Athaliah going to God's temple. Never did she bothered to go there before because she had no interest in God. Therefore, for six years, Jehosheba was able to unnoticeably keep the young baby king Joash safe in the temple. Sadly, Athaliah's first visit to God's temple would be her last visit anywhere. Sin dared to crawl out of her darkness into God's holiness, and she was found wanting. Thus, she received the wages of her sin, death. Of course, God could have executed her much sooner, because her sinfulness was apparent much earlier. But, in God's wisdom and timing, He waited to judge her until Joash would be seven years old and become the king from the line of David (2Chron 24:1). Like Moses and Jesus, Joash could have been executed in the massacre, but God's hand kept him safe, so out of one, many would be saved. God's way can be mysterious and puzzling for us. In our understanding, we can see an easier way. But, we also know, God is all wise; He is perfect; thus, His way is much higher than ours. So, when confusion and questions arise in our minds on God's way, we would do well to quiet our minds, and humbly and thankfully submit to our God, who always accomplishes all things for His glory, and in His glory, He lovingly incorporates all things to work out for the good of those who love Him. God's glory embraces our good, that's amazing. What a beautiful, loving, wise, and kind God we worship. PTL!

### **2Chron 24 (8/7/23)**

1. In 24:1-16, how were the lives of Joash and Jehoiada intertwined and why in such way; in v. 6, can you explain the conversation between these two men (2Kgs 12:6-8); how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 24:17-27, after the death of Jehoiada, what changed for Joash and why; who is Zechariah and why did the king treat him that way; in v. 24, how could such a small army defeat God's people and why; what do you learn?
- In v. 3, we are told, "Jehoiada chose two wives for him and he had sons and daughters." After all the royal family being slaughtered by his grandfather and grandmother, the line of David were on the edge of extinction. And to ensure the line continue, Jehoiada, the chief priest, does the prudent, the smart, the wise, the safe thing to do, and that is, he wants to make sure there are many more sons, which is why, two wives were chosen for young king Joash. As understandable this decision is, as wise as this decision seem to be, yet, God's order for marriage was one husband, one wife. God's word is not meant to be tweak according to the situation, even under dire and desperation situation. God's word is the authority; therefore, it must have the final say. If God could continue David's line with one baby survive the

massacre, then God does not need the safeguard of two wives to continue the genealogy. But, even the high priest can have his sense of discernment clouded because of the danger of the present reality. Let God be true, and every person (understanding, interpretation, wisdom, thought, feeling) a liar (whenever they should contradict God's word) (Rom 3:4). May we never stand above God's word. May our God bless us to always learn, our place is submission to God's truth, whatever the situation might seem to indicate, whatever the world's wisdom might declare, even if the best minds of this world should expertly instruct us differently—Let God be true, and everyone else, including the experts of this world, they are liars.

### **2Chron 25 (8/8/23)**

1. In 25:1-16, in v. 2, we are told, that Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not wholeheartedly, what does that look like for him and for you; in v. 15, why did the anger of the Lord burned against him; would there be anything in your life that would make our God this angry, and if there is, please make time to repent and turn to God by turning away from them?
  2. In 25:17-28, what should Amaziah's advisers advised; how was God working here and why; what did the king of Israel do in Jerusalem and why was that so sad; what do you learn?
- Let me share a note from my Bible notes—How did God judge the kings (25:2)?
  - What was right in the eyes of the Lord? Did God judge Amaziah for his personal piety or for his political policies? Although we can't know God's mind, the Chronicler seems to indicate a general principle: God doesn't separate the two; He sees public actions as external indicators of personal faith.
  - By and large, 1 and 2 Chronicles reveal that kings who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord demonstrated their faith by supporting temple worship, encouraging the priests and Levites, and opposing idol worship. Many of these faithful kings enjoyed the blessings of prosperity, fame and military victory.
  - On the other hand, kings who did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord neglected the temple and supported idol worship. Many of these unfaithful kings suffered the punishments of sickness and military defeat.
  - Although not every good king met with success and not every evil king met with failure, the Chronicler paid special attention to the good moments when kings turned to God and God responded with an outpouring of blessings.

### **2Chron 26 (8/9/23)**

1. In 26:1-15, Uzziah is compared to his father Amaziah and not David, what does that usually mean; why did Zechariah matter to King Uzziah and whose relationship was similar (24:2); how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 26:16-23, what happened when Uzziah became powerful and why (Deut 8:18; Jam 1:17); why would it be wrong for Uzziah to burn incense and why would he want to do that in the first place; why would it be courageous for the priests to confront the king; how is this applicable to you?
- In v. 5. we meet Zechariah. The Bible mentions 30 different men with the name Zechariah. The book of Zechariah was written by a prophet who lived 200 years after this Zechariah. Our Zechariah was a spiritual mentor to Uzziah, just as Jehoiada had earlier served Joash (24:2). And as in both cases, Uzziah and Joash lived faithfully before God, as long as they had these

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men counseling them. But, when their lives were no longer impacted by their spiritual mentors, these kings lost their way before God. Said it differently, they associated with bad company, which corrupted them (1Cor 15:33). May we learn from both sides of this relationship. Let's be careful from associating with bad characters, tempting us to fall away from the Lord. We must be careful to not let anyone influence us away from our Lord. On the other hand, may we be like the mentors, so that we can be the influence that impacts others (even those with bad characters) to love and walk faithfully with our Lord.

### **2Chron 27 (8/10/23)**

1. In 27, how was Jotham different than his father Uzziah and why was that important; how did the people continued in their corrupt practices and how could Jotham made a difference (2Kgs 15:35); how is this applicable to you?
2. In 27, why are we told Jotham grew powerful; what can you learn to help you be more steadfast in your walk with the Lord?

- Our Christian life is to walk nearer and dearer with our Lord, all the days our God would have us remain in this world. Enoch walked with His God for 300 years, when the people of his generation were not. Despite the lack of visible support, Elijah stood, walked, challenged, and ran with his Lord, when no one else appeared to be. And when all of His disciples fled, Jesus never left them, because even while we are being faithless, our God will always remain faithful. So, we can safely say, our perseverance can only be done, because He preserves us. And the better we see how He preserves us, the more grace we will find to persevere with Him, even when many around us do not desire to be near our God. I suppose the determining factor in our nearness walk with our Lord will be how dear is He to us, that is, is He our first and greatest love, so that whatever the challenge may be, still our greater delight will be to be near Him, because He is more dear to us than anything else in our lives. That is what I pray for Nadia and I and for God's people, that we would walk nearer and dearer with our Lord, because He truly is the first and greatest love of our lives, because He first loved us.

### **2Chron 28 (8/11/23)**

1. In 28, in what ways did Ahaz angered God; how did God treat Ahaz for all of his unfaithfulness and why would God treat him so; what do you learn?
2. In 28, who was Oded; how did Israel's soldiers respond to his message; how is this applicable to you?

- In this chapter, I find two fascinating facts. First, Ahaz would worship every possible gods he knew were available, except the one true God his father David worshiped. Every gods were desirable for him, except the one true God. I find something very similar today. Every religion seems acceptable and can be spoken of freely, except on the belief and virtues of Christianity. Secondly, though throughout their existence, Israel seemed to have failed to obey God at almost every turn, and yet, here, in our chapter, they do. They listened to God's message, and returned the people back to Judah in obedience to God's word. Wow, I don't believe they did that again. So, why this time? I am not sure, but thankful they did. People are strange; we are strange. We can be so consistently inconsistent. We really shouldn't trust ourselves too much. Let God be true and every person a liar, because we know, we are going to be faithless at times, perhaps, many times, but our God will never change, He alone will be consistently faithful at all times.

**2Chron 29 (8/12/23)**

1. In 29:1-19, though Hezekiah's father is Ahaz, why does God's word say his father is David; when did Hezekiah begin his reform and why did he want to do that; according to v. 19, can you explain the differences between faithfulness and unfaithfulness; how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 29:20-36, clearly King Hezekiah "orders" the people to worship, but unlike many people today who think an ordered worship would be disingenuous, with what kind of hearts do the leaders and people worship God; would you describe how you imagine this worship will look and sound; in light of such view, how can your worship look and sound more like that and what one change can you make for this Sunday's worship?
- In 29:31, we see Elizaphan's name. From vv. 12-14, I knew the other six names from the Levites, but not Elizaphan. So, I had to look up, and found him in Num 3:30-31. He was one of the leaders of the Kohathite clan, which meant, he should have been included in v. 12. But, he is given a special mentioned, because of his special service, which was, "they were responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use" (Num 3:31). His family was responsible for the most sacred duty, and they must have been faithful in God's eyes. Once again, many of us do not know who Elizaphan is, but our God does.

**2Chron 30 (8/14/23)**

1. In 30:1-12, who is Hezekiah inviting to the Passover celebration and why was this unusual; why was the celebration in the second month unusual and why was that necessary; how was the invitation received; how is this applicable to you?
  2. In 30:13-27, in vv. 13-14, in order to say "Yes" to God, what did they say "No" to; what was Hezekiah's prayer on behalf of the people and how did God answer his prayer; what was the mood of this celebration and why; what do you learn?
- Hezekiah's invitation for all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, is amazing. By now, these were two nations, at times, destroying each other like enemies. But, with the fall of the northern tribes, Israel to Assyria, Hezekiah's heart opens and longs for his "lost brothers," so to speak, and wants them to join in worshiping and serving our true God. It is not enough that his faith rested well in his God, but he wants to pull in his brothers who left a long time ago. God's grace is like that. It's never enough for me to be blessed. His grace always overflows to the people around us, even who are far, we want them to draw near. That is why, sharing for Christians is essential to our faith. It's never enough that "I" am blessed. His blessing must always overflow to those around us, and when our cup overflows, others will feel, will hear, and hopefully, will also experience with us, His abounding grace. So, let me encourage you, please share regularly His blessings to you with others, that they may also get a little taste of His goodness through you. Remember, through our sharing, we want others to hear and see how praise-worthy He truly is. May He always receive the glory!

**2Chron 31 (8/15/23)**

1. In 31:1-10, in v. 1, in order to say "Yes" to God, what did they destroyed and how would that look like in your life; in vv. 2-10, in order to say "Yes" to God, what did the king and the people do and how would that look in your life?
2. In 31:11-27, in vv. 11-15, who and why are these people recorded here; what was the relationship between God and Hezekiah; what do you learn about your God?

- In vv. 16-18, though the responsibility was given to the man alone, yet, the whole family, wives, sons, daughters and little ones, were all included and treated together. In God's eyes, the family is meant to be as one, just as the husband and wife is no longer two but one. As is with God, so we are to learn to think as one, the family, the married couple, the church, which is the body of Christ, are meant to function as one. God's people are to learn to think and see as our God sees. Sadly, we have learned too well the ways of this world, and too often we fight against God's way, when it should be the opposite, fighting the world's way in us that we have accepted, and keep God's way in us, even when we are more accustomed to the world's way. As Ambassadors of God's kingdom, may we learn better the ways of our homeland and unlearn the ways of this world that have seeped into our lives. Let's humbly pray and passionately seek to bring all of our family, spouses and children, to live as one for God's glory alone.

### **2Chron 32 (8/16/23)**

1. In 32:1-23, according to Sennacherib, how was Hezekiah misleading his people and why did he (and the people of the world would) think that; what did Hezekiah and Isaiah do and what was the result; how did God choose to reveal Himself here?
2. In 32:24-33, what did Hezekiah do when he became ill; why would he struggle when things went well; what lesson do you learn and how is this applicable to you?

- In v. 1, we are told, "After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah." We would think, if Hezekiah was so faithful, that God would prevent Sennacherib or any other kings to invade Judah. But, of course, God did the opposite. God allowed this Gentile king to come and attack Judah. Why does God allow "bad things to happen to His people"? We know, it is not for lack of power because our God has the almighty power to create the world even out of nothing, so to prevent a king to invade His people, would easily be done. Then, does God allow bad things to His people because He doesn't love as much as we hope He would? That would also be untrue, because He demonstrated how amazingly He loves His people, by sacrificing His own Son to purchase His people from our sin. So, if it is not a lack of power or love, then why does God allow bad-difficulties-pain-troubles into our lives? Again, it is not because He doesn't love us or is powerless against our troubles. But, God allows, so that through the troubles we would learn even more how much He loves us and can bless us, but only when we learn to turn and trust in Him alone. God wants us to see through our weakness and powerlessness, that we really are not able to care for ourselves properly, but He can, and He does, and He delights when His children turn and trust in our Father alone. That's what makes our faith in the object of our faith, in our God alone, so trustworthy and joyful. God wants us to be Him-dependent, and never independent.

### **2Chron 33 (8/17/23)**

1. In 33:1-13, what were the awful sins Manasseh committed and why; in v. 10, what did Manasseh and the people do with God's word and why; yet, what did God do when Manasseh in v. 13 and why; what do you learn about your God?
2. In 33:14-25, after finding favor with God, what did Manasseh do and why; in v. 17, what's wrong with this picture and why; what do we know about king Amon; how is this applicable to you?



- In v. 1, we are told that Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king. This means, he was born during the fifteen years of extension that his father, Hezekiah, received after his near death illness (2Kgs 20:1-6, 16-19). This extension was an answer to his prayer. And usually, answers to our prayers are great blessings. But, in this instance, though he received what he prayed for, I am of the opinion that that it was not good for his soul. In the account from 2Kings, we see that his heart becomes selfish, actually not caring for the harm that his careless act in showing his treasures to the Babylonian envoy will bring to his children, which turns out to be Manasseh. Hezekiah was one of the most godliest king Judah ever had, yet, in his desire for longer life, a good blessing became a curse for him and his children. This is frightening for me. To know, that a wonderful king can end so terribly. To know, a blessing can turn into a curse. To know, that a father's sinfulness can hurt his children so greatly. May we earnestly pray for humility, for acceptance of God's way over ours, for us to cling to our God closely, so we can walk faithfully with Him each day, until the final day.

### **2Chron 34 (8/18/23)**

1. In 34:1-13, Josiah became king at eight years old—so, how old would he be in the eighth year, twelfth year, and eighteenth year, and what happened on those years; in v. 6, what happened in these cities and why would that be significant; what do you learn?
  2. In 34:14-33, what did they find in the temple, what was the message, and what was their response; how did they “do” their commitment; can you think of a specific “doing” in your commitment that you may be simply hearing and not doing?
- In v. 2, we read, “He... followed the ways of his father, David...” Every king followed the ways of his father, which could be his immediate father or one of his ancestors, like David. But, everyone followed his father. That's what we always do. We always follow one father or another. And as we can easily see through these examples, which father we will follow determines how we will live. Many kings did just like their fathers, and worshiped idols. And other kings looked beyond their immediate father and looked to their ancestor father, David, who did not turn aside to the right or to the left in following his God. As we well know, this did not mean that David did not sin. But, we know, even in sin, he sought the Lord and repented. The question for us is twofold. Which father are we looking to follow? And can we be the kind of father that will point to the true Father, so everyone looking at us, can see we are pointing to Someone greater than us, to follow Him, neither “turning aside to the right or to the left”?

### **2Chron 35 (8/19/23)**

1. In 35:1-19, in v.1, why were these dates important and why were the dates different than Hezekiah (2Chron 30:2-3); in v. 3, what instruction did Josiah give to the Levites and why; what do you learn?
  2. In 35:20-27, what did Josiah do after setting the temple in order and why; why disguise himself to go to battle and who does he remind you of (2Chron 18:29-34); what do you learn about God and how is this applicable to you?
- In v. 19, we are told that the Passover was celebrated in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign. What was the significance of this date? From 2Chron 34:8, 14, we learn that in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, the Book of the Law was found. And reading God's word, the king and God's people learned more of God's way, which led them to celebrate God's deliverance over His people, on the month and day commanded. How beautiful to see God's word found, read,

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and obeyed as God had commanded. Remember, God's word was always in Israel. But, unfortunately, often neglected, not read, therefore, lost. Even in our homes, God's word may be there, but neglected, not read, lost in our hearts and decisions. As Josiah is doing today, God's word must be read and obeyed, celebrated and loved. Though it is not the only indicator, but a good indicator of God's nearness in our lives is how dear and near is God's word in our lives. May we NEVER stand above God's word for us to decide what we choose to accept to love and obey. Instead, may we ALWAYS humble ourselves and kneel before God's word and joyfully obey His word, because we believe our God who loves us so much that He would not withhold His Son from us, will always lovingly command what brings Him the glory and what blesses His people. Living for God's glory will always be our greatest blessing.

### **2Chron 36 (8/21/23)**

1. In 36:1-14, will you record the last four kings of Judah and how their kingship ended; in vv. 13-14, how were God's people described; what do you learn about God and about people and about yourself?
  2. In 36:15-23, how did God reach out to His people and how did they respond in vv. 15-16; what did God permit the enemy to do to His people and how is that explained according to v. 21; what is the final message of this book and why do you think God wants to end it in this way; what do you learn and how is it applicable to you?
- The fall of Jerusalem is complete destruction and absolutely miserable. The last four kings are immature and evil young men. Destruction, broken walls, looted temple treasures, and burned palaces were all there was. It surely was not a pretty sight. Reality was miserable and hopeless. But, God does not end this book with the present visible reality. He lifts up our eyes, and blesses us to see by faith, for the object of our faith says, "the land enjoyed its sabbath rests.... in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah." And then He introduces a man, who had no business with God's blessing, but He will be. God will use an unholy instrument it seems, to redeem His people, to return His people. But, not in the way they would imagine, but so different, so unbelievable. For God's way truly is unimaginable, incredible, mysterious, truly awe inspiring. So, this book ends and overflows unto the next, as God penned His words through Ezra with the conclusion of the records of the Chronicles. What an unlikely bridge. What looked unconnected, God connects. God's way is truly unimaginable. So, this hopeless conclusion is filled with so much hope and anticipation, and we will immediately see a bridge God laid down to connect His people into His redeeming grace. And if we can see even further down the road, the bridge from sin to God's holiness will be laid down by Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that we can enter into His righteousness. I pray that the sight of our present visible misery will never have the final say in our lives. May His truth be what we will see and behold by faith, faith in Him, faith in our God, who truly bridges and brings us across to His righteousness, even from our sinful depravity.