

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

by
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Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

**A study of the books of 1 & 2 Chronicles for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

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Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that covered the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 1

1 Chronicles 1:1-9:44

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles cover much of the history given in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. However, the purpose of the books of Chronicles is to teach certain lessons that are not mentioned in the other books. The books of Chronicles were written by the priests. As a result, they relate more to the spiritual parts of the history of Israel and Judah during this period. Our study today will be a study of many genealogies. At first these genealogies may not seem important. However, they become important when we realize that they were necessary so that the genealogy of Christ could be shown.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell how the family lines of Christ are explained.
- Explain what you learn about the tribes that lived east of the Jordan.
- Explain why the line of the priests is mentioned.
- Tell what we learn about the genealogies of the other tribes.

Today we will be studying nine chapters of genealogies. Each of these lists of genealogies is important. As we study these chapters, we will look for the purpose of each list of names. In the first chapter we begin with the very first man, Adam. The purpose of this list of names is to follow the line of Christ from the first man to the establishment of the nation of Israel. As we study this list, we also study the related families. Verses 5 through 23 give us the families of the three sons of Noah. All of the people of the world came from one of these three families. That is why it is important that each of these genealogies is included in this book.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 1:1-54 and write from which son of Noah the family of Abraham eventually came.
2. Explain why it was important for God to include various lists of genealogies in the Bible.
3. Explain why you think that was important for God to include the genealogies of the three sons of Noah in this book.

The genealogy of the family of Shem brings us to Abraham. We know that the nation of Israel came through the family of Isaac so the families of Ishmael and the sons of Keturah are only mentioned briefly to show how their families were related to the nation of Israel. Isaac had two sons. Jacob (Israel) was the son from which the nation of Israel came. Beginning with chapter two, the remaining chapters of genealogies will all cover the nation of Israel. However, chapter one concludes by giving the genealogy of the family of Esau and then the names of the early kings of the nation that came from the family of Esau. This information in this list is to help us understand another of the families that is related to the nation of Israel.

4. Read 1 Chronicles 1:1-54 and write the name of the nation that came from Esau and his family.
5. Explain why it is important to understand the various families that are related to the nation of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that God chose to give Abraham other children in addition to Isaac since the promise of Christ would be carried through Isaac.

As we begin chapter two, we return to the family of Jacob, the other son of Isaac. Jacob had twelve sons. It was from these sons that the various tribes of Israel came. One of the sons of Jacob was Judah. It was from the family of Judah that Christ came. As a result, we have the line of Christ from Judah to David because David was the second king of Israel. Keep in mind that the purpose of all of these genealogies is to help us learn more about the family of Christ. Since David was promised that One from his family would rule forever, this chapter shows us

part of the family line from which Christ came. As we look at this family line, we are reminded of some of the individuals that are included in the family line of Christ. One of those mentioned is Tamar. She is one of the four women mentioned in the in the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1.

7. Read 1 Chronicles 2:1-55 and write the name of the first son of Hezron that is mentioned.

8. Explain why the fact that David was promised that one would come from his family that would rule forever is important.

9. Explain why you think that Tamar is one of the few women that is mentioned in the family line of Christ.

As we study the family line of Caleb, we come to the name of a man by the name of Bezalel. Bezalel was a very important man in the family line of the tribe of Judah. He was the man that God appointed and filled with wisdom to build the tabernacle and its furniture when the Lord gave instructions for the building of the tabernacle to Moses. Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God and was able to design each part of the tabernacle exactly as God told him to do. As a result, we see that the Old Testament tabernacle was built according to the plan that the Lord showed to Moses in the mountain.

10. Read 1 Chronicles 2:1-55 and write the name of the father of Caleb.

11. Explain why it was important that God filled Bezalel with His Spirit and gave him wisdom to build the tabernacle and the furniture in it.

12. Explain what lessons you learn from the genealogies that are given in the first two chapters of this book.

As we come to chapter three, we return to the family of David. This family is very important for another reason in addition to the fact that Christ came from this family. It was from the family of David that all of the kings of Judah after David came. As a result, this genealogy is also the family line of the kings of Judah. This list covers the period from the time of David to the time that the people of Judah were taken away from their own land to the land of Babylon. One of the kings of Judah was taken as a captive to the land of Babylon. The family that came from that king is also listed.

13. Read 1 Chronicles 3:1-24 and write the name of the king that is called the captive.

14. Explain why it is important to understand that all of the kings that ruled the land of Judah came from the family of David.

15. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that Christ came from a family that included many kings.

We go on to study about some of the rest of the family of Judah. As we study this family line, we meet a man by the name of Jabez. We read that he was much more honorable than his brothers because he feared God. Jabez prayed to the Lord. In his prayer he asked the Lord to keep him from evil. The Lord heard the prayer of Jabez and blessed him because he served the Lord and honored him. Here we have an example of the importance of praying and asking the Lord to keep us from evil. This is the only way that we will have victory over temptation.

16. Read 1 Chronicles 4:1-43 and write the name of the second son of Jacob that is mentioned.

17. Explain why the Lord is able to use the people that fear Him in a great way to carry out the work of the Lord.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to pray and ask the Lord to keep you from evil.

As we come to the family of Simeon, we learn several things about this family. First we learn that the family of Simeon did not grow and increase like the family of Judah. In Genesis 49 God had given a prophecy that the tribe that came from Simeon would be scattered among the other tribes. This was the reason that the tribe of Simeon did not increase as rapidly. The tribe of Simeon also found rich pasture lands for their cattle. Then we read that they destroyed the

Amalekites that lived in the area where they found this rich pasture land.

19. Read 1 Chronicles 4:1-43 and write what city the descendants of Simeon killed to get this rich pasture land for their cattle.

20. Explain why the Lord chose to bless the family of Judah in a much greater way than He blessed the family of Simeon.

21. Explain the most important lesson that you have learned from the genealogies in chapters three and four.

The genealogy of Reuben is mentioned next. Reuben was the oldest son of Jacob and normally would have been the son that received the birthright. However, Reuben had sexual relationships with one of the concubines of his father. As a result, the birthright was given to the sons of Joseph rather than to the family of Reuben. The tribe of Judah became the family from which the kings of Judah came. The family of Reuben missed both the blessing and the birthright because of the sin of Reuben. This reminds us again of the high cost of sin. The sin of Reuben affected the entire history of his family and caused them to miss some of the blessings of the Lord.

22. Read 1 Chronicles 5:1-26 and write where the tribe of Reuben received the land that it received as an inheritance.

23. Explain the consequences of the sin of Reuben for his family and their descendants.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to realize that sin can affect the future history of a family.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad and one half of the tribe of Manasseh all received their inheritance and lived on the east side of the Jordan River. These men were skillful fighters. One day they fought against the Hagrites. This group of people descended from Ishmael. God gave the two and a half tribes a great victory because the Lord fought for them. God gave them this great victory because the people put their trust in Him. Later these tribes turned away from the Lord and began to follow idols. As a result, it became necessary for God to judge these tribes. God used a very powerful nation to carry them away as captives.

25. Read 1 Chronicles 5:1-26 and write the name of the nation that captured the two and a half tribes and took them to another land.

26. Explain why it is important to realize that the reason the two and a half tribes won a great victory was due to the fact that the Lord fought for them.

27. Explain why you think that these same tribes were later judged because they turned away from the Lord and followed idols.

The priests were to be the spiritual leaders of the nation of Israel. As a result, the genealogy of the tribe of Levi was very important. Otherwise it would have been possible for a man to claim to be a priest even though he did not meet the qualifications. There were also three men that served as choir leaders at the time that Solomon built the temple. The genealogies of these three men show that they came from the three sons of Levi so we see that God provided leaders of the choir from each of the different families of Levi. We are also given a list of the cities that were given to the Levites as their cities were scattered throughout the other tribes.

28. Read 1 Chronicles 6:1-81 and write the names of the three choir leaders during the time of Solomon that came from the family of Levi.

29. Explain why God chose to include a choir leader from each of the three families that descended from Levi.

30. Explain the most important lesson that you learned from chapters five and six.

The genealogies of several of the other tribes of Israel are also mentioned. Six different tribes are mentioned in chapter seven. The men of the tribe of Issachar were known for their great military strength because they were men of great courage. The reason why it was necessary to have the genealogies of each tribe was to show the family lines so that the people could prove that they had a right to inherit the land that had belonged to their fathers. God had said that the

land was to remain a permanent possession of the family to which that land was originally given. The genealogies made it possible for each family to show their family line.

31. Read 1 Chronicles 7:1-40 and write the name of the tribe of Israel that is mentioned last in this chapter.

32. Explain why the men of the tribe of Issachar were known for their great military strength.

33. Explain why you think that God wanted the people of Israel to have the land as a permanent family possession.

The first king of Israel was Saul. He came from the tribe of Benjamin. As a result, we are given a more complete list of the genealogy of the tribe of Benjamin. The names of the heads of all of the different families in the tribe of Benjamin are given. Then we are given the genealogy of the family of Saul. This list of the genealogy of the family of Saul includes those who lived before Saul as well as his descendants. Even though Saul and three of his sons were killed on the battle field, the family was not completely destroyed. This was due to the fact that God showed kindness to the family of Saul even though it was necessary to judge Saul for his sins.

34. Read 1 Chronicles 8:1-40 and write the name of the father of Saul.

35. Explain why God showed kindness to the family of Saul even though it was necessary for God to judge Saul for his sins.

36. Explain why you think that God chose to have the first king of Israel come from the tribe of Benjamin.

During the time that David was the king of Israel, he made Jerusalem the capital of the land of Israel. When Israel and Judah divided and became two separate countries, Jerusalem became the capital of Judah because that city belonged to the tribe of Judah. Because the city of Jerusalem was the capital city of the country, there were also many people that lived in the city of Jerusalem that were not from the tribe of Judah. This was particularly true after Israel and Judah divided into two nations. Some of the people of each of the tribes of Israel that served the Lord made the choice to move to Judah and the city of Jerusalem so that they could continue to serve the Lord.

37. Read 1 Chronicles 9:1-44 and write what this chapter says about the relationship of Phinehas to the Lord.

38. Explain why some of the people of the other tribes decided to move to the city of Jerusalem when Israel and Judah divided into two nations.

39. Explain the most important lesson that you learned for your own life from chapters seven through nine.

Among the families from the northern tribes that settled within the city of Jerusalem, there were families from at least the following tribes: Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh and Levi. There were many Levites in Jerusalem because that was the city where Solomon built the temple and the Levites helped in the care of the temple. The temple was large and it took many Levites to take care of it. In addition to the priests that offered the sacrifices, there were also many Levites with other responsibilities. As we study these responsibilities, we see that the responsibilities were divided so that no one had more than he could handle.

40. Read 1 Chronicles 9:1-44 and write the family of Levites that prepared the showbread for the temple each week.

41. Explain why it was important for many Levites to move to the city of Jerusalem once the temple was built.

42. Explain why you think that some of the families from the northern tribes chose to move to Judah when Israel and Judah divided into two nations.

Now reread 1 Chronicles 1:1-9:44 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 2
1 Chronicles 10:1-13:14

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles also tell us about certain events that happened in the lives of the kings of Israel and Judah. Some of these things were mentioned in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel or 1 and 2 Kings. Today we will be studying about the death of Saul as well as several events that happened in the life of David. As we study the life of David, we will learn an important lesson about love. We will also learn what happened when David did the right thing in the wrong way. This is a reminder of the fact that we are to do the work of the Lord in the way that the Lord shows us to do His work.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the death of Saul.
- Explain how three men showed their love for David.
- Tell about the men that recognized David as their king.
- Explain the results of doing the right thing in the wrong way.

As you remember from our study of 1 Samuel, God had said that Saul would be removed from being the king of Israel because he disobeyed God and did not ask God to forgive his sin. In this chapter we have some additional details about the death of Saul. Israel and the Philistines were fighting together. However, Israel fled from the Philistines because Saul and the army of Israel were not depending on the Lord for their strength. First the Philistines killed the three sons of Saul. Then the Philistines hit Saul with an arrow and gave him a very serious wound. Saul realized that he could not escape and so he asked his armor-bearer to kill him so that the Philistines could not abuse him. However, the armor-bearer would not kill him.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 10:1-14 and write what Saul did because his armor-bearer would not kill him.
2. Explain why Saul and the army of Israel were unable to stand strong and fight against the Philistines.
3. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to realize that you cannot do the work of the Lord in your own strength.

The Philistines won a great victory that day. When the men of Israel saw that Saul and his sons were dead, they ran to escape from the Philistines. The people of Israel also left their cities and the Philistines went and took possession of their cities. The next day the Philistines went out to take the possessions of the dead soldiers. There they discovered the bodies of Saul and his sons. Then the Philistines cut off the head of Saul and took off his armor. The Philistines were filled with joy because they had defeated Saul. They hung the armor of Saul and his head in the house of their gods because they thought their gods were more powerful.

4. Read 1 Chronicles 10:1-14 and write the name of city whose men came and got the bodies of Saul and his sons and buried them.
5. Explain why the Philistines thought that their false gods had given them victory over Saul and the army of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that the Philistines placed the armor of Saul and the head of Saul in the house of their gods.

The men of Jabesh Gilead showed great courage by going and taking the bodies of Saul and his

sons from the Philistines. They remembered how Saul had protected them at an earlier time. We are also given the reasons why Saul lost the kingdom of Israel so that his family did not continue to serve as the kings of Israel. First Saul disobeyed the commandments of the Lord and failed to admit that he had sinned and done wrong. Then Saul went to a medium for advice. God considered these two sins terrible enough that God killed Saul. Today many people are trying to learn about the future through horoscopes, mediums, fortune tellers and others that do what they do through demonic power. Such people are on dangerous ground because they are playing with death.

7. Read 1 Chronicles 10:1-14 and write where the men of Jabesh Gilead buried the bodies of Saul and his sons.

8. Explain why people are placing their lives in danger when they seek counsel and advice from those who seek to tell the future through demonic power.

9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the choices that led to the death of Saul.

After the death of Saul, the people of Israel all went down to Hebron to ask David to be their king. They chose David for several reasons. He was a man from their own nation. He had led the army of Israel even during part of the time that Saul was the king. However, although the people did not know it, the most important reason that they chose David to be their king was because of the fact that God had chosen him. God had told David that he would one day become the king and would feed the people. It was for all of these reasons that the leaders of Israel came to Hebron and asked David to be their king. Then these men anointed David as their king exactly as Samuel had prophesied when he anointed David to be the king.

10. Read 1 Chronicles 11:1-47 and write the name of the city to which David and the men of Israel went after David was anointed as the king.

11. Explain why the people of Israel chose David to be their king after the death of Saul and his sons.

12. Explain what you think the Lord meant when He said that David would become the king and would feed the people.

At the time that David became the king of Israel, the city of Jerusalem was still controlled by the Jebusites. The Jebusites told David that he would not capture their city. However, David captured Zion. That was the stronghold of the Jebusites on the eastern hill of Jerusalem. Then David said that the man that destroyed the Jebusites first would become the leader of the army. Joab was the first to destroy the Jebusites and so he became the leader of the army. Then David made Jerusalem the capital city of the nation of Israel. During this time the city was also built up and strengthened.

13. Read 1 Chronicles 11:1-47 and write how David grew stronger and stronger.

14. Explain why the Jebusites thought that David would not be able to conquer their city.

15. Explain why you think that David chose to make Jerusalem the capital city of Israel after he had conquered the city.

David had a group of men that he gathered around him that were very strong and powerful. These were the men that had helped David become king and capture the city of Jerusalem. During this time the Philistines had captured the city of Bethlehem where David had lived as a boy. One day David said that he wished that he had a cup of the water of Bethlehem. Three of the mighty men of David heard his words and broke through the army of the Philistines to get David some water from Bethlehem. Then they brought the water to David.

16. Read 1 Chronicles 11:1-47 and write what David did with the water of Bethlehem instead of drink it.

17. Explain why a group of mighty men gathered around David and recognized him as their leader.

18. Explain why these three mighty men were willing to go through the army of the Philistines

to get David some water from the well of Bethlehem.

There was a reason why David refused to drink the water of Bethlehem. The three men had risked their lives in order to get that water from Bethlehem. That water could have cost them their lives. David felt that this water should be given to the Lord because of the fact that these men had risked their lives to get the water. David did not feel that he deserved the water after these men had risked their lives to get it. As a result, David chose to pour the water out before the Lord instead of drinking it himself. Here we see that David placed a very high value on the lives of the men that served him and had risked their lives to get the water.

19. Read 1 Chronicles 11:1-47 and write the name of the leader of these three men that got the water for David.

20. Explain how David showed those three men that he placed a very high value on their lives after they got him the water from the well of Bethlehem.

21. Explain in your own words what you think that David poured this water out as an offering to the Lord.

We also read about a few of the things that some of the other mighty men of David did that caused them to be recognized as mighty men. In addition, we read about some of the men that came to David while Saul was still the king of Israel. Some of the men that came to David could use either hand to throw stones or shoot arrows. We read that some of the men from the tribe of Gad also came and joined David and his men. These men were also leaders and great soldiers. One of the things that they could do was run very fast. In addition to these men, there were also some men that came to David from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah.

22. Read 1 Chronicles 12:1-40 and write what David did when he heard that these men were coming to him.

23. Explain why it was a great advantage to have some soldiers that could throw stones or shoot arrows with either hand.

24. Explain why you think that part of these mighty men followed David even before he became the king of Israel.

David wanted to know if these men from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah were coming to help him or if they were coming to betray David to Saul. David knew that he was innocent and warned these men that God would judge them if they betrayed him. However, the leaders of these men said that they knew that God was with David and that the Lord was helping him. We also read that some of the leaders of the tribe of Manasseh came to David and became a part of the group of men with David. Here we see that many of the leaders from several different tribes of Israel came to David and joined him. This continued to happen and the number of men with David increased.

25. Read 1 Chronicles 12:1-40 and write how the size of this group of men with David is described.

26. Explain why these men chose to recognize David as their leader even though Saul was still the king of Israel.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord brought people of different tribes to join David when Saul was the king.

This helps us to understand the reason why the family of Saul was not able to maintain their control over the nation of Israel after the death of Saul. The leaders of most of the tribes were following David. As a result, these leaders had a great influence on all of the people of their tribes. This gives us an example of the importance of training leaders. A godly leader will be leading others to the Lord. The more people that are trained and shown how to become leaders, the greater will be the influence of that group on all of the other people. As a result, godly leaders will be a very effective in helping those that follow them learn to serve the Lord.

28. Read 1 Chronicles 12:1-40 and write what these verses tell us about the men that joined

David from the tribe of Issachar.

29. Explain how this group of leaders that gathered around David affected his leadership of the entire nation of Israel.

30. Explain why it is very important for any leader of the Lord to gather a group of men and train them to be effective leaders of others.

As we read about the men of the various tribes that came to David, we see things about the lives of these various men that give us examples for our own lives. The men of Issachar are described as men that had an understanding of the times and knew what Israel ought to do. Here we see a key characteristic of effective leaders. They both understand the time in which they are living and also know how to lead effectively in that time. The men of Zebulun were described as men that could keep rank and did not have a double heart. We see that these men are all described as men that had a perfect heart and came with one heart to make David their king. When the hearts of people are right with God, they will know and understand the will of God.

31. Read 1 Chronicles 12:1-40 and write what there was throughout the land of Israel when David became the king.

32. Explain why it is a key characteristic of effective leaders to understand the times and to know what to do in those times.

33. Explain why you think that people will be more effective in their service for the Lord if they have a perfect heart.

This passage also shows that David had the qualifications of a real leader. Instead of making all of the decisions himself, he gathered all of the leaders of Israel to talk about bringing the ark back to the tabernacle. After talking together, all of the leaders of Israel agreed that it would be good to bring the ark back where it belonged. Then the entire nation of Israel gathered together to bring the ark back to the place where the tabernacle was located. Because the people had helped to make the decision, they all wanted to go along to bring the ark to Jerusalem. The ark was at a place called Kirjath Jearim.

34. Read 1 Chronicles 13:1-14 and write how they started to carry the ark back to Jerusalem at first.

35. Explain why it was important for David to gather all of the leaders of Israel to talk about bringing the ark back to the tabernacle.

36. Explain why you think that people will be more effective in their leadership if they are involved in the planning and decision making.

The people were doing the right thing. It was the plan of God to have the ark at the tabernacle. However, they were doing the right thing in the wrong way. When the ark was moved, it was to be carried on the shoulders of the priests. Instead of carrying the ark on the shoulders of the priests, David and the rest of the people had placed the ark in a cart. Suddenly the oxen stumbled and the driver reached out to hold the ark to keep the ark from sliding off of the cart. Immediately God struck Uzza dead because he had touched the ark.

37. Read 1 Chronicles 13:1-14 and write where David placed the ark when Uzza was killed.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of doing the right thing in the wrong way.

39. Explain why you think that many people today are trying to do the work of the Lord in their own way instead of seeking guidance from the Word of God.

Suddenly the joy of the people was turned to fear as they saw Uzza die. They had just seen the judgment of God because Uzza had touched the ark. David was also filled with fear and was afraid to bring the ark any further. He was afraid that the Lord might bring greater judgment on the people if they continued on their way. Instead they carried the ark to house of a man by the name of Obed-Edom. The ark remained at the house of Obed-Edom for three months. During that time the Lord was working in the family and blessed the household of Obed-Edom.

40. Read 1 Chronicles 13:1-14 and write what the Lord did to Obed-Edom while the ark was at

his house.

41. Explain why the Lord blessed the household of Obed-Edom during the time that the ark was at his house.

42. Explain why you think that David and the people were filled with fear when they saw the judgment of God on Uzza.

Now reread 1 Chronicles 10:1-13:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

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Lesson 3

1 Chronicles 14:1-17:27

Today we will be studying about several of the things that happened during the time that David was the king of the nation of Israel. In our last lesson we learned that a man lost his life because David and the people of Israel were doing the right thing in the wrong way. They were carrying the ark on a cart instead of carrying it on the shoulders of the priests. Today we will learn about the great rejoicing that happened in Israel when the people did the right thing in the right way. David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem exactly as God had said that it should be carried.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how the Lord blessed David when he was the king.

Explain how the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem.

Tell about the thanksgiving and worship when the ark reached Jerusalem.

Explain the covenant that God made with David.

After David became the king of Israel, the king of Tyre sent messengers to David. These men said that the king of Tyre would be glad to help David build a house for himself. King Hiram of Tyre supplied the timbers and the workers to build that house for David. This was an additional sign to David that the Lord had chosen him to be the king of Israel. The Lord also caused the kingdom of Israel to be recognized by the people of other nations. After David became the king of Israel, he also took some additional wives. As a result, the Lord also increased the number of children that David had after he came to Jerusalem. The Lord was blessing David in many different ways.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 14:1-17 and write who came to fight against Israel after they heard that David had become the king of Israel.
2. Explain why the fact that the Lord caused the people of other nations to recognize Israel was an encouragement to David.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to bless David in many different ways.

David teaches us a key lesson in this passage. Instead of fighting in his own strength, David prayed to the Lord and asked the Lord whether he should go and fight against the Philistines. The Lord told David to go and fight. The Lord also promised that the army of Israel would defeat the Philistines. That day Israel won a great victory over the Philistines. David gave all of the credit for the victory to the Lord. The Philistines left so fast to escape the army of Israel that they left their false gods on the battle field. Then David burned these idols so that none of the people of Israel would be tempted to keep them. Otherwise David knew that their families might one day start to worship these false gods.

4. Read 1 Chronicles 14:1-17 and write what the Lord told David to do the next time that the Philistines came to fight against Israel.
5. Explain why David felt that it was important to burn the idols that the Philistines had left on the battle field.
6. Explain why you think that David prayed to the Lord and asked the Lord whether he should go and fight against the Philistines.

The Lord told David to do a very different thing the next time he fought the Philistines. Instead of coming straight against the army of the Philistines, David was told to circle around the Philistines and wait for them in the mulberry trees. Then David was to wait until he heard the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees. The reason that David was to wait until he

heard this sound was due to the fact that God was going to go ahead of the army of Israel. Because David obeyed the commandment of the Lord, God gave Israel a great victory that day. The Philistines ran for their lives and many of them were killed as they ran. As a result, the people of the surrounding nations became afraid of David.

7. Read 1 Chronicles 14:1-17 and write who caused the leaders of the nations to fear David.

8. Explain why David was to wait and let God go ahead of the army of Israel when Israel fought against the Philistines.

9. Explain what lessons you learn for you own life from the way that God fought for Israel in these verses.

Meanwhile David had not forgotten about the Ark of the Covenant. He set up a tent where the ark could be kept. Then David studied the Scriptures and learned that the ark was to be carried by the Levites. When we study the Word of God, we will learn to do the right thing in the right way. David said that no one was to carry the Ark of the Covenant except the Levites. Then David gathered all Israel together again to bring the ark to Jerusalem. David called the men that were the leaders of the Levites and instructed these men to cleanse themselves so that they would be prepared to carry the ark. David did not want judgment to come from the Lord again.

10. Read 1 Chronicles 15:1-29 and write how the Levites carried the ark this time as they brought the ark to Jerusalem.

11. Explain why it was important for David to study the Word of God to learn the right way to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

12. Explain why you think that David realized that it was important for him to both do the right thing and also do it in the right way.

Here we see that the Levites were carrying the ark exactly as God had commanded Moses about the way that the Ark of the Covenant should be carried. In addition, David instructed the leaders of the Levites to choose men to sing and play instruments as the ark moved toward the city of Jerusalem. The purpose of these singers and players of instruments was to lead the people in joyful worship as the ark moved toward Jerusalem. This was to be a day of great joy and rejoicing as the people brought the Ark of the Covenant to the city of Jerusalem.

13. Read 1 Chronicles 15:1-29 and write who helped the Levites as they carried the ark to Jerusalem.

14. Explain why the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant to the city of Jerusalem was a time of great joy and rejoicing for the people of Israel.

15. Explain why you think that David chose singers and players of instruments to lead the people in joyful worship as the people expressed their joy to the Lord.

God also helps those who obey and serve Him. Here the people had chosen to obey the Lord and the Lord blessed them as they prepared to bring the ark to Jerusalem. Before the ark was taken to Jerusalem, the priests offered sacrifices to the Lord. All of the people of Israel were filled with joy as they brought the ark back to Jerusalem. The people were shouting as the Levites played their instruments. The people all joined in this time of rejoicing because they were bringing back the ark. David showed his joy by dancing in front of the ark as it entered the city.

16. Read 1 Chronicles 15:1-29 and write how Michal felt when she saw David dancing in front of the ark.

17. Explain why the people were filled with joy as they returned the ark to the city of Jerusalem.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord will also cause your life to be filled with joy as you obey and serve the Lord.

When the people reached the city of Jerusalem, they placed the ark in the tent that had been prepared for it. Then they offered sacrifices to the Lord. In order to show his personal joy,

David blessed all of the people and gave them a gift of food. David also appointed some of the Levites to be responsible for the ark and care for it. These men were to offer praise to the Lord. The Levites played several different instruments as they offered their praises to the Lord. David also wrote a psalm of praise to the Lord to celebrate this special event.

19. Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-43 and write to whom David gave this psalm that he had written.

20. Explain why the people also offered sacrifices to the Lord to express their praise and joy to the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that David wrote a special psalm of praise to the Lord to celebrate the bringing of the ark to Jerusalem.

As we read the psalm that David wrote, we are constantly reminded of the greatness of the Lord. God is the One that has done great deeds. He is the One that fills our lives with joy. He is the One that provides strength. The Lord is also the One that chose the nation of Israel. God is the One that exercises judgment throughout the entire earth. Because the Lord chose Israel, He made a covenant with Abraham. This covenant is an everlasting covenant. It was made with Abraham when the people were few in number. This covenant was also made when the people had not yet possessed the land but were still traveling from nation to nation.

22. Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-43 and write what the Lord did to the other nations for the sake of Israel.

23. Explain why David expressed his thoughts about the greatness of the Lord and focused on what the Lord had done.

24. Explain why you think that we need to regularly remind ourselves of the greatness of the Lord so that we will not be tempted to depend on our own strength.

God watched over His people. He protected them from the people and the kings of the other nations. Then we are given a comparison of God and idols. God made the heavens and no idols can be compared with Him because idols are the result of the works of men. The Lord is the Creator but idols have been created by man. That is the reason why all glory and honor should be given to the Lord. The Lord is the ruler over all things. He is the One that causes the fields and the trees to produce their harvest. Even these created things will rejoice when the Lord comes to judge the earth. This is why no idols can be compared to Him.

25. Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-43 and write why we are to give thanks to the Lord.

26. Explain why it is important for people to realize that no idol can be compared to the greatness of God.

27. Explain why you think that the things that the Lord has created will rejoice when the Lord comes to judge the earth.

In addition to all of the things that God has created, He is also the One that has provided salvation. This is another reason why we should want to give thanks to the Lord. When the psalm of David was completed, all of the people praised the Lord. Then the Levites that were singers were instructed to remain with the ark in Jerusalem while the priests returned to the altar at Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Here we see that the ark and the rest of the tabernacle were separated. This caused confusion in the worship of Israel until the building of the temple in the city of Jerusalem. Then the ark was placed in the temple.

28. Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-43 and write what David did after all of the people had left to return to their own homes.

29. Explain what this psalm of David teaches about the greatness of the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that David mentioned in this psalm that the Lord is the One that has provided salvation.

One day David called for Nathan, the prophet. David told Nathan that he wanted to build a temple for the Lord. David realized that he was living in a beautiful house while the ark of God was in a tent. Nathan quickly responded to the statement that David had made. Nathan told

David to go ahead and do whatever he desired. However, the Lord later spoke to Nathan and gave him a message for David. The Lord said that David was not the person that should build the temple. For more than four hundred years none of the people had even thought of building a house for the Lord.

31. Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-27 and write where the ark had been kept throughout this period of time.

32. Explain why Nathan was quick to tell David to do what he desired and build a house to the Lord before he asked the Lord if that was His plan.

33. Explain why you think that none of the earlier leaders of Israel had even thought about building a house for the Lord.

The ark had never had a permanent place to dwell but had gone from one place to another. Then the Lord went on to tell about the way that He had chosen David. At the time that David was chosen to be the king of Israel, he was caring for the sheep. God was with David wherever he went. The Lord had given David victory over all of his enemies. God had given David a great name so that he was recognized and honored by many other nations. In addition, God had also promised that the nation of Israel would one day no longer be bothered by the wicked people of the other nations. The Lord said that He would subdue all of the enemies.

34. Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-27 and write what the Lord promised to build David instead of David building a house for the Lord.

35. Explain why the Lord said that He had chosen David and gone with David wherever David went.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord had given David victory over all of the enemies that came against him.

Here we come to the covenant that the Lord made with David. In this covenant the Lord promised to do several things for David and his family. God promised to keep the kingdom in the family of David. In fact, the Lord said that David and his descendants would have an everlasting kingdom. This was a promise that Christ would come from the family of David and would rule forever. God promised that the kingdom would never be taken from David as it had been taken from Saul. Instead it would be a kingdom that would be established forever.

37. Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-27 and write what David did when he heard the words that the Lord had given Nathan to speak to him.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the covenant that the Lord made with David and his descendants.

39. Explain why it is important to understand and explain to others that Christ is the One that will fulfill the promise that David would have an everlasting kingdom.

When David heard the words of the Lord, he was filled with amazement. He recognized that God was making a very great promise. At the same time he felt that he was nothing. Then David thanked the Lord for this great promise that the Lord would bring blessing both to him and to the entire nation of Israel. David told the Lord to do as He had promised so that the name of the Lord would be magnified. The Lord had done such great things for David that David could not help but pray to the Lord and thank the Lord for the promises that He had given. Here we see that the Lord is the One that does all things and for that reason He is the One that deserves all praise and glory.

40. Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-27 and write how long David said that the blessing that the Lord had promised would last.

41. Explain why the response of David was to thank the Lord and express his desire that the name of the Lord would be magnified.

42. Explain why you think that David was so amazed when he heard the promise that the Lord had made to him.

Now reread 1 Chronicles 14:1-17:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 4

1 Chronicles 18:1-21:30

In our last lesson we learned that the Lord made a covenant with David. In that covenant the Lord promised that the throne of David would be established forever. That promise will be fulfilled in Christ. The Lord continued to bless David in other ways after that time. As a result, the kingdom of David continued to grow and increase. In our lesson today we will read about several of the nations that the army of Israel defeated while David was the king of Israel. However, these victories also caused David to sin. One day David decided to learn how many men there were in Israel that could fight. This pride of David brought judgment.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell how the Lord blessed the kingdom of David.
- Explain why the Ammonites fought against David.
- Tell about a battle between Israel and the Philistines.
- Explain why David counted the people of Israel.

One of the nations that fought against the nation of Israel many times was the Philistines. The Philistines lived next to the nation of Israel and took every opportunity to fight against Israel. During the time of David, he fought against the Philistines and captured part of their cities. Gath and the surrounding towns became a part of the nation of Israel. There were also many other nations that fought against David during the time that he was the king of Israel. The Lord was with David and gave David victory over these nations. The people of Moab became the servants of David and paid taxes to him each year. David also defeated the king of Zobah.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 18:1-17 and write how far David went to establish his kingdom when he won this victory over Zobah.
2. Explain why the Philistines took every opportunity to fight against the nation of Israel.
3. Explain why you think that many nations want to make war against other nations even at times when those nations have done nothing wrong.

Zobah had been a very powerful city. The army of Zobah had a thousand chariots. These chariots were captured or destroyed along with twenty-seven thousand soldiers of Zobah. The Syrians heard that David was defeating Zobah and came to help the army of Zobah. However, twenty-two thousand men from the army of Syria were also destroyed. Then the people of Syria also became the servants of David. David placed forts in the land of Syria and the people of Syria brought him taxes each year. The land of Zobah had much gold and bronze that was captured and placed in the treasury of Jerusalem. One day a young man came to congratulate David on his victory over Zobah.

4. Read 1 Chronicles 18:1-17 and write the name of the father of this young man that came to visit David.
5. Explain why the army of Zobah was not able to defeat David and the army of Israel even though they had many war chariots.
6. Explain why you think that the Syrians chose to bring their army and join Zobah to fight against Israel.

The king of Zobah had fought against the king of Hamath many times. As a result, the king of Hamath was very happy when David defeated the army of Zobah. To show his thanks to David, the king of Hamath sent his son to David with large gifts of gold, silver and bronze. The army of David also defeated Edom. We also read the reason why the Lord gave David victory over all of his enemies. We read that David ruled with justice and righteousness. As a result, the Lord blessed David and gave victory over every army that fought against him.

7. Read 1 Chronicles 18:1-17 and write the name of the son of the king of Hamath that brought the gifts to David.
8. Explain why any leader that wants to be an effective leader must learn the importance of ruling with justice and righteousness.
9. Explain what lessons you learn for your life from the victories of David over these various nations.

We go on to read about some of the other military victories of David. One day David heard that the king of Ammon had died. As a result David wanted to show kindness to the son of the king that died. David wanted to show kindness to the new king because the father had shown kindness to David. Then David sent some of his servants to comfort Hanun because of the death of his father. However, the young princes said that the reason that the servants of David had come was to act as spies rather than to give comfort to the king. As a result of the words of the young princes, Hanun decided to do evil to the servants of David.

10. Read 1 Chronicles 19:1-19 and write what Hanun did to the servants of David because he thought that they were spies.
11. Explain why the princes said that the messengers of David were spies instead of accepting the comfort that they wanted to give to the new king.
12. Explain why you think that David wanted to show kindness to the new king of Ammon when the previous king died.

Hanun shaved the beards of the servants of David and cut off the bottom part of their robes. The servants of David were very ashamed because their beards had been cut off. They sent messengers to tell David what had happened to them. David sent a message to his servants and told them to remain at Jericho until their beards had grown back. Meanwhile, Hanun saw that David was very angry because of what he had done to the servants of David. As a result, Hanun decided to go and fight against David before David came to fight against him. Hanun sent messengers to the surrounding nations and asked to hire their chariots and soldiers to help him fight against David.

13. Read 1 Chronicles 19:1-19 and write how many chariots Hanun hired to fight against David.
14. Explain why Hanun decided to fight against David after David had tried to show kindness to him in his time of sorrow.
15. Explain why you think that the actions of Hanun showed that he did not trust David and the people of Israel.

David heard about the great army that was coming to fight against the nation of Israel. He quickly sent Joab with the mighty men of Israel to go and fight against this great army. When Joab reached these armies, he found that the army of Ammon was inside the city wall while the Syrian army and the other armies that had been hired were in a nearby field. Joab decided to divide his army into two parts. He led the strongest part of the army against the Syrians while Abishai led the rest of the army against Ammon. That day Israel won a great victory over both the Syrians and the armies with them and also over the Ammonites.

16. Read 1 Chronicles 19:1-19 and write where Joab went after this great victory.
17. Explain why Joab chose to divide the army into two parts when he saw that Ammon was inside the city wall while the other armies were in the field.
18. Explain why you think that Joab showed great military strategy by taking the strongest part of the army against the armies that were in the field.

Meanwhile the Syrians were very angry because they had been defeated by the army of Israel. Messengers were sent throughout the land of Syria to call the entire Syrian army to come and fight against Israel. David heard what the Syrians were doing and gathered the entire army of Israel to meet the Syrians. The Lord was with Israel in this battle just as He had been with Israel in each of the other battles. That day Israel won a great victory over the army of Syria.

Then the Syrians made peace with Israel and became the servants of David. They did not try to help the Ammonites fight against the nation of Israel any more.

19. Read 1 Chronicles 19:1-19 and write how many soldiers there were in the Syrian army that came to fight against Israel.

20. Explain why David fought against both the nation of Ammon and the nation of Syria during this period.

21. Explain why you think that the Syrians seemed to be so eager to fight against the army of Israel.

Syria had been completely defeated but Ammon had not yet been completely defeated. After the crops were harvested and the people were more free for a few months, David sent Joab and the army of Israel against Ammon. The army of Israel completely destroyed the land of Ammon and captured the city where the king of Ammon lived. Then David took the crown on the king of Ammon and placed it on his own head. The crown was made of gold and jewels and was very heavy. The people of Israel also captured many other possessions that had belonged to the people of Ammon and took them back to Israel.

22. Read 1 Chronicles 20:1-8 and write who fought against Israel after Ammon had been defeated.

23. Explain why David realized that it was necessary for the army of Israel to fight against the army of Ammon.

24. Explain why you think that the army of Israel completely destroyed the land of Ammon when they went to fight against them.

David had first been recognized as one of the leaders of Israel by the Philistines when he had killed Goliath. However, Goliath was not the only giant in his family. These other giants also came to fight against the people of Israel. One by one each of the giants was killed. One of these giants was a very great man. He had an extra finger on each hand and an extra toe on each foot. He thought that he was very great. He came and defied the army of Israel just as Goliath had done. However, God used the nephew of David to destroy this great giant because he had defied both God and the people of Israel by his defiance.

25. Read 1 Chronicles 20:1-8 and write the name of the nephew of David that killed this great giant.

26. Explain why the giant thought that he could defy both God and the army of Israel when he chose to defy them.

27. Explain why you think that each of the other giants in the family of Goliath chose to come and fight against Israel at different times.

One day Satan came and tempted David to count all of the men of Israel that were able to fight against their enemies. God had told the nation of Israel before the people of Israel entered the land that they were not to count their soldiers because this would cause the people to become proud and boast about their own strength. Here we see that Satan was successful and got David to count the number of men that were able to fight against the enemies of Israel. When Satan realizes that he cannot win a victory in any other way, he will try to get those who trust in God to become proud. This was why Satan came and tempted David to count the men of Israel.

28. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 and write who David sent to count the people of Israel.

29. Explain why Satan will often use pride as a way to tempt people to sin against the Lord.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about some of the ways that Satan will try to tempt you.

We read what David did when Satan tempted him to count all of the men in Israel that could fight. One day David called Joab and told Joab that he wanted him to go and count all of the men of Israel that were able to fight. David said that he wanted to know the exact number of men. Joab then spoke to David and asked him why he wanted to sin against the Lord by

numbering the people of Israel. In his pride David refused to listen to the warning of Joab and told him again to go and count all of the men. Then Joab obeyed and went to count the men of Israel. In the next few months Joab counted more than a million and a half men. However, Joab remembered what God had said and did not count all of the tribes.

31. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 and write what tribes Joab did not count as he counted the men of Israel.

32. Explain why Joab questioned David and asked David why he wanted to sin against the Lord by numbering the people.

33. Explain why you think that Satan was able to deceive David by appealing to his pride and getting him to number the men of Israel that were able to fight.

Joab did not like the commandment of the king and so he chose not to count two of the tribes of Israel. However, God was not happy because David had counted the men of Israel. God sent a prophet to offer David a choice of three kinds of judgment as the penalty for his sin. These choices were three years of famine, three months of fleeing from his enemies or three days of judgment from the Lord. David chose to be judged by the Lord instead of men. David knew that the Lord is a God of mercy. David knew that the enemies would not show any mercy. That was why David wanted to have his judgment come from the Lord.

34. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 and write the name of the prophet that brought the message from God to David.

35. Explain why the Lord gave David a choice of three different kinds of judgment that he could have for his sin.

36. Explain why you think that David chose to be judged by the Lord instead of being judged by other people.

Gad delivered the message to David. God sent His judgment and seventy thousand men of Israel were killed. Then God sent His angel to bring judgment on the city of Jerusalem. God decided to show His mercy and told the angel not to bring any more judgment when the angel came to Jerusalem. At the same time David saw the angel that was bringing this judgment. David realized that the judgment was a result of his own sin. The Lord said that there was one way that David could stop the judgment. That way was to offer a sacrifice on the threshing floor of Ornan. Here we see that God is always willing to show mercy to those who will admit their sin and ask the Lord to forgive their sins.

37. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 and write how much David said he would pay Ornan for the threshing floor so that he could offer a sacrifice.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the mercy of God toward those who repent of their sin.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord gave David the opportunity to offer a sacrifice as a way to stop the judgment.

When David offered to buy the threshing floor from Ornan, Ornan immediately said that he would give the threshing floor to David. However, David said that he did not want to accept anything that had cost him nothing. After paying for the land, David prepared his sacrifice. Then the Lord answered the prayer of David by sending fire to burn the sacrifice of David. As soon as the sacrifice had been burned on the altar, the Lord told the angel to put away his sword and not bring any more judgment on the people of Israel for the sin of David.

40. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 and write where the tabernacle was located during this time.

41. Explain why David was not willing to accept the threshing floor as a gift but insisted on paying the full value of the threshing floor.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to recognize the sacrifice of David by sending fire to burn the sacrifice.

Now reread 1 Chronicles 18:1-21:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 5
1 Chronicles 22:1-25:31

The Lord had told David that he could not build the temple in Jerusalem because he was a man of war. Instead the Lord had made a wonderful covenant with David. The Lord wanted David to recognize that the Lord was very pleased with the desire of David. Then the Lord said that the son of David would build the temple since David was not allowed to build the temple because he was a man of war. As a result, David began to gather the materials that would be used in the building of the temple. David also gave Solomon and the other princes instructions about the building of the temple. Then David made Solomon the king before David died.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what David told Solomon about the temple.
- Explain what you learn about the responsibilities of the Levites.
- Tell what you learn about the priests.
- Tell what you learn about the singers.

Although David did not actually build the temple, he did much of the work to prepare for the building of the temple. The most important part of any building is its foundation. A weak foundation will eventually cause a building to fall. As a result, David wanted to build a temple with a strong foundation. The cutting of the foundation stones is the first thing that is mentioned in preparation for the building of the temple. David also gathered a large amount of iron for use as nails. A great amount of bronze was also gathered. The large timbers that were used as the main supports of the temple were all made of cedar. Much of this cedar was brought to David by the men of Tyre and Sidon from the country now called Lebanon.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 22:1-19 and write what the Lord promised to give the land of Israel during the time when Solomon reigned.
2. Explain why David realized that the most important part of the temple would be the foundation of the temple.
3. Explain why you think that it important for every Christian to make the Lord the foundation for their lives so that they have a strong foundation.

David realized that Solomon would be quite young when he became the king. However, he would be taking a job that would require great leadership and responsibility. As a result, David wanted to do as much as possible in order to help Solomon by preparing much of the material that would be used in the temple. Before his death, David also gave Solomon instructions about the building of the temple. David told Solomon that God had not allowed him to build the temple because he was a man of war. Instead the Lord had promised David that his son Solomon would be the person that would build the temple for the Lord.

4. Read 1 Chronicles 22:1-19 and write what the Lord promised to give the land of Israel during the days of Solomon.
5. Explain why David recognized that his son would be taking a job that would require great leadership and responsibility.
6. Explain why you think that David wanted to do as much of the preparation as possible for the building of the temple.

The Lord actually gave several promises about Solomon. First, the Lord promised to give peace to the land of Israel while Solomon was the king of Israel. Then the Lord said that Solomon would be His son. His family would be blessed by the Lord. Once David had told Solomon these words of the Lord, David encouraged his son to build the temple because he

could depend on the fact that the Lord would be with Solomon and bless him. Then David encouraged Solomon to obey the Word of God so that the Lord would give him wisdom and understanding.

7. Read 1 Chronicles 22:1-19 and write how David told Solomon to seek the Lord in order to build the temple.

8. Explain why we must choose to obey the Lord if we want Him to give us wisdom and understanding.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord made all of these promises to David about the way that He would bless Solomon.

We see that the Lord chooses to bless those who choose to obey Him and His Word. The Lord also gives them strength and courage. This was the reason why Solomon did not need to be afraid even though he was a very young man. Since Solomon was the one that was actually going to be responsible for the building of the temple, David told him about the preparations that he had already made for the building of the temple. David had gathered much gold, bronze and iron for the temple. In addition, he had also prepared stones and timbers for the building. In addition, there were also many skilled workmen for each type of work that needed to be done in the building of the temple.

10. Read 1 Chronicles 22:1-19 and write who David commanded to help Solomon build the temple.

11. Explain why David wanted to encourage Solomon by telling him all of the things that he had already done to prepare for the building of the temple.

12. Explain why you realize that the Lord will also give you strength and courage if you choose to obey Him and His Word.

The temple was going to be a very great building. No single man could build the temple by himself. Instead all of the people had to work together under the leadership of the Lord. This is what is required in order to do any job effectively. David told these princes that the Lord was with them and had given them peace from their enemies. Now they were to set their hearts and souls to seek the Lord. In order to do the work of the Lord, our hearts and souls must be right with the Lord. If we are not right with the Lord in our hearts, we will not be effective in doing the work of the Lord.

13. Read 1 Chronicles 23:1-32 and write what we learn about the age of David at the time that Solomon became the king.

14. Explain why we must be right with the Lord in our hearts if we want to be effective in doing the work of the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that it is important for all followers of the Lord to learn to work under the leadership of the Lord.

The Lord had given David a long life because David had been faithful in serving the Lord. David had not turned away from the Lord to serve other things. Before his death, David also talked about the different responsibilities of the various groups of leaders. We read that twenty-four thousand Levites were given the responsibility of carrying on the work of the house of the Lord. Then six thousand of the Levites were given the responsibility to serve as the officers and judges of the people. Four thousand Levites were to serve as porters and the final four thousand Levites were to lead the people in giving praise to the Lord on various instruments.

16. Read 1 Chronicles 23:1-32 and write the total number of Levites over twenty years of age.

17. Explain why David took time to explain the different responsibilities of the various groups of leaders before his death.

18. Explain why you think that various groups of Levites were given different responsibilities so that all of the work of the Lord would be done.

As we read about the responsibilities of the Levites, we learn a very important lesson. Not all

of the Levites had the same ministry. Instead they worked for the Lord in different ways because the Lord had given them different gifts with which to serve Him. Today the Lord also gives each Christian certain spiritual gifts so that each Christian can serve the Lord effectively. However, Christians are also given different gifts so that as Christians we are prepared for different responsibilities in our ministry for the Lord. We should not expect other Christians to serve the Lord exactly the same way that we do because the Lord has given them different gifts. Instead we should encourage each Christian to develop the spiritual gifts that the Lord has given them.

19. Read 1 Chronicles 23:1-32 and write how often the Levites were to offer thanks and praise to the Lord.

20. Explain why the Lord had given the Levites different gifts and different ways to work for the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord gives each Christian different gifts with which to serve the Lord.

One of the main duties of the Levites in the past had been to carry the tabernacle as Israel had traveled through the wilderness for forty years. That was also their responsibility as the tabernacle was moved to different parts of the land. Since they were now preparing to build a temple, the Levites would no longer have that responsibility. Instead the Levites were given new duties. These new opportunities for service for the Lord meant that the Levites between the ages of twenty and thirty could now share in the work of the Lord. Here we see that the Lord may give us new ministries and responsibilities at different times in our lives. This is why we need to be prepared to recognize the leading of the Lord. We go on to see that the priests were the next group of people that were given responsibilities.

22. Read 1 Chronicles 24:1-31 and write how many sons Aaron had.

23. Explain why it was necessary for the Levites to receive new areas of ministry with the building of the temple.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord may give you new ministries and opportunities to serve Him at different times in your life.

Aaron had four sons but two of those sons died before their father as a result of their sin. The two sons that died did not have any sons as at the time of their deaths so all of the priests came from the other two sons of Aaron. The priests were actually a part of the family of Levi.

However, Aaron and his family had been chosen from the tribe of Levi to serve as priests for the entire nation of Israel. The responsibilities of the priests were divided into twenty-four different parts. Then one man from the family of Aaron was placed in charge of each of the twenty-four groups that would carry out the service of the temple. Sixteen of these men came from the family of Eleazar and eight of the men came from the family of Ithamar.

25. Read 1 Chronicles 24:1-31 and write the names of the priests during the time that David was the king of Israel.

26. Explain why one man from the family of Aaron was placed in charge of each of the twenty-four groups of Levites that carried out the service of the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to divide the work of the Lord into various parts and place a person in charge of each part of the ministry.

The priests were divided into twenty-four groups so that they could each carry out their appointed responsibilities at the appointed time for their group. The priests also had to care for their families so it was not possible for them to be at the temple all of the time. Instead the twenty-four groups were each assigned certain times during the year when they would come to the temple and carry out their responsibilities. A good example of this is given in Luke 1 where the father of John the Baptist was one of the priests that were carrying out the responsibilities at the time that they were appointed to carry out those responsibilities.

28. Read 1 Chronicles 24:1-31 and write the name of the high priest during the time of David.

29. Explain why it was important for the different groups of Levites to serve at the temple at different times of the year.
30. Explain why you think that it is important for each Christian to be shown how to do the share of the work that the Lord has for him or her as a Christian.

We read that Levi had several sons. It was from these sons that the entire tribe of the Levites had come. Since we will be reading about some of the families of these sons who were assigned various responsibilities, we are given the main leaders of two of the sons of Levi. These two sons were Kohath and Merari. The leading men from these families cast lots for their responsibilities just as the priests had done. This was done in front of all of the leaders of Israel so that everyone would know what responsibilities God had chosen for the various families of Levi.

31. Read 1 Chronicles 25:1-31 and write who helped David appoint the various leaders.
32. Explain why it was important for the Levites to cast lots for their various responsibilities in front of the leaders of Israel.
33. Explain why you think that it is important for all Christians to realize that it is the Lord that gives them their ministries.

David and the captains of the host appointed those who would be in charge of the music next. Music has always been a part of the worship of God. The entire book of Psalms is actually a group of the songs that the people of Israel sang in their worship at various times. Several of the men that are mentioned in this chapter are men that the Lord used to write many of the Psalms. In addition to leading the singing, these men also played a variety of musical instruments. Here we see that we can praise the Lord with musical instruments as well as with our voices.

34. Read 1 Chronicles 25:1-31 and write the name of the first instruments that are mentioned in this chapter.
35. Explain why it is important to understand that music has always been a part of the worship of the Lord.
36. Explain why you think that the people of Israel included both singing and the playing of musical instruments as a part of their worship.

As you remember from our study of the life of David, he was a very skillful player of the harp. However, there were other men that led in the playing of the harps because that was the ministry that the Lord had selected for them. David had been given other ministries and responsibilities. We read that those who were responsible for leading the nation of Israel in the worship of God through music were very skillful in the field of music. They were also instructed so that they would know the songs of the Lord as they led the worship of the Lord through music.

37. Read 1 Chronicles 25:1-31 and write the number of men that were skillful in the playing of musical instruments.
38. Explain what these verses teach about the use of music in the worship of the Lord.
39. Explain why you think that David was not involved in the music even though he was a very skillful player of the harp.

The leaders of Israel also cast lots to see who would lead the ministries and carry out the various responsibilities of the singers. Like the priests and Levites, the singers were divided into twenty-four groups. One man was appointed as the leader of each group. Then his brothers and sons were also a part of that group. God formed these groups so that each of the twenty-four groups had exactly the same number of people in each group. Here we see that God had a plan to guide the nation of Israel in their worship including their worship through music.

40. Read 1 Chronicles 25:1-31 and write how many musicians and singers were in each of the

various groups.

41. Explain how God showed that He had a plan to guide the nation of Israel in their worship of the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that the leaders of the various groups of singers were chosen by the casting of lots.

Now reread 1 Chronicles 22:1-25:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 6

1 Chronicles 26:1-29:30

In our last lesson we studied about certain groups of Levites that were given various ministries and responsibilities in leading the worship of Israel. Today we will learn about some of the other ministries that were given to other Levites. In addition, we will also learn about the responsibilities that were given to leaders from some of the other tribes of Israel. As we study this section, we are reminded of the importance of appointing and training men to share in the work of the Lord. Only as we all learn to work together will the work of the Lord be accomplished.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the responsibilities of the Levites
- Tell about the responsibilities of the overseers.
- Tell about the sermon of David to the people.
- Tell about the way that the people gave to the Lord.

As preparations were being made for the building of the temple, it was necessary to appoint gatekeepers to be responsible for the various parts of the temple. As we read about the men that were appointed as the gatekeepers, we see that these men were strong and mighty men that the Lord had equipped for the work that the Lord had for them to do. Here we see that the Lord prepares people for the different ministries that He has for each person. These men were all given their duties by the casting of lots. It did not matter whether they were important men or not. God was the One that had decided what ministry each man should have. God also gives each of us a ministry to do and we should be glad to do that ministry whether we are important or unimportant. God has prepared that ministry for each of us.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 26:1-32 and write the name of the Levite that was put in charge of the treasury of the Lord.
2. Explain why it is the Lord who prepares people for the ministry that He has for them to do.
3. Explain why you think that every Christian needs to learn how to use their spiritual gifts so that they can carry out the work that the Lord has for them.

David had won many battles over his enemies. During these battles large amounts of gold, silver and other metals had been captured. Much of this gold, silver and other metals had been dedicated to the Lord for the temple. As a result, David had dedicated a large amount of riches to the Lord for the building of the temple. In order to protect these riches, certain Levites were appointed to be responsible for the things that were dedicated to the Lord. Ahijah was the man that was placed in charge of this group of men that were to protect the riches dedicated to the temple.

4. Read 1 Chronicles 26:1-32 and write what responsibility the officers and judges were given.
5. Explain why it was important to appoint men whose responsibility was to guard and protect the treasures of the temple.
6. Explain why you think that David dedicated much of the gold, silver and other metals that he received from other nations to the Lord.

The nation of Israel had become a large nation during the time of David. As a result, there was a large amount of government business that had to be supervised. It would have been impossible for a king to take charge of all of this business by himself. There were many matters to be judged. There was also the collection of taxes for the kingdom. In addition, there were many other responsibilities. This was the reason that more than four thousand Levites were appointed to care for these responsibilities. Again we are reminded of the fact that the Lord

has work for every person that has their trust in Him. Only as each person is trained and equipped to do the work for which God has called him or her will the work be completed.

7. Read 1 Chronicles 26:1-32 and write what kind of men were appointed to be over the Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh.

8. Explain what this chapter teaches about the importance of dividing the work of the Lord among many people so that it can be completed.

9. Explain why you think those who had been appointed to various responsibilities needed to be trained and equipped for those responsibilities.

In addition to the Levites, there were also other men in the nation of Israel that were given certain responsibilities. During the time that David was king of Israel; the nation of Israel had increased in size. The army of Israel had also been greatly increased. These increases in the number of government workers also meant that it took more food to feed all of the people and their families. As a result, David appointed men to be in charge of gathering food for each month. These men would work throughout the year in order to gather the food for the month that they were in charge of providing the food. The leader for each month also had other men to help him.

10. Read 1 Chronicles 27:1-34 and write how many men were assigned to help these leaders that gathered the food.

11. Explain why each of the men that gathered food for a particular month needed a team of men to help them.

12. Explain why you think that David appointed a different man for each month to gather the food that was needed for that month.

One man from each tribe was also appointed to be the leader for that tribe of Israel. These men were responsible for leading their tribes in any type of activity that was an activity for the entire tribe. These men were also called the princes of Israel. This meant that they also talked together with the king about the activities that affected the entire nation of Israel. As we see these various groups of leaders that were appointed, we are reminded of the fact that a leader is one that appoints and trains others to share the work rather than trying to do everything himself. In this way all of the people can have a share in doing the work of the Lord.

13. Read 1 Chronicles 27:1-34 and write why Joab did not finish the numbering of the men of Israel.

14. Explain why a primary responsibility of a leader is to train others to share in the work for which the leader is responsible.

15. Explain why you think that David appointed one man to be the leader for each tribe to lead that tribe and take the responsibility for it.

David also had men that were in charge of his personal riches. One man was in charge of the treasures of David. Another man was in charge of the storehouses where the grain was kept. One man was in charge of the men that worked in the fields while another man was in charge of those who worked in the vineyards. Then there was a man responsible for each of the following areas: the olive and sycamore trees, the cellars of oil, the herds in the hills, the herds in the valleys, the camels, the asses and the flocks. In addition, there was also a group of men that served as the counselors of David.

16. Read 1 Chronicles 27:1-34 and write the responsibility of the group of men mentioned in the final verses of this chapter.

17. Explain why it was important for David to have one man responsible for each area of work that had to be supervised.

18. Explain why you think that David divided these responsibilities among so many different men.

One day David realized that he was getting old and would soon die. Then he called together all

of the leaders of Israel so that he could give them a final message. David began this message by telling about his desire to build a temple for the Lord. He told these leaders that he had gathered much of the material for this temple. However, the Lord had not allowed David to build this temple because he was a man of war. Instead the Lord had promised David that his family would continue to rule forever and that one from his family would build the temple.

19. Read 1 Chronicles 28:1-21 and write who the Lord had said would be the man that would build the temple.

20. Explain why David wanted all of the leaders of Israel to know that he had gathered much of the material for the temple.

21. Explain why you think that David felt that it was important to give the leaders some final instructions before his death.

The Lord had chosen Solomon from among the many sons of David to be the next king of Israel. The Lord also said that Solomon would build the temple and its courts during the time that he was the king. In addition, the Lord promised that the kingdom of Solomon would be established forever if Solomon would be obedient to the commandments of the Lord. Then David spoke to all of the people that were gathered together and encouraged them to obey the commandments of the Lord so that they would be allowed to remain in the land.

22. Read 1 Chronicles 28:1-21 and write how David instructed Solomon to serve the Lord when he became the king.

23. Explain why David reminded all of the people to obey the commandments of the Lord after his death.

24. Explain why you think that it is also important for us today to remind people of the importance of being obedient to the Lord.

David told Solomon that to rule effectively he needed to have a perfect heart and a willing mind. Here we see the key to success for our own lives. A perfect heart is a heart that is right with the Lord. A willing mind is a mind that is open to the leading of the Lord. When we are right with God and we are prepared to follow His leading, we will have successful lives. David also encouraged Solomon to be strong and to build the temple as the Lord had commanded. Then David explained the pattern of the temple and its parts to Solomon.

25. Read 1 Chronicles 28:1-21 and write who helped David to understand the plan for the temple.

26. Explain why David encouraged Solomon to serve the Lord with a perfect heart and a willing mind.

27. Explain why you think that any person in leadership will be a more effective leader if he will have a perfect heart and a willing mind.

Here we see that the plan for the temple did not come from the mind of David. Instead the Lord gave David the plan for the temple. Here we see that David realized the importance of praying and asking the Lord for the plans of the Lord instead of depending on his own ideas. David encouraged Solomon to be strong and to be filled with courage as he built the temple because the Lord would be with him and would help him. Solomon could be certain that the Lord would not leave him. Instead the Lord wanted him to finish the work. The Lord also promised to give Solomon skillful men with willing hearts to help him in the building of the temple.

28. Read 1 Chronicles 28:1-21 and write what David told Solomon about the fact that the Lord would be with him as he built the temple.

29. Explain why it is important to understand that the plans for the temple came from the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that it is important for us in our lives to ask to Lord for His plan and for wisdom to know how to carry out those plans.

Then David went on to give the people further instructions about the building of the temple. David reminded the people that Solomon was still a young man and the responsibility of building a house for the Lord was a great responsibility. Then David told the people about the

materials that he had prepared for the temple and also about his own personal gifts for the temple. Here we see that David was leading the people by his own example. Then David asked the people if they would be willing to follow his example and also follow and serve the Lord.

31. Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 and write how the leaders of Israel gave to the Lord.
32. Explain why David chose to give an example for the people to follow in the area of giving gifts to the Lord.
33. Explain why you think that David knew he could trust Solomon to take the responsibility for building the temple even though Solomon was just a young man.

David had set the example. Then the leaders of the people offered their gifts to the Lord willingly. The rest of the people were filled with joy and also offered their gifts to the Lord willingly. When David saw the way that the people were giving to the Lord, he was filled with great joy. Then David offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord. In comparison to the Lord, David and the people of Israel were like a shadow. They would live on the earth for a few years and then they would die. As David prayed for the people, he prayed that the people would remember the Lord.

34. Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 and write what David asked the Lord to give to Solomon.
35. Explain why the leaders and the people all wanted to give willingly to the Lord to help in the building of the temple.
36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the way to encourage others to give to the Lord.

David wanted his son to be obedient to the Lord and follow the Lord with a perfect heart. David knew that the only way this would happen would be if Solomon had a heart that was right with the Lord. Then all of the people bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord. They also offered many sacrifices to the Lord. Solomon had been anointed as the next king in front of a small group of people. Now Solomon was anointed as king a second time in front of all of the people. Then Solomon took the throne of his father and all of the people obeyed him.

37. Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 and write the total length of time that David had ruled the people as their king.
38. Explain why David anointed Solomon a second time as the king of Israel in front of all of the people
39. Explain why David wanted his son to be obedient to the Lord and follow the Lord with a perfect heart.

After Solomon was placed on the throne and became the king of Israel, the Lord magnified Solomon in the sight of all of the people. He had greater honor than any of the people that had ruled before him in Israel. As we come to the end of this chapter, we come to the end of the life of David. He had been the king of Israel for forty years and was now a very old man. David had been a great king and the Lord had blessed him with riches and honor. We also read that the acts of David were written in three other books. Two of the books that are mentioned are not included in the Bible.

40. Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 and write what book spoke of the acts of David that was included in the Bible.
41. Explain why the Lord chose to magnify Solomon in the sight of all of the people when he became the new king of Israel.
42. Explain why you think that David had been such a great and effective king during the time that he had led the nation of Israel.

Now reread 1 Chronicles 26:1-29:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 7

2 Chronicles 1:1-4:22

Today we are starting a study of the book of 2 Chronicles. Because this book was written by the priests, we will see that it tells about several revivals that happened when the nation of Israel turned to the Lord from sin. This also reminds us that they had previously turned away from the Lord before these revivals happened. This book also gives us additional information about the kings of Israel and Judah. In our first two lessons in this book we will be studying about the time that Solomon ruled over the nation of Israel. These lessons will include the building of the temple under the direction of Solomon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the Lord gave Solomon wisdom and riches.
- Tell about the preparations for the building of the temple.
- Tell about the building of the temple.
- Tell about the furnishings of the temple.

As we finished 1 Chronicles, we saw that Solomon was anointed publicly to be the new king of Israel. As we begin this book, we see that the Lord was with Solomon and caused the name of Solomon to be magnified greatly both in the nation of Israel and also among the surrounding nations. Then Solomon called all of the leaders and men of Israel together and spoke to them. Solomon and all of the people then went to Gibeon to the place where the tabernacle that Moses had built was located. The bronze altar where the sacrifices were offered was in the court of the tabernacle. However, the Ark of the Covenant was not in the tabernacle.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 1:1-17 and write what David had prepared for the ark when he brought it to Jerusalem from Kirjath-Jearim.
2. Explain why Solomon and all of the people went to the place where the tabernacle was located.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to magnify Solomon both in the eyes of the people of Israel and among the surrounding nations.

The desire of Solomon was to build the temple so that the Ark of the Covenant and the bronze altar would both be placed in it. There was a certain amount of religious confusion in Israel as long as the bronze altar and the ark were separated. Solomon and all of the people went to Gibeon. There they offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar. That night the Lord appeared to Solomon. The Lord promised to give Solomon whatever he requested. Here we see that the Lord was giving Solomon a great privilege and opportunity. Solomon answered that the Lord had shown great mercy to David. As a result, Solomon realized that he had a very large kingdom that he was responsible to lead as the king.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 1:1-17 and write what Solomon asked the Lord to give him so that he could effectively lead the people.
5. Explain why Solomon and the people offered a large number of burnt offerings to the Lord at Gibeon.
6. Explain why you think that Lord was willing to promise to give Solomon whatever Solomon requested of Him.

Solomon realized that he had a tremendous responsibility. He realized that he could not rule the people of Israel the right way unless the Lord gave him the wisdom to rule wisely. As a result, Solomon asked the Lord to give him wisdom and knowledge to know how to lead the people. The Lord was very happy when Solomon asked for wisdom rather than riches, power or some

other thing. God promised to give Solomon the wisdom that he had requested. In addition, the Lord also promised to give riches, wealth and honor to Solomon. The Lord said that He would bless Solomon with such great blessings that no king before or after him would be as great as Solomon.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 1:1-17 and write where Solomon went after the Lord had spoken to him at Gibeon.

8. Explain why the Lord was very happy when Solomon asked the Lord to give him wisdom and knowledge to know how to lead the people.

9. Explain why you think that every spiritual leader needs to pray regularly and ask the Lord for wisdom and knowledge to know how to lead the people that they lead.

Solomon returned home and began to experience the blessings of the Lord. He gathered horses and chariots until it became necessary for him to build special cities where these horses and the men that used the horses could live. The Lord also gave great riches to Solomon. Gold and silver became very common in the land of Israel during the time that Solomon was king. In every way the Lord was blessing Solomon and the land of Israel. There were plenty of trees in the land. In addition, the things that the people of Israel wanted were being brought to Israel from other lands.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 1:1-17 and write how common silver and gold were in the city of Jerusalem during the reign of Solomon.

11. Explain why the Lord chose to give such great blessings to Solomon even though he had not asked for them.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to bless Solomon with riches even though Solomon did not ask for riches.

It had been the desire of David to build a house for the Lord. Solomon had that same great desire to build a temple for the Lord. In order to build this temple, Solomon had 150,000 men to work and 3,600 men to oversee the work. This was a great construction crew. Solomon also sent messengers to the king of Tyre. These messengers asked Hiram to show the same kindness to Solomon that he had shown to David and give Solomon cedar trees to build a house for the Lord. The house that Solomon wanted to build would be dedicated to the Lord.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 2:1-18 and write what Solomon told Hiram about the greatness of God.

14. Explain why Solomon had such a large construction crew to build the temple in Jerusalem.

15. Explain why you think that Solomon asked if Hiram would give him cedar trees to build a house for the Lord.

Solomon wanted to build a house for the Lord so that the people of Israel would have a permanent place where they could bring their offerings and sacrifices to the Lord. This was important to help the people learn to serve the true and living God who is above all false gods. At the same time Solomon realized that it was impossible to actually build a house for God because God is so great that even the heavens cannot contain Him. The temple was actually a place to offer sacrifices to the Lord and not a place for Him to live. Solomon understood many things about the greatness of the Lord even though he was just a young man.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 2:1-18 and write what kind of men Solomon requested to help build the temple.

17. Explain why Solomon realized that it was impossible to actually build a house where God could live.

18. Explain why you think that Solomon had come to have such a good understanding of the Lord even though he was just a young man.

Solomon wanted the most skillful men in the kingdom of Hiram to come and work with the various metals that would be used in the temple. Solomon also asked Hiram to supply lumber from the trees of Lebanon. In exchange, Solomon promised to supply food for the servants of

Hiram that were cutting the trees. After Hiram read the letter from Solomon, Hiram sent a letter in return. He said that the Lord had made Solomon the king of Israel because of His love for Israel. Hiram was glad to see that the Lord had given David a wise son that had a great desire to serve the Lord.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 2:1-18 and write to what city Hiram said his people would float the logs for the temple.

20. Explain 2 Chronicles 2:5-6 in your own words.

21. Explain why you think that Hiram was filled with joy to see that the Lord had given David a wise son.

Hiram also told Solomon that he was sending a very skillful man to help in the work of engraving the various metals. Even though this man was from Tyre, his mother was an Israelite from the tribe of Dan. This man was so skillful that he could make anything that he was told to make. Hiram also said that his servants would cut all of the timbers that Solomon needed and float them down the Mediterranean Sea to the town of Joppa. Then the workers of Solomon could haul the timbers from Joppa to the city of Jerusalem. We also read that the foreigners in the land of Israel worked as the servants of Solomon to help in the building of the temple.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 3:1-17 and write in what part of Jerusalem the temple was built.

23. Explain why Hiram said that he would send a man to Solomon that was very skillful in the work of engraving metals.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord had given the skillful man such skill to work with various metals.

The part of Jerusalem that had been chosen for the temple was Mount Moriah. Mount Moriah was the place where Abraham went to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to the Lord in Genesis 22. Here we see that the same place now appears as the place where David had planned to build the temple as the place to offer sacrifices and offerings to the Lord. Solomon began to build the temple in the fourth year that he was the king of Israel. This indicates that the temple was very important to Solomon. He began building the temple as soon as the materials could be gathered. Today the work of the Lord that the Lord has given us to do is the most important thing that we will do in our lives. Our desire should be to put the work of the Lord first.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 3:1-17 and write how long the temple was.

26. Explain why it was important to Solomon to begin building the temple as soon as the materials for the temple could be gathered.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord worked things out so that the temple could be build on the very place that Abraham had gone to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

As we go on in our study, we read that Solomon built the temple according to the instructions of the Lord. Here we learn another very important lesson. Many times we want to do things according to our own plans. However, if we are going to have good success in our lives, we must follow the plan of the Lord. If we will follow the plan of the Lord for our lives, much will be accomplished for the Lord. He will work through our lives as we yield to Him. We also see that the Lord will instruct us if we are seeking His plan for our lives.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 3:1-17 and write what Solomon called the two main pillars of the temple.

29. Explain why it is important to look to the Lord for instructions and then follow His instructions as we do the work of the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to build the temple according to the instructions that the Lord had given.

As we study the temple that Solomon built, we see that it was a very beautiful temple. The main part of the temple was made of fir and then the boards were covered over with gold. There were also many precious stones in the temple. The posts and the pillars were also covered over with gold. Even the nails were made of gold. There were two cherubim made of

gold in the most holy place. These cherubim had wings that touched each other as well as touching the walls of the most holy place. A veil was also made between the holy place and the most holy place.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 3:1-17 and write what colors were included in this veil.

32. Explain why Solomon made the inside of the temple so beautiful when it would only be seen by the high priest one day each year.

33. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to use so much gold in the building of the temple.

The colors of blue, purple and scarlet were used throughout the tabernacle that was built in the wilderness. Now we see that these colors were also used in the temple. The blue speaks of separation. The purple speaks of royalty. The red speaks of blood. We also see in the New Testament that we are set apart for Christ. He is our King. He gave us life by shedding His blood for us. The temple also had beautiful pillars and decorations on the front of it. In addition to building the temple, the workmen also prepared furnishings for the temple. The first piece of furniture mentioned is the altar of bronze. This altar was a great altar that was thirty feet long, thirty feet wide and fifteen feet high. This was the altar where the priests would burn the sacrifices of the people once the temple was completed.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 4:1-22 and write how many lavers were made for the temple.

35. Explain why the colors of blue, purple and scarlet were used throughout the temple just as they had been used in the tabernacle at an earlier time.

36. Explain why you think that Solomon built such a large altar for the offering of the sacrifices of the people.

The lavers were the places where the priests washed their hands. There were also ten tables and ten lampstands in the temple. Here we see that the temple was very different from the tabernacle. The tabernacle in the wilderness only had one laver, one table and one lampstand. In addition to the actual temple, there was also a court or porch for the priests and a great court for the people. There were many pots, dishes and other similar furnishings that were made for the temple.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 4:1-22 and write what Solomon used to make the doors of the temple.

38. Explain why there was a great court for the people build around the outside of the temple.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

Solomon made so many vessels of bronze for the temple that it was impossible to find out the weight of all of those vessels. Although there were many things made of bronze, the most important furnishings for the inside of the temple were either made with pure gold or they were covered with gold. No expense was spared in the building of the temple. Even the doors of the temple were made of gold. Here we see that Solomon wanted to make the temple a very beautiful place where the people could offer their sacrifices to the Lord.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 4:1-22 and write where Solomon made the vessels and furnishings for the temple.

41. Explain why the temple was very beautiful even though it was a place where there would be much blood from the sacrifices.

42. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to spend so much money to build the temple and its furnishings.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 1:1-4:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 8

2 Chronicles 5:1-8:18

In our last lesson we studied about Solomon building the temple in Jerusalem for the Lord. Today we will learn about the dedication of that temple. When the priests placed the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place, we see that the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Then Solomon preached a sermon in which he spoke of the blessing of the Lord. Solomon also gave a prayer of dedication in which he thanked the Lord for all that the Lord had done for His people. Then this prayer was followed by the offering of sacrifices to the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the glory of the Lord filling the temple.
- Tell about the sermon and prayer of Solomon.
- Explain what the Lord told Solomon.
- Tell about the fame of Solomon.

When the temple had been completed at Jerusalem, Solomon called for all of the leaders and the men of Israel to come together for the dedication of the temple. Solomon wanted all of the people to come together and have the opportunity to participate in the dedication of the temple. When all of the people were assembled together, the Levites went to get the Ark of the Covenant and the other pieces of furniture from the tabernacle. As you remember the ark was in a tent at Jerusalem while the rest of the furniture was at the tabernacle. However, the priests and the Levites brought the furniture from the tabernacle along with the ark to the temple.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 and write what Solomon and the people offered as sacrifices to the Lord.
2. Explain why it was important for all of the people of Israel to have the opportunity to participate in the dedication of the temple.
3. Explain why you think that it is also important for us to give all Christians the opportunity to participate in special events that celebrate what the Lord has done.

Solomon and the rest of the people offered so many sheep and oxen as sacrifices that their number could not even be counted. Then the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant into the temple and placed it in the most holy place. At this time in history the ark had only one thing in it. That was the tables of stone on which the Lord had written the Ten Commandments. As soon as the priests came out of the most holy place, all of the Levites that were singers joined together in singing praise to the Lord. There were also a large number of Levites that were playing musical instruments. These musicians had been so well trained for this special event that the music sounded like it was only one voice.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 and write what happened when the Levites finished their song.
5. Explain why the people of Israel felt that it was important to sacrifice so many animals as they dedicated the temple to the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that the musicians had been so well trained for this event that the music sounded like it was only one voice.

The song that the Levites played and sang was a song about the goodness and greatness of the Lord. The Lord is very great and His mercy will last forever. The Lord was filled with joy as He heard this song of praise from the people. Then the Lord sent His glory to fill the temple. The same thing happened at the temple that had happened many years earlier when the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle in the wilderness. This glory was like a thick cloud. In fact the cloud was so thick that the priests could not even stand in it. Here we are reminded again of the

greatness and glory of the Lord. Nothing can be compared to His glory.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 and write how long the mercy of the Lord will last because of His goodness.

8. Explain why it is important to sing songs that speak about the goodness and greatness of the Lord.

9. Explain what you learn about the glory of the Lord from these verses.

The Lord had shown His approval and blessing by filling the temple with His glory. After the glory of the Lord filled the temple, then Solomon preached a sermon and offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord. Solomon thanked the Lord because the Lord had filled the temple that Solomon and the people had built with the glory of the Lord. In his sermon Solomon gave a short review of the desire of David to build a house for the Lord. However, the Lord had told David that Solomon would build that house instead of David. Now Solomon had built that temple just as the Lord had promised. In addition, Solomon had now placed the Ark of the Covenant in the temple.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 6:1-42 and write where Solomon stood as he preached this sermon that day.

11. Explain why it was important for the Lord to show His approval and blessing by filling the temple with His glory.

12. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to express in his sermon a review of what the Lord had said about the fact that he would build the temple.

Solomon had made a platform of bronze on which he was standing as he preached his sermon to the people that day. When Solomon had finished the sermon, he got down on his knees in front of all of the people and began to pray to the Lord. Here we see that Solomon was not too proud to get down on his knees and pray to the Lord even though he was the king of Israel. That day he set a real example for all of the people that were gathered there. Solomon began his prayer by mentioning the fact that there is no god in the entire earth that can compare with the true and living God. Then Solomon spoke of the promises that the Lord had made to David.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 6:1-42 and write what Solomon said could not contain God even though he had built the temple.

14. Explain what Solomon was teaching the people that day by his example as he got down on his knees as he prayed to the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that it is also important for you to show others by your example the importance of prayer.

Solomon realized that God could not live in the temple that he had built. Solomon realized that God is so great that even the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. However, Solomon asked the Lord to hear the prayers of the people even though He is so great. Solomon knew that the people would do evil. He realized that all men are sinful and will commit sin. However, Solomon asked the Lord to hear their prayers when they prayed to Him and asked for forgiveness. Solomon also asked the Lord to take away the various judgments that the Lord would bring on them because of their sin when the people came to the Lord in prayer.

16. Now Read 2 Chronicles 6:1-42 and write how many people Solomon said that there are that do not sin.

17. Explain why Solomon asked the Lord to hear the prayers of the people when they prayed to Him for forgiveness after they sinned.

18. Explain why you think it is important that Solomon mentioned the fact that even the heaven of heavens cannot contain God because of His greatness.

Solomon realized that all people are sinners. He realized that it might be necessary for God to take the people out of the land because of their sin. However, Solomon asked the Lord to hear the prayer of the people for forgiveness even though the people might be in a foreign land.

Solomon knew that the Lord would forgive His people when they prayed to Him just as He would bring judgment upon them when they rebelled against Him. Today we still have this same promise. If we sin, it will be necessary for the Lord to judge us. However, the Lord will also forgive us when we come to Him and confess our sins to Him.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 6:1-42 and write what Solomon asked the Lord to remember about David as Solomon prayed.

20. Explain why Solomon asked the Lord to hear the prayer of the people even though they might be taken to a foreign land in the future because of their sin.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

The Lord showed all of the people of Israel that He had been listening to the prayer of Solomon that day. As soon as Solomon had finished his prayer, the Lord sent a fire from heaven to burn the sacrifices that had been placed on the altar that day. The glory of the Lord also filled the temple. When the fire came down from heaven, all of the people fell on their faces and worshiped the Lord. They realized that God was personally concerned about them as a nation of people. They also praised the Lord and spoke of the fact that the mercy of the Lord will last forever. Then Solomon and the people offered their sacrifices to the Lord. Those sacrifices included 22,000 oxen.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-22 and write how many sheep the people of Israel offered to the Lord that day.

23. Explain why the Lord chose to send fire from heaven to burn the sacrifices that had been placed on the altar that day.

24. Explain why you think that all of the people worshiped and praised the Lord as they saw what the Lord did that day.

We see that the people offered a total of 120,000 sheep to the Lord. The people offered these sacrifices to show their thanks to the Lord at the time that they dedicated the temple. The priests and the Levites also provided special music for the dedication of the temple. There were so many sacrifices that the altar could not hold them so the court of the temple was also used to offer the sacrifices. The people also had a seven day feast to celebrate the dedication of the altar. When the people went home, they were filled with joy because of the goodness of the Lord. The Lord also appeared to Solomon a second time and spoke to Him.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-22 and write the first thing that the Lord said to Solomon when He spoke to him.

26. Explain why the people were able to be filled with joy when they went home because of the goodness of the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that the people offered so many sacrifices to the Lord to show their thanks to Him.

God told Solomon that He had heard his prayer. The Lord said that He had chosen the temple for Himself as a house of sacrifice. God also told Solomon that it might be necessary to bring judgment on the people of Israel if they turned away from Him. However, God had a wonderful promise to go with this warning of judgment. God promised to forgive the people if they would do certain things. The first thing that the people had to do was humble themselves. In addition, God also told them to pray, to seek His face and to turn from their wicked ways. God promised that when the people did these things that He would hear their prayers. He would also forgive their sins. God even promised to heal the land.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-22 and write what God did to Solomon as a personal promise some time following the dedication of the temple.

29. Explain why God promised to forgive the people when they sinned if they would humble themselves.

30. Explain what these verses teach us that we must also do to experience forgiveness of our sins if we choose to turn away from the Lord.

God also had a personal promise for Solomon as He spoke to him. The Lord told Solomon that if he would serve the Lord as David had served him that his family would continue to rule. However, there would be judgment if he turned away from the Lord. That judgment would affect the entire nation of Israel because the people would follow the sinful example of Solomon if he turned away from the Lord. God said that the people would be taken out of the land if they chose to do evil. The people would be amazed because of the judgment that would be brought on the temple that Solomon had built.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-22 and write the question that people would ask when they saw what had happened to the temple.

32. Explain why the Lord warned Solomon that there would be judgment if he chose to turn away from the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to understand that the Lord will judge them on this earth if they turn away from the Lord.

If the people turned away from the Lord and He brought judgment on the temple, the question of the people would be, why had the Lord judged the temple? The Lord would judge the temple because the people had turned away from the Lord to serve other gods. We go on to read about the growth of the kingdom of Solomon. The Lord had blessed Solomon in many ways and had given him great possessions. As a result, it was necessary for Solomon to build additional cities where these treasures could be stored. Solomon also built additional cities where his soldiers that kept his chariots could live.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 8:1-18 and write what Solomon made the Hittites and the other people that still remained in the land do.

35. Explain why the Lord said that He would judge the temple if the people turned away from the Lord and served other gods.

36. Explain why you think that any time people turn from the Lord to serve other gods that the Lord will always bring judgment.

Solomon made the people that had not been destroyed by the Israelites serve as servants. However, none of the people of Israel became servants. Instead they were soldiers in the army of Israel. Others were leaders of the soldiers and leaders of those who drove the chariots of war. Solomon also had a group of 250 men that helped him rule over the people. Solomon married the daughter of the king of Egypt and she lived in the house that Solomon had built. Solomon also offered sacrifices and obeyed the commandments that God had given to Moses.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 8:1-18 and write who trained the servants of Solomon to build and sail ships.

38. Explain why Solomon realized the importance of having a group of 250 men to help him lead and rule the people.

39. Explain why you think that it is also important for us to obey the commandments of the Lord.

David had given instructions to the Levites about their various responsibilities. Now Solomon also reminded these men of the ministries that God had given them. We go on to read that these men were very obedient to the commandments of the king. They did not depart from the commandments of the Lord. These men give us an example of the fact that we also should be obedient to the people that the Lord has placed over us. Solomon had been encouraged to build the temple by David. He had begun the work of building the temple and now he had finished it.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 8:1-18 and write where the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon went to get gold.

41. Explain why the priests and Levites chose to be obedient to the commandments of the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that it is also important for us to be an example to others by our obedience to the Lord.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 5:1-8:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 9
2 Chronicles 9:1-13:22

Today we will be studying about the final part of the life of Solomon. Solomon had asked the Lord for wisdom to lead the people of Israel. The Lord had also blessed Solomon with great riches because the Lord was pleased with his request. We will read about some of the riches that the Lord gave to Solomon. However, we will also see failure in the life of Solomon. Because of sin in the life of Solomon as he grew older, the Lord said that Israel would be divided into two nations and ten of the tribes of Israel would reject the son of Solomon as their king. Throughout the rest of this book, we will be studying about the divided nations.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the final part of the life of Solomon.
- Tell about the division of Israel into two nations.
- Explain what happened when Rehoboam forsook the Word of God.
- Tell about the rule of Abijah.

The wisdom and riches of Solomon caused people in many parts of the world to hear about him. One day the queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon. She wanted to test him with hard questions because she had heard about his great wisdom. She also brought great riches with her when she came to Jerusalem. The queen of Sheba asked Solomon all of the hard questions that she had prepared for him. Solomon was able to answer every single question that the queen of Sheba asked him. The queen also saw all of the riches of Solomon. Then she took time to observe the servants of Solomon as they did their work.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 9:1-31 and write what the spirit of the queen was like after she saw everything in the kingdom of Solomon.
2. Explain why the queen of Sheba chose to come to Jerusalem to learn about the great wisdom that Solomon had.
5. Explain why you think that the queen of Sheba wanted to test Solomon with hard questions to see if what she had heard about Solomon was really true.

The queen of Sheba realized that everything that she had heard about Solomon was true. In fact she realized that all of the things that she had heard did not even describe half of the greatness of Solomon. In addition to his riches and wisdom, Solomon also had servants that were happy. The queen of Sheba also realized that it was the Lord that had blessed Solomon and the nation of Israel. The Lord had given these great blessings to Solomon and the nation of Israel because of His great love for the nation of Israel. Then the queen of Sheba gave some additional riches and spices to Solomon as a present to show her amazement.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 9:1-31 and write what Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba in return for her gifts.
5. Explain what caused the queen of Sheba to realize that it was the Lord that had blessed Solomon and the nation of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that the queen of Sheba was surprised to see that even the servants of Solomon were happy.

Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything that she desired and then she returned to her own land. The servants of Solomon had also brought algum trees and precious stones from the land of Ophir. The algum trees were used for building the terraces for the temple and also for the house of Solomon. They were also used to make musical instruments for the singers. We are also given a summary of some of the riches of Solomon. The list shows a little of the material blessing that the Lord gave to Solomon. Solomon also did many other great things that are not

mentioned in the Bible. In addition, we read that Solomon ruled as the king of the nation of Israel for a total of forty years.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 9:1-31 and write who became the king of Israel when Solomon died.

8. Explain what this chapter teaches about the greatness of Solomon.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to bless Solomon with riches even though he had not requested riches.

When Solomon died, his son named Rehoboam became the king of Israel. Jeroboam and the other leaders of Israel asked Rehoboam to decrease the taxes that the people had to pay. They promised to serve Rehoboam faithfully if he would decrease the taxes. Rehoboam promised these men that he would give them an answer in three days. Rehoboam asked the old men what they thought that he should do. The old men suggested that Rehoboam follow the suggestion of the people. Then Rehoboam asked the young men that were his friends what he should do. The young men suggested that Rehoboam increase the taxes instead.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 10:1-19 and write whether Rehoboam followed the counsel and advice of the old men.

11. Explain why Rehoboam asked both the older and the younger men what he should do about the request of the leaders of Israel.

12. Explain why you think that the older men suggested to Rehoboam that he should listen to the leaders of Israel.

The king decided to turn away from the advice of the old men and take the advice of the young men. The king told Jeroboam and the other leaders of Israel that he was going to increase the taxes for the people of Israel. When the leaders of Israel heard the words of Rehoboam, the leaders said that they would no longer serve Rehoboam. They said that they would return to their own tents. As a result of the choice of Rehoboam, only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin continued to follow Rehoboam. In addition, those people from the other tribes that lived in the lands of Judah and Benjamin also followed Rehoboam. Rehoboam finally realized that the people of Israel had rebelled when he sent his director of forced labor to the people of Israel.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 10:1-19 and write what the men of Israel did to Hadoram.

14. Explain why the choice of Rehoboam to reject the advice of the older men had very serious consequences for the nation of Israel.

15. Explain why you think that Rehoboam chose to reject the advice of the older men and listen to the younger men.

When Rehoboam heard that the people of Israel had stoned Hadoram to death, he quickly gathered the men of Judah and Benjamin to go and fight against the men of Israel. However, the Lord sent a prophet to tell Rehoboam and the men of Judah not to fight against Israel. Then the people of Judah obeyed the word of the Lord. Rehoboam then strengthened all of the cities that remained in the land that he controlled. Meanwhile all of the priests and Levites that lived in the land of Israel moved to the land of Judah. These men wanted to continue to serve the Lord. Jeroboam had made it so that it was no longer possible for the people of Israel to serve the Lord because he chose to give them false gods to worship.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 11:1-23 and write who else moved from the land of Israel to the land of Judah.

17. Explain why the Lord sent a prophet to Rehoboam and the men of Judah to tell them not to fight against the other tribes.

18. Explain why you think that the priests and the Levites moved from their homes in the other parts of Israel and settled in the land of Judah.

Here we see that all of the people in Israel that had set their hearts to seek the Lord chose to move to Jerusalem so that they could continue to serve the Lord. When Jeroboam set up a false religion in Israel, the people that served the Lord realized that they must leave Israel and go to

Judah if they wanted to continue to serve the Lord. Here we see an important lesson for today. Today many churches are turning away from the Lord and are setting up their own form of religious worship. In order for those who still love the Lord to remain strong in their commitment to the Lord, they must choose to get out of those churches that no longer have their faith and trust in Christ and establish churches that will be true to the Word of God.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 11:1-23 and write what Jeroboam appointed for the calves that he had made for Israel.

20. Explain why it is not possible for those who truly worship the Lord to continue to worship with those who have turned away from the Word of God.

21. Explain why you think that the people of the tribes of Israel that chose to serve the Lord decided to move to the city of Jerusalem.

Rehoboam served the Lord for the first few years that he was the king of Judah. However, when he became strong, he turned away from the Word of God and began to depend on his own strength. This is a real danger if we begin to think that we are strong in our own strength instead of realizing that it is the Lord that gives us strength. Then God brought judgment on Rehoboam and the people of Judah by bringing the king of Egypt to fight against Judah. The king of Egypt captured many of the cities of Judah. The Lord sent a prophet to tell Rehoboam that these things that had happened to Judah had happened because he had turned away from the Lord.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 12:1-16 and write what the king and the princes did when they heard the words of Shemaiah, the prophet.

23. Explain why Rehoboam chose to depend on his own strength instead of continuing to follow the Word of God.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to continue to realize the importance of depending on the Word of God to guide and lead you.

The king and the princes humbled themselves when they heard the word of the prophet. When the Lord saw that the king and the princes had chosen to humble themselves, the Lord told Shemaiah that He would not allow the king of Egypt to completely destroy Jerusalem. Instead the Lord said that the people would serve the king of Egypt so that they would realize what it was like to serve men instead of serving the Lord. Here we see that sin always brings judgment. If we turn away from the Lord, God will allow men to judge us on this earth since a Christian does not have a future judgment.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 12:1-16 and write what the king of Egypt took in addition to the treasures that were in the house of the Lord.

26. Explain why the Lord chose to let Judah serve Egypt so that the people would realize the consequences of depending on themselves.

27. Explain why you think that many people often depend on their own strength and fail to think about the consequences of their choices.

The king of Egypt took the gold shields that Solomon had made. Then Rehoboam was forced to make shields of bronze to replace the shields of gold that had been made by Solomon. Only when Rehoboam finally humbled himself did the Lord cause the situation to begin to improve in the land of Judah. We also see that Rehoboam did evil because he had not prepared his heart to seek the Lord. Then we see part of the reason why Rehoboam was not eager to seek the will of the Lord for his life. He was influenced by his mother who was from the land of Ammon and did not serve the Lord.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 12:1-16 and write what happened in the relationship between Judah and Israel during this time.

29. Explain why God will always bring judgment on those who choose to turn away from Him.

30. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to prepare your heart to seek the Lord.

Rehoboam was the king of Judah for seventeen years. During this time there was constant war between the nations of Israel and Judah. When Rehoboam died, his son, Abijah, became the new king of Judah. However, the fighting between Israel and Judah continued. Abijah went to fight against Israel with four hundred thousand men. However, Jeroboam came with an army of eight hundred thousand men. Then Abijah stood on the top of a mountain and called to Jeroboam.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 13:1-22 and write the name of the mountain on which Abijah stood as he called to Jeroboam.

32. Explain why God chose to allow Rehoboam to continue to experience the consequences of his choice to not listen to the leaders of Israel.

33. Explain why you think that there was constant war between the nations of Israel and Judah during the time of Rehoboam.

Abijah told how the Lord had promised that the family of David would serve as the kings of the nation of Israel forever. Then he said that Jeroboam had gathered a group of worthless men and had rebelled against the family of David. In addition, the people of Israel had chosen to serve golden calves as their gods. Meanwhile the people of Judah had continued to serve the Lord. Abijah said that as the people of Judah came to fight against Israel that the Lord was their captain. They were trusting in Him for victory in any battle.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 13:1-22 and write what Abijah said would happen to Israel if they chose to fight against God.

35. Explain why Abijah said that Judah was trusting the Lord for victory in any battle that would happen.

36. Explain why you think that it is also important for us to trust the Lord in our lives at all times.

While Abijah was talking, Jeroboam sent part of his men around behind the army of Judah so that they could serve as an ambush. Suddenly the army of Judah realized that they were surrounded. Then they called to the Lord and asked the Lord to help them. The Lord heard the prayers of the men of Judah and gave them a great victory over the army of Israel. The army of Israel was forced to flee because the men in the army trusted their own strength instead of trusting the Lord and asking Him to fight for them in His strength.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 13:1-22 and write how many men of the army of Israel were killed when they fought against Judah.

38. Explain why the Lord gave the nation of Judah a great victory over the nation of Israel that day.

39. Explain why it was important for the nation of Judah to make the choice to trust the Lord for strength instead of depending on themselves.

Judah won a great victory over Israel because they depended on the Lord instead of trusting their own strength. Today we will also have a life of victory as Christians if we will learn to depend on the Lord for our strength instead of trusting in ourselves. The army of Israel lost five hundred thousand men in their fight against Judah and as a result Israel did not recover its strength during the rest of the rule of Jeroboam. The Lord brought judgment and death on Jeroboam because of his sin because he chose to lead Israel to sin against the Lord by serving the golden calves instead of leading the people to serve the Lord.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-22 and write how many wives Abijah had.

41. Explain why we can trust the Lord to give us the strength that we need each day if we will trust Him instead of trusting in ourselves.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to judge Jeroboam and Israel for their worship of the golden calves.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 9:1-13:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 10
2 Chronicles 14:1-18:34

In our last lesson we learned about the way that Rehoboam had sinned. We also saw that he caused the people of Judah to sin with him. However, Rehoboam had a grandson by the name of Asa that eventually became the king of Judah. Asa was a good king and served the Lord. As a result, Asa also led the people of Judah in the worship of the Lord. Here we see the influence of either a good or an evil leader. This is a picture of the importance of godly spiritual leadership. However, we will also read about failure in the life of Asa. We see that God always includes the failures of men as well as their successes.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the way that Asa served the Lord.
- Explain what happened when Asa depended on Syria instead of the Lord.
- Tell how the Lord blessed Jehoshaphat.
- Explain what Macaiiah said about Ahab.

When Abijah died, his son Asa became the new king of the nation of Judah. We read that Asa did the things that were right in the sight of the Lord. When Asa became the king, he destroyed the altars of the idols. Then he destroyed the idols so that the people would not decide to start worshiping those idols again. Instead Asa instructed the people to serve the Lord and obey the commandments that were written in the Word of God. Because Asa chose to serve the Lord instead of idols, the Lord gave quietness and rest to the land of Judah. That allowed Asa to do some other things. While the land of Judah had rest, Asa used that time to strengthen the cities of Judah and to help the army of Judah become better equipped.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-15 and write who then came to fight against the nation of Judah.
2. Explain how Asa gives us a good example of the benefits of godly leadership in any nation.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for Asa to destroy the idols so that the people would not be tempted to begin worshiping them again.

One day the army of Ethiopia came to fight against the country of Judah. The army of the nation of Ethiopia was more than twice as large as the army of the country of Judah. Instead of becoming fearful, Asa just prayed to the Lord. Asa knew that the Lord could give victory to the army of Judah even though their army was small in comparison to the army of Ethiopia. The Lord heard the prayer of Asa and gave Judah a great victory over Ethiopia. The Ethiopians were forced to flee in order to escape with their lives. Then Judah destroyed the cities of the Ethiopians. As a result, the people of Judah captured large amounts of the possessions of the Ethiopians.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-15 and write what the Lord caused to come on the people in the cities surrounding Gerar.
5. Explain why the size of the army did not matter and the army of Judah was able to defeat a much larger army from the country of Ethiopia.
6. Explain why you realize that prayer and dependence on the Lord will have a much great effect that the power of any army.

After the victory of Judah over Ethiopia, the Lord sent a prophet to speak to Asa. This prophet promised that the people of Judah would be blessed if the people continued to serve the Lord. However, the prophet said that it would be necessary for the Lord to bring judgment if the people of Judah chose to turn away from the Lord. The prophet said that in the past the people of Judah had only turned to the Lord when they were in trouble. Now the Lord promised to bless and reward Judah if the people would choose to serve Him. When Asa heard these words,

he was encouraged to put away the idols that were in the land of Judah.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 15:1-19 and write what Asa did with the altar of the Lord.

8. Explain how the Lord used the words of the prophet to encourage Asa in his leadership of the nation of Judah.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord warned that it would be necessary for Him to bring judgment if the people turned away from the Lord.

The people of Judah as well as the people that had come from the other tribes all gathered together to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Then they made a covenant to seek the Lord with their whole heart and soul. They said that any who refused to serve the Lord were to be put to death. The people were filled with joy when they made their decision to serve the Lord with their whole heart. This is also the secret for joy in our own lives. When we serve the Lord with our whole hearts, we will also begin to experience the joy of the Lord in our hearts.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 15:1-19 and write what God says about the heart of Asa for the entire length of his life.

11. Explain what happens when people make the choice to serve the Lord with their whole hearts.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord will also cause us to experience joy when we choose to serve Him with our whole heart.

The mother of Asa served idols so Asa removed her from being the queen. Then Asa cut down her idol and burned it. One thing that Asa failed to do was destroy the high places. However, his own heart was right with the Lord. One day Baasha, the king of Israel, came to fight against Judah. Instead of trusting the Lord to give him victory over Israel, Asa decided to ask the king of Syria to come and help him fight against the army of Israel. Asa took the silver and gold that were in the temple of the Lord and sent it to the king of Syria in exchange for help in fighting against Israel.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 16:1-14 and write what Asa said that there now was between him and the king of Syria.

14. Explain why Asa chose to remove his mother from being the queen because of the idol that she served.

15. Explain why you think that Asa chose to ask Syria for help to fight against Israel instead of trusting the Lord as he had done earlier.

The king of Syria agreed to help Asa when he saw the gold and silver that Asa had sent. Then the king of Syria sent his army against the northern part of Israel. As a result, it was necessary for Baasha to send his army to protect the northern part of the country of Israel. That meant that the men of Israel were no longer able to continue building the city of Ramah. Then Asa took the men of Judah and went to Ramah. The men of Judah removed everything that Baasha had gathered. The materials that were taken from Ramah were used to build two other cities.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 15:1-14 and write the name of the seer or prophet that came to see Asa.

17. Explain why the plan to ask Syria to help seemed to work at first for the nation of Judah.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord allowed Judah to remove all of the materials that Baasha had at Ramah.

The prophet Hanani had a message for Asa from the Lord. The Lord told Asa that he had done wrong to seek the help of Syria instead of trusting the Lord and asking the Lord to help him. If Asa would have trusted the Lord, the Lord would have given him victory over both Israel and Syria. Instead of confessing his sin to the Lord and asking the Lord for forgiveness, Asa angrily placed Hanani in jail. He also began to do evil to some of the other people of Judah. As a

result, he failed to seek the help of the Lord. Here we see the results when people allow unconfessed sin to remain in their lives.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 16:1-14 and write how long Asa ruled as the king of the nation of Judah.
20. Explain why the Lord would have given Judah an even greater victory if Asa would have trusted the Lord for victory.
21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the results of unconfessed sin from these verses.

Because of the choices that Asa had made, he faced various problems for the rest of the time that he was the king of Judah. When Jehoshaphat became the king he was blessed by the Lord because he walked in the ways of David. Instead of seeking the Baals as some of the kings of Judah had done, Jehoshaphat chose to follow the Lord. Then the Lord blessed Jehoshaphat and gave him much riches. Instead of depending on these riches, Jehoshaphat had an even greater dependence on the Lord. He also destroyed the high places and idols that were still in Judah.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 17:1-19 and write what Jehoshaphat sent the princes to do in the third year of his reign.
23. Explain why the Lord could bless Jehoshaphat because he chose to walk in the ways of David.
24. Explain why you think that you can trust the Lord to provide for your needs instead of depending on riches.

Jehoshaphat sent some of the princes together with some Levites and priests to each of the cities of Judah to teach the Word of God to the people. Jehoshaphat realized that the only way that the people would serve the Lord was if they knew the Word of God. Today the Lord has given the leaders in the church the responsibility to teach and explain the Word of God and provide an example to the people so that the people will be equipped to serve the Lord. Because Jehoshaphat chose to serve the Lord, the Lord worked in the hearts of the rulers in other nations and caused the nations around him to fear him so that they would not fight against him.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 17:1-19 and write the names of the nations that brought tribute to Jehoshaphat.
26. Explain why Jehoshaphat realized that it was important to have the priests and Levites teach the Word of God to the people.
27. Explain why you think that it is important for you today to teach the Word of God to people so that they will know how to obey and serve the Lord.

The Philistines and the Arabians thought that it would be better to pay taxes and give part of their possessions to Jehoshaphat rather than to fight against him. This was a result of the fear that the Lord had placed in the lives of the leaders of the nations that surrounded the nation of Judah. Jehoshaphat became a very great king because his trust was in the Lord. This blessing also extended to the cities of Judah as the Lord brought them much business. The Lord was blessing Judah because Jehoshaphat had taught the Word of God to the people so that they knew the will of God. God will always bring spiritual blessings to those who faithfully study and obey the Word of God.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 17:1-19 and write how the Word describes the way that Amaziah offered himself to the Lord.
29. Explain why the nation of Judah became a powerful nation as the people learned the Word of God and began to obey it.
30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of teaching the Word of God to others.

The Lord blessed Jehoshaphat because he had made the choice to serve the Lord. However, we also read about a failure that happened in the life of Jehoshaphat. This failure affected the future of the entire nation of Judah. Jehoshaphat made a marriage alliance with Ahab by getting

the daughter of Ahab as the wife for his son. Marriage of a person that trusts in the Lord to a person that refuses to trust the Lord will always bring trouble. One day several years later Jehoshaphat went to visit Ahab. Then Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to go with him to fight against the nation of Syria. Jehoshaphat agreed to go with Ahab to fight.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 18:1-34 and write what Jehoshaphat asked Ahab to do first before they went to fight against Syria.

32. Explain why there will always be problems when a person that trust the Lord marries a people that refuses to trust the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that Jehoshaphat agreed to go and fight with Ahab against Syria even though Ahab was a very evil king.

Jehoshaphat wanted to know what the Lord had to say even though he had already agreed to go and fight with Ahab against Syria. Ahab immediately called for four hundred of his false prophets. These false prophets all agreed that Israel and Judah would win a great victory over Syria. However, Jehoshaphat realized that the prophets of Ahab were not prophets of God. As a result, he asked Ahab if there were any prophets of God that could tell them what God had to say. Ahab said that there was a prophet of God but Ahab did not like him because he always spoke evil about Ahab. Ahab felt that his words were never kind to him.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 18:1-34 and write the name of the prophet of God that Ahab said that he did not like.

35. Explain why Jehoshaphat was able to realize that the prophets that Ahab called were not prophets of God.

36. Explain why you think that all of the false prophets of Ahab said that Israel and Judah would win a great victory over Syria.

At first Micaiah mocked Ahab by repeating the words of his false prophets. Then Ahab asked Micaiah to tell the truth. Micaiah replied that he saw Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep without a shepherd. Ahab knew that Micaiah had given a promise that he would be killed. Then Micaiah told how the Lord had allowed a lying spirit to put lies in the mouths of the false prophets of Ahab so that he would believe them and go to his own destruction. Here we see that the desire of the evil spirit was to destroy Ahab and bring an end to his rule.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 18:1-34 and write what Ahab had his servants do with Micaiah after he heard the prophecy of Micaiah.

38. Explain why the desire of evil spirits is always to destroy the lives of people.

39. Explain why you think that Ahab was still ready to go and fight against Syria even though he had heard the words of Micaiah.

After he heard the word of Micaiah, Ahab decided to disguise himself because he thought that no one would try to kill him if they did not realize that he was the king. However, the Lord had said that Ahab would be judged. God caused a man in the army of Syria to shoot an arrow into the air even though he was not shooting at anything. Then God guided that arrow so that the arrow hit Ahab right at the very place where the pieces of his armor were joined together. Ahab was severely wounded by the arrow. However, Ahab continued to fight.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 18:1-34 and write when Ahab died.

41. Explain why the disguise of Ahab did not protect him when he went out to the battlefield to fight against the Syrians.

42. Explain why you think that Ahab thought that he would be protected by wearing a disguise to the battlefield.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 14:1-18:34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 11
2 Chronicles 19:1-23:21

In our last lesson we learned about the king of Israel and the king of Judah joining together to fight against the king of Syria. Just as the prophet Micaiah had prophesied, Ahab was killed in the battle. Then the Lord sent a prophet to rebuke Jehoshaphat for joining with Ahab. Later several nations joined together to come and fight against the nation of Judah. Instead of following his own ideas as he had done when he fought with Ahab, this time Jehoshaphat asked the Lord to help Judah. Then the Lord gave Judah a great victory over its enemies.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about Jehoshaphat joining with Ahab to fight.
- Tell about the great victory of Judah over its enemies.
- Explain why Jehoram turned away from the Lord.
- Tell about the leadership of Joash.

God had a prophet waiting to speak to Jehoshaphat when he returned from fighting with Ahab against the Syrian army. Jehu met Jehoshaphat as he was returning from the battle. The Lord used Jehu to ask Jehoshaphat if he had done right to join together and fight with a person that hated the Lord as Ahab did. Jehoshaphat had actually fought on the side of one that was trying to spread evil to other lands. There is an important lesson here. The Lord does not want us to join with those who reject the Word of God because we would only be helping them to spread their evil. We may have a good purpose but we will spread evil instead.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 19:1-11 and write what Jehu said would be the result of this evil of Jehoshaphat.
2. Explain why the Lord does not want us to join with those who reject the Word of God and teach things that are against the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that Jehoshaphat had chosen to join with Ahab to fight against Syria even though Ahab was a very evil king.

Here we see that cooperation with those who reject the Word of God can bring judgment to our own lives. However, the Lord said that this judgment would not come immediately because Jehoshaphat had destroyed the idols in the land and had also prepared his heart to seek the Lord. We will see that the judgment actually came on the children and grandchildren of Jehoshaphat because of the daughter of Ahab that was married to the son of Jehoshaphat. When we join together with those who reject the Word of God, our children will often follow the evil ways of those who reject the Word of God. During this time Jehoshaphat also appointed judges.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 19:1-11 and write for whom these judges were actually working even though they had been appointed by Jehoshaphat.
5. Explain why the Lord warned Jehoshaphat that evil would come on his children and grandchildren because of his alliance with Ahab.
6. Explain why you realize that it is always important to think about the way that your decisions will affect your children and your grandchildren.

As the judges of Judah, we see that these men were actually working for the Lord. As a result, they were not to accept bribes. Jehoshaphat also gave instructions to the Levites to remind them that they were working for the Lord. Because they were working for the Lord, they were to do their work faithfully. They were to fear and serve the Lord. They were to have a perfect heart toward the Lord. The Levites were to teach and warn the people so that the people would not disobey the commandments of the Lord. Then Jehoshaphat told all of his leaders that the

Lord would bless them if they would obey the Lord and do what was right and good.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 19:1-11 and write how Jehoshaphat told the judges to deal with the cases that were brought to them.

8. Explain why all people that follow the Lord should do their work in a way that will be pleasing to the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that every follower of the Lord is to have a heart that is perfect before the Lord.

One day a great army of Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites came to fight against the nation of Judah. Jehoshaphat had learned when he had joined together and fought with Ahab the danger of following his own plans. As a result, Jehoshaphat realized the importance of seeking the will of the Lord. All of the people of Judah gathered together to pray and ask the Lord for help. As Jehoshaphat prayed, he emphasized the fact that the Lord is the One that had all might and all power. The Lord is the One that had promised His people that He would deliver them if they would call to Him and ask for help. Now Jehoshaphat asked the Lord to help Judah defeat its enemies.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-37 and write the name of the prophet that God sent to give an answer to Jehoshaphat.

11. Explain why it is important to realize that the Lord has all might and power when we come to Him in prayer.

12. Explain why you think that it is also important for us to seek the will of the Lord instead of following our own plans.

Jahaziel had a wonderful promise from God for the people of Judah. The people did not need to be afraid of the great army that was coming against them because the battle was not their battle. Instead this battle was the Lord's. As a result, the people were told that they would not even need to fight. Instead they were to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The people of Judah went out to the battlefield and began to sing praises to the Lord for what he was going to do. Then the Lord caused the people of Ammon, Moab and Edom to fight against each other. They kept fighting until they had completely destroyed each other. Then the people of Judah gathered the riches of the people that had been killed.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-37 and write how long it took them to gather the spoil.

14. Explain why it is important in any conflict to realize that the battle is the Lord's and that if we trust Him we will see Him work.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord told the army of Judah to go out to the battlefield and sing praises to God for what He was going to do.

The enemies had brought so much stuff with them to the battlefield that it took the people of Judah three days to gather all of the things that had belonged to their enemies. After the people of Judah had gathered all of the spoil of their enemies, then they gathered for a day of thanksgiving to the Lord. They sang many praises to the Lord for giving them victory over their enemies. The people of the surrounding area were afraid to fight against Judah because they heard how the Lord had fought for Judah. As we come to the summary of the life of Jehoshaphat, we read that he did what was right in the sight of God. We also read of one more failure in the life of Jehoshaphat. He joined the king of Israel in building ships to go to Tarshish. God brought judgment by destroying the ships.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-37 and write the name of the prophet that the Lord used to tell Jehoshaphat what would happen to the ships.

17. Explain what kind of a victory the Lord will give when we place our trust in Him instead of ourselves.

18. Explain why you think that the people of Judah chose to celebrate their victory by having a day of thanksgiving to the Lord.

When Jehoshaphat died, his son became the king of Judah. Jehoram was married to the daughter of Ahab and so he chose to follow the evil ways of his wife. Jehoshaphat had several sons and so he had shared his wealth with them. However, he had chosen Jehoram to become the king because he was the oldest son. When Jehoram became the king, he killed his brothers so that they would not try to take the kingdom from him. His own evil made him think that his brothers would do evil. Jehoram was so evil that the only reason that God did not destroy him was because of the covenant that the Lord had made with David.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 21:1-20 and write who revolted against the nation of Judah during this time.

20. Explain why the evil heart of Jehoram caused him to think that his brothers would do evil to him.

21. Explain how this event shows that the choice that Jehoshaphat had made to join with Ahab did bring judgment to his children.

Because of the sin of Jehoram, God caused the Edomites and the people of Libnah to rebel against him and not serve Jehoram any longer. As a result, he did not receive taxes from them any longer. Jehoram also made high places on the mountains of Judah where the people worshiped idols and served other gods. Then God used a prophet to write a letter of warning to Jehoram. This letter contained a promise of coming judgment. Because Jehoram had chosen to follow the evil ways of Ahab, God promised to cause him to get a disease of the intestines.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 21:1-20 and write the name of the prophet that sent this message to Jehoram.

23. Explain what this chapter teaches about the judgment of Jehoram for his sin.

24. Explain why you think that the people began to quickly worship idols and serve other gods when Jehoram made high places for the idols.

God also led other nations to come and fight against Judah. These included the Philistines, the Arabians and some Ethiopians. These enemies captured the wives and all of the sons of Jehoram except the youngest son. Jehoram still did not turn from his sin so God sent the disease in his intestines that God had promised. As a result, Jehoram died in a terrible way because of the disease in his intestines. Because Jehoram had been such an evil king, he was not buried in the graves of the kings of Judah even though he was buried in Jerusalem.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 21:1-20 and write how long Jehoram suffered with the disease in his intestines.

26. Explain why the Lord brought physical disease on Jehoram when He refused to turn from his sin.

27. Explain why you think that there are times when the Lord uses physical disease as a judgment for sin.

Ahaziah also called Jehoahaz became the king when his father died because all of his brothers had been killed by the Arabians. Ahaziah was a very evil king because he chose to follow the advice of Athaliah, his mother. She was from the family of Ahab. Athaliah taught Ahaziah how to do even greater evil. Then Ahaziah joined the king of Israel in fighting against the Syrians. The king of Israel was wounded on the battlefield and went to Jezreel to recover from his wounds. Then Ahaziah went to visit the king of Israel at Jezreel.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 22:1-12 and write who killed both kings.

29. Explain why Athaliah taught Ahaziah to be an even more evil king than his father.

30. Explain why you think that Athaliah wanted to train her son to be a very evil king of the nation of Judah.

The Lord had told Jehu to completely destroy the family of Ahab because of their sin. That was the reason why Jehu killed both kings because they each had one parent that was from the family of Ahab. When Athaliah heard that her son had been killed by Jehu, she killed all of

those who had a right to the throne of Judah. Only a small baby by the name of Joash escaped because the sister of Ahaziah hid him from Athaliah and those she sent to kill the males that had the right to the throne of Judah. This sister was the wife of the priest. The sister and her husband hid Joash for six years so that Athaliah would not know that he was alive.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 22:1-12 and write who ruled Judah during that six year period.

32. Explain why God told Jehu to completely destroy the family of Ahab so that none of them would remain.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord protected one person that had a right to the throne of Judah that was not related to the family of Ahab.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada gathered the leaders of Judah and made a covenant with them. The Levites from throughout the nation were also gathered together at Jerusalem.

These men all agreed to make Joash their king and not allow Athaliah to rule any longer.

Jehoiada divided the men into three groups so that they could protect Joash from Athaliah.

These men were told that they were to kill any person that tried to enter into the temple. Spears and shields were given to the captains of hundreds so that they could guard Joash.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 23:1-21 and write who had made these weapons that were given to the captains.

35. Explain why Jehoiada gathered all of the leaders and Levites from throughout the nation of Judah when he presented Joash to them.

36. Explain why you think that these men were all in agreement that Athaliah should not be allowed to rule Judah any longer.

When all of the men were in their places Jehoiada brought Joash out of the place where he had been hidden. The crown was placed on his head. Then all of the men shouted, "God save the king". Athaliah heard the people running and shouting praises to the king and went to investigate. When she saw the king, she tore her clothes and shouted, Treason! Treason! Then Jehoiada commanded the men to capture her and take her out and kill her. Just as she had killed all of those that had a right to the throne of Judah, she was now killed.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 23:1-21 and write what happened in the city of Jerusalem after Athaliah was killed with the sword.

38. Explain what you learn from this chapter about the judgment of Athaliah.

39. Explain why you think that the Levites and leaders of Israel shouted "God save the king" when they placed the crown on the head of Joash.

Jehoiada was a priest that really wanted to lead the people to serve the Lord. All of the people followed him to the house of Baal where they destroyed the images of Baal and killed the priest of Baal. Jehoiada also led the people to begin offering sacrifices to the Lord again. The Levites again began to fulfill their responsibilities as singers and porters for the temple. Then all of the people placed Joash on the throne of Judah. All of the people were filled with joy.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 23:1-21 and write what the city of Jerusalem was like after Athaliah was killed.

41. Explain why one of the first things that Jehoiada did after Joash became king was destroy the images of Baal and kill the priest of Baal.

42. Explain why you think that the temple quickly became the center of worship in the land of Judah once Athaliah was removed as the queen and killed.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 19:1-23:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 12
2 Chronicles 24:1-28:27

In our last lesson we learned that Jehoiada had protected Joash from Athaliah and had made him the king of Judah. As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash served the Lord and was a good king in the land of Judah. During this time the people really turned to the Lord and began to follow Him again. However, when Jehoiada died, Joash did not continue to stand firmly for the Lord. As a result, it was necessary for the Lord to bring judgment on Joash for his choices. We will learn about that judgment and also learn what happened to several kings that came after Joash.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the life of Joash.
- Tell what you learn about the rule of Amaziah.
- Explain why Uzziah became a leper.
- Tell about the reign of Jotham and Ahaz.

Joash was only seven years old at the time that he became the king of Judah. As a result, Joash followed the suggestions of Jehoiada about the right way to rule the kingdom. Because Jehoiada had a strong trust in the Lord, the things that he suggested to Joash were based on the Word of God. As a result, Joash followed the Lord as long as Jehoiada lived. One day Joash decided to repair the temple. Then he instructed the Levites to go through the land and collect money from the people to repair the temple. However, the Levites failed to go and collect the money from the people. Finally Joash called Jehoiada to find out why the Levites had failed to collect the money to repair the temple.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 24:1-27 and write why the temple needed to be repaired.
2. Explain how the leadership of Jehoiada helped Joash to be a good king as long as Jehoiada lived.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for you to follow the example of Jehoiada and help others learn to base their decisions on the Word of God.

The sons of Athaliah had followed the evil ways of their mother and had done everything possible to stop the worship of God. In fact they had broken up the house of God so the temple greatly needed to be repaired. Then the king suggested a new way to gather money to repair the temple. A chest was placed at the gate of the temple with a hole in it where the people could bring a freewill offering. Each time that they emptied the chest there was a large amount of money in it. When the people were given an opportunity to give, they gave generously until there was more than enough to repair the temple. Then the remaining money was used to make the things that were needed inside the temple to carry out the service of the temple.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 24:1-27 and write how old Jehoiada was when he died.
5. Explain why the people wanted to give generously when they were given the opportunity to give to the repair of the temple.
6. Explain why you think that people need to be given opportunities to give to the Lord and His work.

The Lord gave Jehoiada a long life because he had faithfully served the Lord. When he died, he was buried with the kings because he had done good both to God and also to his nation. After Jehoiada died, the princes of Judah began to serve idols. As a result, the Lord was angry with Judah. The Lord sent the son of Jehoiada named Zechariah to warn the princes that they would be judged because they had chosen to turn away from the Lord. These princes told Joash what Zechariah had said and he commanded the princes to stone Zechariah. Here we see that

Joash forgot all that Jehoiada and the Lord had done for him.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 24:1-27 and write what Zechariah said as he died.

8. Explain why Joash forgot all that Jehoiada had done for him and commanded the princes to stone his son.

9. Explain why you think that people will turn against those who have helped them in the past when they are walking in disobedience to God.

Zechariah said that the Lord would judge the sins of Joash and the princes. This judgment soon began. At the end of that year the Lord sent a small group of Syrians against Judah. This small group of men won a great victory over the nation of Judah because the Lord fought for the Syrians. These Syrians destroyed the princes of Judah so the judgment of the Lord came on them personally. The Lord also sent disease to Joash. In addition, the servants of Joash then plotted against him and killed him. In this way Joash was judged for his sin of ordering the death of Zechariah. We are reminded that the Lord will always judge sin.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 24:1-27 and write who became the king when Joash died.

11. Explain what this chapter teaches about the choices that Joash made in his life after Jehoiada died.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord fought for the Syrians against the nation of Judah.

When Joash died, his son became the king of Judah. Amaziah was a good king but he did not serve the Lord with a perfect heart. After he became the king, he killed the men that had killed his father. However, he did not kill the sons of these men. Amaziah had three hundred thousand men in his army during this time. When he prepared to fight against Edom, Amaziah hired an additional one hundred thousand men from Israel to help his soldiers fight against Edom. However, a prophet told Amaziah not to use the men of Israel because the Lord was not with them. The Lord also promised to reward Amaziah by giving him more than he had paid the soldiers of Israel.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-28 and write how the men of Israel felt when they were sent home.

14. Explain why Amaziah was willing to listen to the prophet of God even though he had hired the soldiers of Israel.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord said that He would not be with the soldiers of Israel if they fought for Judah.

Judah won a great victory over Edom because Amaziah had obeyed the prophet of God and had sent the men of Israel back to their home. Meanwhile some of the men of Israel that had been sent home destroyed some of the cities of Judah as they were returning to their homes. After Amaziah had defeated Edom, he took some of the gods of Edom and offered incense to them. Here we see that Amaziah had obeyed the prophet of God but he had not recognized the Lord as the One that he should serve with a whole heart. Then God sent a prophet to Amaziah to ask him why he had bowed down to the gods of Edom that had not been able to help Edom when Judah fought against them. Amaziah told the prophet not to talk to him any more or he might be killed.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-28 and write the message that Amaziah sent to the king of Israel.

17. Explain why some people will be obedient to the Lord and yet not serve the Lord with their whole heart.

18. Explain why you think that Amaziah bowed down to the gods of Edom even after the Lord had given Judah a great victory over Edom.

In his pride because of his victory over Edom, Amaziah thought that he could also defeat the king of Israel and his army. As a result, Amaziah challenged the king of Israel to a fight between their armies. The king of Israel warned Amaziah that he was filled with pride and suggested that they not fight against each other. However, Amaziah refused to listen because of his pride. He fought against Israel and suffered a great defeat. The army of Israel came and

broke down part of the wall of Jerusalem and took all of the riches in Jerusalem. Because Amaziah had turned away from the Lord, the Lord allowed some men to plot against him and kill him.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-28 and write where Amaziah was buried when he was killed by the men that plotted against him.

20. Explain why the pride of Amaziah had very negative effects on the nation of Judah and especially the city of Jerusalem.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the pride of Amaziah.

The son of Amaziah became the king of Judah when he was only sixteen years old. We read that Uzziah followed the Lord. He made the choice to follow the Lord because of the faithful ministry of a prophet named Zechariah. Uzziah ruled Judah for a total of fifty-two years. The Lord continued to bless Uzziah as long as he served the Lord. Uzziah fought against several nations while he was the king of Judah. He won a great victory over the Philistines and broke down the walls of several of their cities. The reason that Uzziah was able to defeat the Philistines was due to the fact that the Lord helped him.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-23 and write what nation gave gifts to Uzziah.

23. Explain why the ministry of Zechariah was important in helping Uzziah to become a good king even though he became king at a young age.

24. Explain why you think that faithful individuals like Zechariah encourage many leaders to follow the Lord.

The Ammonites chose to give gifts to Uzziah rather than fight against him. Uzziah was a king that did many different things. He strengthened the city of Jerusalem. He also raised good animals and crops. In addition, Uzziah also built a very powerful army. The nation of Judah was stronger than it had been for many years. Uzziah also had skillful men that invented new inventions that were able to throw great stones as well as shoot arrows. These inventions helped to increase his strength. However, strength can be a very dangerous thing.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-23 and write what Uzziah did when he was strong.

26. Explain why the Lord caused the nation of Judah to prosper during the early years of the reign of Uzziah.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord also gave Judah skillful men that were able to develop new things during the time of Uzziah.

Here we see that when Uzziah became strong that he became very proud. Strength can often cause people to become proud. This pride later led to his destruction. Uzziah decided that he would burn incense in the house of the Lord even though the priests were the only ones that were to burn incense in the temple. The priests told Uzziah that he was wrong to burn incense in the temple and told him to leave the temple immediately. Instead of leaving, Uzziah became angry. When God saw that Uzziah became angry instead of confessing his sin, God struck Uzziah with leprosy. Uzziah was a leper until the day that he died.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 27:1-9 and write who became the king when Uzziah died.

29. Explain why power and strength can be dangerous especially when it leads a person to become proud.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord immediately judged the pride of Uzziah by causing him to become leprosy.

When Uzziah became a leper, his son became the king of Judah. Jotham also followed the Lord. However, he did not follow the sinful example of his father and enter into the temple as Uzziah had done. Although Jotham followed the Lord, the people did evil and did not follow the Lord. Because Jotham followed the Lord, the Lord gave him victory over his enemies. The Lord caused Jotham to become mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord. The Lord will also bless those who choose to follow and serve Him. When Jotham died, Ahaz became the king of Judah.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 27:1-9 and write how long Jotham was the king of the nation of Judah.
32. Explain why the Lord blessed Jotham even though the people were doing evil and failed to follow the Lord.
33. Explain why you think that Jotham was not able to encourage the people to follow the Lord and serve Him.

We read that Ahaz was an evil king. He chose to follow the ways of the kings of Israel. Because he did not follow the Lord, Ahaz made images to the Baals. He also burned incense to idols. In addition, he burned part of his children as sacrifices to the false gods that he worshiped. He followed all of the evil practices that the people in the land had been following when the people of Israel came from the land of Egypt many years earlier. He made all of the high hills places of worship for idols. As a result, God brought other nations against Judah to judge Judah.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-27 and write what the army of Syria did with the captives that they captured.
35. Explain why idol worship became very strong in the land of Judah during the time that Ahaz was the king of Judah.
36. Explain why you think that people could become so controlled by evil that they would even burn part of their children as sacrifices to idols.

Many of the people of Judah were killed and many more were taken as captives to Syria and Israel. However, the Lord showed His kindness by sending a prophet to speak to the leaders of Israel about the captives that had been taken to that country. Oded told the leaders of Israel that Judah had been judged because of sin. Then he reminded the men of Israel that they were also guilty of sin. After listening to Oded, the leaders of Israel told the soldiers that they could not keep the captives as slaves because of their own sins. Then these leaders clothed and fed the people of Judah and took them back to their own country.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-27 and write to what city the men of Israel brought the captives as they brought them back to Judah.
38. Explain how the Lord used Oded to cause the leaders of Israel to return the captives that they had taken from Judah.
39. Explain why you think that God chose to show kindness to the people of Judah even though He brought judgment on that nation.

Even though the captives were returned from Israel, Ahaz refused to turn to the Lord. Instead he continued to follow his sinful ways. As a result, God allowed several other nations to come against Judah. Then Ahaz asked the king of Assyria to come and help him fight against these other nations. In order to get this help, Ahaz gave much of the riches in Jerusalem to the king of Assyria. However, the king of Assyria did not help Judah. Ahaz also sacrificed to the gods of Syria in an effort to get help from them. We see that Ahaz just continued to follow his sinful and evil ways regardless of what the Lord did to try to get his attention.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-27 and write who became the king of Judah when Ahaz died.
41. Explain why Ahaz continued to follow his evil and sinful ways regardless of what the Lord did to try to get his attention.
42. Explain why you think that many people are like Ahaz and refuse to turn to the Lord even when they are experiencing the consequences of their sin.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 24:1-28:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 13
2 Chronicles 29:1-32:33

As we finished our last lesson, we saw that Hezekiah was the man that became the king of Judah when Ahaz died. Our entire lesson today will be spent studying the life of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a good king. He led the people to return to the Lord and led them to serve the Lord. He also invited the people from Israel that served the Lord to come and worship with the people of Judah. In addition, Hezekiah destroyed the idols that the people were serving. The Lord blessed Hezekiah and gave him victory over his enemies. However, we will also read about one failure in the life of Hezekiah.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Judah returned to the Lord under the leadership of Hezekiah.
- Explain why some of the people of Israel came to worship with Judah.
- Explain how the people gave to the Lord.
- Tell how the Lord destroyed the Assyrians.

When Hezekiah became the king of Judah, he did the things that were right in the sight of the Lord. We read that he followed the ways of David. The very first month that he was the king he began repairing the temple. Hezekiah called the Levites and priests together and told them to cleanse themselves so that they would be able to cleanse the temple. During the time before Hezekiah had become the king, the people had all been worshiping false gods. As a result, the temple had been closed and no offerings had been offered at the temple. That was the reason why the Lord had brought great judgment on Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Many of the people had died or had been taken as captives to other lands.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 29:1-36 and write what these verses say was in the heart of Hezekiah to do.
2. Explain what kind of an impact the choice of Hezekiah to follow the Lord had on the nation of Judah.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord uses godly leaders to impact many others in addition to their own lives.

Hezekiah chose to make a covenant with the Lord. Then Hezekiah encouraged the Levites and the priests to serve the Lord and become His ministers. The priests and the Levites listened to the words of Hezekiah and cleansed themselves. Then the priests began to cleanse the temple. They hauled all of the unclean things out of the temple. The Levites then carried the unclean things to the place where they were dumped. It took eight days to cleanse the temple and them eight more days to cleanse the porches of the temple. The vessels of the temple that Ahaz had removed were also cleansed. When Hezekiah heard that the temple had been cleansed, he gathered the leaders of Judah and went to the temple early in the morning.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 29:1-36 and write what kind of an offering was the first offering that was offered to the Lord.
5. Explain how the leadership of Hezekiah influenced the priests and Levites that lived in the country of Judah.
6. Explain why you think that Hezekiah first chose to influence the spiritual leaders of Judah before he even tried to influence the other leaders.

Here we see that Hezekiah and the people began their worship of the Lord by recognizing that they had sinned. This is the first thing that all people must recognize before they will place their trust in Christ. Before the priests killed the animals for the sin offering, the priests laid their hands on the heads of the sacrifices. In this way the priests were personally identifying

themselves with the sacrifices that they were offering. The Levites also played their musical instruments according to the instructions that had been given during the time of David.

7. Read 2 Chronicles 29:1-36 and write how long the singers and the instrument players continued their music.
8. Explain why the priests chose to personally identify themselves with the sin offering by laying their hands on the heads of the animals that they were sacrificing.
9. Explain why you think that we also need to take personal responsibility for our sin and ask the Lord to forgive that sin.

As the people sang the songs of the Lord, they were filled with gladness. The people that wanted to serve the Lord were invited to bring their own sacrifices to sacrifice to the Lord. So many people brought sacrifices that the priests could not offer all of them. As a result, it was necessary for the Levites to help the priests offer the sacrifices. The reason why there were not enough priests to offer all of the sacrifices was due to the fact that part of the priests had not cleansed themselves. Hezekiah was filled with joy when he saw the way that the people turned to the Lord.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 29:1-36 and write how long it took for this revival to happen in the land of Judah.
11. Explain why the opportunity to sing the songs of the Lord caused the people to be filled with joy and gladness.
12. Explain why you think that the people turned to the Lord so suddenly when they had been worshipping idols.

Hezekiah also wanted the nation of Judah to begin observing the Passover again. Then the leaders of Judah decided to invite all of the people of both Judah and Israel to Jerusalem so that they could celebrate the Passover together. The people of Israel were encouraged to turn back to the Lord instead of continuing to follow false gods as their fathers had done for many generations. In his letter to the people of Israel, Hezekiah told the people of Israel that the Lord would show mercy instead of judgment if the people would return to the Lord. Here we see that Hezekiah realized that the people of Israel needed to turn back to the Lord as well as the people of Judah.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-27 and write what most of the people of Israel did when they heard the messengers of Hezekiah.
14. Explain why it was the desire of Hezekiah to see the people of Israel turn back to the Lord as well as the people of Judah.
15. Explain why it is also important for you to encourage people to turn from their sinful ways and turn to the Lord.

Most of the people of Israel mocked and made fun of the messengers that encouraged them to return to the Lord. However, there were a few of the people of Israel that humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem and worshiped with the people of Judah. The people of Israel give us a picture of the people that we tell about Christ and His death and resurrection. Many will mock and laugh. However, a few will humble themselves and turn to the Lord. This is the reason why we should be faithful in speaking for Christ even if many of the people reject our message. We see that the people also destroyed the altars of the idols that were located in Jerusalem.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-27 and write what day the people killed the Passover sacrifice.
17. Explain why it is important to continue to speak for the Lord even when only a few people turn from their sin and turn to the Lord.
18. Explain why you know that the Lord will draw people to Himself if we will be faithful to pray and share about the death and resurrection of Christ.

Many of the people that had come to Jerusalem from the land of Israel had not cleansed themselves. Then Hezekiah prayed and asked the Lord to pardon and forgive these people that

had not been cleansed. The Lord heard the prayer of Hezekiah and forgave them. For seven days the people offered their sacrifices and made confession to the Lord. Then they all agreed to have another seven days of sacrifice and confession. As a result of their choice to be obedient to the Lord, the people were filled with joy. We will also be filled with joy when we confess our sins and get our hearts right with the Lord when we have not been walking with Him.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-27 and write when the last time before that was that the city of Jerusalem had been filled with such great joy.

20. Explain why true repentance and confession of sins will always cause people to be filled with joy.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the attitude of the people of Israel in verses ten and eleven.

After the people had spent fourteen days confessing their sins to the Lord and praising Him, the people then went throughout the land of Judah destroying all of the idols and the altars where the people had been offering sacrifices to those idols. The people made certain that there were no idols left in the land of Judah. Then they returned to their homes. Meanwhile Hezekiah continued to do other things to show his love for the Lord. The priests and the Levites were each given certain responsibilities. Hezekiah also provided the daily sacrifices. Then he encouraged the people of Jerusalem to give to support the priests and the Levites.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 31:1-21 and write how the people started to give to the Lord.

23. Explain why repentance and confession of sin also caused the people to quickly destroy the idols that they had been worshiping.

24. Explain why you think that the Holy Spirit causes people to make great changes in their lives when there is true repentance for sin.

Here we see what happens when the hearts of people are right with the Lord. We see that they become eager to give to help support the work of the Lord. The people brought their crops until there were large piles of food stacked near the temple. Then Hezekiah asked the people what these large piles meant. The priests then told Hezekiah how the people were giving to the Lord. Because the people had decided to give to the Lord, the Lord had blessed them and increased their crops. Then they gave even more to the Lord and the result was these large piles of food.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 31:1-21 and write what Hezekiah instructed the priests to prepare.

26. Explain why people have a desire to give to the Lord when their hearts are right with the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord began to bless the crops of the people of Judah when the people began giving to the Lord.

Hezekiah also appointed men to be in charge of the various duties in the temple. In this way all of the work related to the worship in the temple was carried on in an orderly fashion. The desire of Hezekiah was to serve the Lord in everything that he did. As a result, the things that he did throughout the land of Judah were good and right. The Lord also brought great blessing on Hezekiah because he was doing what was right and pleasing to the Lord. We see that Hezekiah chose to serve the Lord with his whole heart because he wanted to please the Lord.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 31:1-21 and write what the Lord caused to happen to Hezekiah because he chose to seek the Lord with his whole heart.

29. Explain why the influence of one godly leader could have such an effect on the entire land of Judah.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the way that Hezekiah served the Lord.

One day the king of Assyria came to fight against the land of Judah. Then Hezekiah did several things to prepare for this invasion by the army of Assyria. He stopped the springs of water so

that it would be difficult for the Assyrians to find enough water. Hezekiah strengthened the walls of Jerusalem and appointed captains to lead the people of Judah. Hezekiah also encouraged the people to be strong and filled with courage. He said that the king of Assyria only had the strength of men to fight for him. In contrast, Hezekiah and the people of Judah were depending on the Lord.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 32:1-33 and write who Hezekiah said would help Judah.

32. Explain why the most important thing that Hezekiah did to prepare for the Assyrians was to remind the people to depend on the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that even though Hezekiah did certain things to prepare for the Assyrians the most important thing that he did was to depend on the Lord.

Hezekiah realized that the people of Judah could depend on the strength of the Lord rather than their own strength. The king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem with a message for the people. This message said that the people of Jerusalem could not depend on God for strength because Hezekiah had destroyed all of the idols that were in the land. Here we see that the king of Assyria did not know the difference between the true and living God and the false gods that he worshiped. The servants of the king of Assyria warned the people of Jerusalem not to let Hezekiah deceive them.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 32:1-33 and write what kind of letters the king of Assyria wrote to the people of Jerusalem.

35. Explain why the king of Assyria showed that he was totally ignorant in his understanding of the true and living God.

36. Explain why you think that many people are like the king of Assyria and think that all gods are the same.

The king of Assyria chose to make great and bold boasts against the Lord and spoke against Him. He thought that he was more powerful than God. However, he did not know either God or the power of God. God had heard these great boasts of the king of Assyria. Then the Lord sent an angel through the camp of the Assyrian army. That angel killed 185,000 men of the Assyrian army. The king of Assyria returned home in shame because of what had happened to his army. There his own sons killed him as he worshiped in the house of his gods. The Lord brought judgment on the king of Assyria because of his pride.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 32:1-33 and write who God used to test Hezekiah so that Hezekiah would know all that was in his heart.

38. Explain what this chapter teaches about the reason that the king of Assyria and his army were judged.

39. Explain why you think that God chose to judge the pride of the king of Assyria by destroying much of his army.

The Lord blessed Hezekiah and he became rich. However, these riches caused him to become proud. Then God sent sickness to Hezekiah so that he almost died. When Hezekiah humbled himself, God said that he would live for fifteen more years. However, God brought a test to show Hezekiah that he had not completely humbled himself. Hezekiah had visitors come from the land of Babylon. In his pride, Hezekiah showed these visitors all of his riches. God told Hezekiah that one day the Babylonians would come and take all of those riches to the land of Babylon. In this way God showed that Hezekiah still had pride in his heart. God will also bring tests into our lives to show us that we cannot hide any sin in our lives.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 32:1-33 and write who became the king when Hezekiah died.

41. Explain why the Lord had to reveal the pride that Hezekiah was hiding in his heart.

42. Explain why you think that pride is one of the most subtle and dangerous sins that any of us can have in our lives.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Chronicles
Lesson 14
2 Chronicles 33:1-36:23

In our last lesson we learned how the nation of Judah returned to the Lord during the time that Hezekiah was the king. However, the son of Hezekiah was a very evil man. Manasseh worshiped idols. In addition, he also encouraged the people of Judah to worship idols. Then the nation of Judah turned away from the Lord. Even though Josiah encouraged the people to return to the Lord, judgment on the land of Judah was coming very close. The kings that followed Josiah were all very evil. As a result, we will read about judgment coming to the nation of Judah.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the evil life of Manasseh.
- Tell about the spiritual leadership of Josiah.
- Tell about the Passover being established again.
- Explain why Judah was destroyed.

Manasseh was only twelve years old when he became the king of Judah. That meant that he was born during the early part of the fifteen years that the Lord added to the life of Hezekiah. We see that Manasseh was a very evil king. He rebuilt the idols and their altars that his father had destroyed. Then he bowed down and served these idols. In addition, Manasseh even built altars for the idols right in the temple and its courts. He also caused his children to walk through the fire as sacrifices to his god. Then he practiced every form of witchcraft. He even set up an idol right in the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-25 and write what Manasseh caused the people of Judah and Jerusalem to do because of his sins.
2. Explain why Manasseh let the worship of idols including the offering of his children as sacrifices take total control in his life.
3. Explain why you think that Manasseh was such an evil king after his father had been a godly king that followed the Lord.

Manasseh set an evil example and the people of Judah followed his example. The things that Manasseh did were so evil that the people of Judah committed worse sins than the people that had lived in the land were doing when Israel entered the land many years earlier. The Lord sent a prophet to warn Manasseh and the people but they refused to listen. Then God brought the Assyrians against the land of Judah. The Assyrians captured Manasseh and took him in chains to Babylon. There he finally humbled himself and prayed to the Lord. The Lord is a God of mercy and He heard the prayer of Manasseh and brought him back to Jerusalem. Then Manasseh rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem and put soldiers in the various cities of Judah.

4. Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-25 and write what Manasseh did to the altar of the Lord in the temple.
5. Explain why the Lord brought the Assyrians against the land of Judah when Manasseh refused to listen to the prophet of the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that the entire nation of Judah turned to evil because of the example that was given by Manasseh.

Manasseh removed the idols and their altars that he had placed in the city of Jerusalem. Then he repaired the altar of the Lord and offered sacrifices to the Lord. However, the people continued to offer sacrifices to idols in the high places. Here we see what happens when a nation has evil leadership. The people follow those evil ways. When Manasseh died, his son

Amon became the next king of Judah. Amon was just as evil as Manasseh had been. Manasseh had provided an evil example and Amon continued to follow that evil example even when Manasseh turned back to the Lord. Finally the Lord allowed the servants of Amon to kill him because he was so evil

7. Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-25 and write who became the king when Amon was killed by his servants.

8. Explain why the people of Judah did not turn back from their evil ways even though Manasseh did turn to the Lord.

9. Explain what lessons you learn from the evil ways of Manasseh.

When Amon died, Josiah became the king of Judah. Josiah was only eight years old when he began to rule the nation. We see that Josiah was very different from his father. Josiah walked in the ways of David and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. It was when he was sixteen years old that he really began to serve the Lord. When he was twenty years old, he destroyed all of the idols and their altars that were in Jerusalem and the land of Judah. He burned bones on these altars so that no one would want to use these altars for worship again.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 and write what year of his reign Josiah began to repair the temple of the Lord.

11. Explain what made it possible for Josiah to begin serving the Lord from a young age even though his father had been very evil.

12. Explain why you think that God can change and transform the life of any person regardless of how sinful the parents of that person were.

Josiah was only twenty-six years old when he began to repair the temple of the Lord. Josiah sent several leaders to Hilkiyah, the priest, to give him instructions about the repairing of the temple. The Levites had begun gathering money to repair the temple. The Levites took the money that the Levites had gathered for the repair of the temple and used it to hire workmen. The men that had been hired to do the work of repairing the temple then began to make the needed repairs. These men were faithful men and they also worked hard. It was necessary to repair the temple because some of the previous kings had destroyed parts of it.

13. Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 and write what Hilkiyah found as they were repairing the temple.

14. Explain why Josiah also had a desire to repair the temple as well as choosing to serve the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that true faith and growth in the Lord will also give every person a desire to serve the Lord.

Hilkiyah found a copy of the book of the Lord that had been written by Moses. When Shaphan went to report on the progress on the work of the temple to the king, he took this book of the law with him to the king. Shaphan gave his report about the temple. Then Shaphan began to read the book of the law to the king. When the king heard the Word of God, the Word brought great conviction to his heart. Then Josiah tore his clothes to show his sorrow for his sin. He realized that the nation was facing great judgment because the people had not been obeying the Word of God. Then Josiah decided to find out if the Lord had any additional messages for the nation of Judah about this coming judgment of which Moses had warned.

16. Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 and write to whom Hilkiyah went to get a message from the Lord.

17. Explain how the Lord had worked in the life of Josiah for sixteen years even before a copy of the Law written by Moses was even found.

18. Explain why you think that the reading of the Word of God brought great conviction to the life of Josiah.

Huldah, the prophetess, told Hilkiyah that the Lord would certainly bring judgment on the nation of Judah because of its sin. The Lord had to bring that judgment because of the sins and idol worship of the people. However, this judgment would not come during the time that Josiah was

the king because he had humbled himself and sought the Lord. Then Josiah gathered all of the people that were in Jerusalem and read the law to them. Together the king and all of the people made a covenant to serve the Lord with their whole heart and soul.

19. Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 and write what Josiah and the people said in the covenant that they made with the Lord.

20. Explain why it was important for Josiah to gather all of the people together at Jerusalem so that they could all hear the Law read to them.

21. Explain what you learn about the power of God to bring conviction to the hearts of people when His Word is read.

The Passover had not been celebrated in the land of Judah for a long time. Then Josiah gave instructions to the people about keeping the Passover. He told the priests and the Levites to cleanse themselves so that they could fulfill their duties as spiritual leaders. If we are going to lead others to serve the Lord, we must be right with the Lord ourselves. Then Josiah and the princes provided animals so that all of the people would have a lamb to offer as a sacrifice to the Lord. Josiah set an example for the princes to follow by the way that he provided sacrifices for the people.

22. Read 2 Chronicles 35:1-27 and write how the princes gave to the people as a result of the example of Josiah.

23. Explain why Josiah provided lambs so that all of the people would be able to celebrate the Passover.

24. Explain why you think that Josiah told the priests and Levites to cleanse themselves so that they could fulfill their duties as spiritual leaders.

Because Josiah had set the example, the princes gave willingly to the people. Then the priests killed the animals for the Passover. Together they offered sacrifices to the Lord. Everyone did what the Lord had said should be done. It had been a long time since this had been done. In fact the people had not done what they did to remember this Passover since the days of Samuel which were more than three hundred years earlier. Here we see that we will fail to do the will of the God when we fail to study the Word of God. In contrast, when we study the Word of God we will know how to carry out the will of God. That was what happened when Josiah and the people heard the Word of God.

25. Read 2 Chronicles 35:1-27 and write who Josiah went to fight against.

26. Explain why the fact that Josiah brought all of the people together to hear the Word of God read caused them to begin to observe the Passover again.

27. Explain why you think that it is important for people to hear and study the Word of God in order for them to carry out the will of God.

The king of Egypt was on his way to fight. However, he was not coming to fight against Josiah. Instead he was on his way to the area where the Euphrates River was located. The king of Egypt was in a hurry and did not want to fight against Josiah. The king of Egypt said that God would judge Josiah if he chose to fight against Egypt. Josiah became proud and disguised himself and went to fight against the king of Egypt. The Lord judged the pride of Josiah and he was severely wounded in the battle. Then his servants took him back to Jerusalem where he died.

28. Read 2 Chronicles 35:1-27 and write the name of the prophet that led the people in expressing their sorrow when Josiah died.

29. Explain why pride will always lead to judgment.

30. Explain why you think that Josiah chose to fight against the king of Egypt instead of just letting him pass through the land.

Once Josiah was dead, the nation of Judah became evil again very quickly. The son of Josiah became the king when Josiah died. However, Jehoahaz only ruled the nation of Judah for three months. Then the king of Egypt removed him and made his brother the king instead. The king

of Egypt took Jehoahaz to Egypt so that he would not try to regain the kingdom. Jehoiakim was the brother that the king of Egypt placed on the throne of Judah. He ruled the nation of Judah for eleven years. During that time he did evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not follow the ways of Josiah and serve the Lord during his reign.

31. Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-23 and write who came to fight against Jehoiakim.

32. Explain why the nation of Judah became evil so quickly after the deaths of the godly kings of Judah.

33. Explain why you think that the sons of Josiah did evil and did not follow the Lord even though their father had followed the Lord.

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. He came to fight against Judah. Then Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiakim in chains to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar made the eight year old son of Jehoiakim the king of Judah. Even though Jehoiachin was only eight years old, he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He had learned well the evil ways of his father. As a result, Nebuchadnezzar also took him to Babylon after he had been the king of Judah for three months. Then Zedekiah became the king. Although he was a very evil king, God allowed him to rule for eleven years. Then he decided to rebel against the king of Babylon.

34. Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-23 and write the name of the prophet that gave a warning to Zedekiah.

35. Explain why Jehoiachin was an evil king even though he was only the king of Judah for three months.

36. Explain why you think that Jehoiachin followed the evil ways of his father even after he saw his father taken to Babylon in chains.

Jeremiah warned Zedekiah of coming judgment. However, Zedekiah refused to humble himself. We are also given the reasons why the nation of Judah was judged. Judah followed the evil ways of the surrounding nations. The people also polluted the temple. Instead of listening to the prophets of God that came to warn them, the people of Judah mocked and mistreated the messengers of God. God had sent these messengers because He had love and compassion for the nation of Judah. However, these sins finally made it necessary for the Lord to bring judgment against Judah.

37. Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-23 and write how the Chaldeans from Babylon treated the people of Judah when they came to fight against it when Zedekiah rebelled.

38. Explain why it became necessary for God to bring judgment on the nation of Judah even though he had love and compassion for them.

39. Explain why you think that God allowed the nation of Babylon to judge Judah even though Babylon was a very evil nation itself.

When Zedekiah rebelled against the nation of Babylon, the army of Babylon came against the city of Jerusalem again. This time Babylon showed no mercy. Most of the people of Judah were killed. The riches that were in the city were all taken to Babylon. The temple was burned with fire. The wall around the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. Those who escaped death were taken as servants to Babylon. However, God also showed mercy to Jerusalem. He promised that after seventy years that He would cause Cyrus to show kindness and allow any people that desired to return to the land of Judah. This shows that God still had the same love for Judah and the people even though it was necessary for Him to judge their sin.

40. Read 2 Chronicles 36:1-23 and write in what year of the rule of Cyrus he allowed the people to return to Jerusalem.

41. Explain why God gave the people of Judah the promise that Cyrus would allow those who desired to return to the land of Judah.

42. Explain why you think that the love of God is unchangeable and that God will never forget His promises.

Now reread 2 Chronicles 33:1-36:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.