

Bible Stories for Adults

The Kings of Israel and Judah

2 Chronicles 17 - 24

Opening

Gathering: In what ways have you seen people impacted by their parent's faithfulness or faithlessness?

Today's Focus: God continued to call the kings & people of Israel & Judah to Him despite continued rejection.

Key Verses: *The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them. Even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. 2 Kings 17:22, 19*

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The United Kingdom

How faithful was Saul, the first king of Israel? = Did his own thing,
1 Chronicles 10:13-14 = Didn't inquire of the Lord (didn't look for God's will or guidance)

How faithful was David?

1 Kings 15:5 = An example for all time of the faithfulness that God wants in His leaders

Was Solomon as faithful to the Lord as David had been? = Started strong, grew weak with age

1 Kings 11:4 = No, he was turned to other gods by his many foreign wives

The Divided Kingdom (*1 Kings 11*)

How did Solomon's unfaithfulness lead to a split kingdom?

1 Kings 11:9-13 = God's punishment was to take away ten tribes and give to a subordinate

Who was this subordinate and what caused him to pursue the kingship?

1 Kings 11:26, 29-31 = Jeroboam was called by God through the prophet Ahijah

Had God picked Jeroboam just to punish Solomon, or did He intend to bless Jeroboam?

1 Kings 11:37-38 = He offered to built Jeroboam's dynasty if he remained faithful

The First Kings of Israel - Jeroboam's and Baasha's Dynasties (*1 Kings 12-16*)

How faithful was Jeroboam as King of Israel?

1 Kings 12:26-31 = Created his own religion with calves, priests & festivals

How did God decide to punish Jeroboam for this evil?

1 Kings 14:7-11 = Destroy the household of Jeroboam

Who succeeded Jeroboam as king of Israel and how faithful was he?

1 Kings 15:25-26 = Nadab, Jeroboam's son, Walked in ways of his father

Why did Nadab reign only 2 years? = Baasha wiped out Jeroboam's family as prophesied

1 Kings 15:27-29 = Assassinated & succeeded by Baasha

How faithful was Baasha as king of Israel?

1 Kings 15:33-34 = Did evil & walked in the ways of Jeroboam

Who succeeded Baasha as king of Israel?

1 Kings 16:8 = Elah, his son

What happened to Elah?

1 Kings 16:9-10 = Assassinated and succeeded by Zimri, an official

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Omri's Dynasty (1 Kings 16 - 2 Kings 12)

What did Zimri accomplish during his reign and why?

1 Kings 16:11-13 = Wiped out Baasha's family as prophesied for Baasha's evil

How long did Zimri reign as king of Israel and why?

1 Kings 16:15-18 = 7 days, commit suicide when besieged by army (Omri was commander)

Who became the next king of Israel?

1 Kings 16:21-22 = Omri, after challenger Tibni died

What notable change happened during Omri's reign? = Palace in Tirzah was burned down by Zimri

1 Kings 16:24-25 = He relocated capital from Tirzah to Samaria, made things more evil

Who succeeded Omri and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 16:29-33 = Ahab, was the most unfaithful king ever, worshipped Baal

How did God reach out to His people during this evil time?

1 Kings 18:21, 39 = He sent *Elijah* to remind the people *The Lord is God!*

Who succeeded Ahab and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 22:51-53 = Ahab's son Ahaziah, walked in the ways of his father

Who succeeded Ahaziah after he died within two years from falling through a window?

2 Kings 1:17 = Joram (or Jehoram), his brother, Ahab's son

How faithful was Joram?

2 Kings 3:1-3 = Evil, but a bit better than his father Ahab

Jehu's Dynasty (2 Kings 9-10)

Who became the next king of Israel and why?

2 Kings 9:4-6 (1-6) = Jehu, one of Joram's army commanders, chosen by God

What was Jehu's most important responsibility as the new king?

2 Kings 9:7-8 = Destroy the house of Ahab (eliminate all descendants)

Did Jehu accept this task?

2 Kings 10:11, 17 (9:7-10:17) = Yes, and killed any descendants he found anywhere

How faithful of a king was Jehu?

2 Kings 10:18-19, 24-29 (18-29) = Turned Israel from Baal worship, but left Jeroboam's religion

How did God respond to Jehu's faithfulness? = More on his descendants next week

2 Kings 10:30 = Promised descendants on the throne to the fourth generation

The First Kings of Judah (1 Kings 14-15)

How many dynasties ruled Judah and why?

1 Kings 11:34-36 = Only one, God told David he'd always have a lamp in Jerusalem

How did God keep this promise for eternity?

Matthew 22:41-45 = Jesus was David's son sent to rule forever - the Messiah, Christ

While Jesus was a descendant of David, was He really a king of Judah?

Mark 15:2 = Jesus said He was King of the Jews

How faithful was Solomon's son, Rehoboam, as King of Judah?

2 Chronicles 12:1 = Abandoned the Lord when his position was established

How did God punish Judah for Rehoboam's unfaithfulness?

2 Chronicles 12:2, 9 = Jerusalem was attacked & raided by Shishak of Egypt

Who succeeded Rehoboam as king of Judah and how faithful was he?

1 Kings 15:1, 3 = Abijah, Walked in the sins of his father

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Asa's Reforms (1 Kings 15)

- Who succeeded Abijah as king of Judah and how faithful was he? = Even deposed his grandmother
1 Kings 15:9, 11-13 = Asa, Did right like David, enacted reforms
- How serious was Asa about returning Israel to faithfulness?
2 Chronicles 15:10-15 = Made great sacrifice and nation made covenant to seek the Lord
- Who succeeded Asa as king of Judah and how faithful was he?
2 Chronicles 17:1, 3-4 = Jehoshaphat, Did right like David

Jehoshaphat's Reforms (2 Chronicles 17-20)

- How did Jehoshaphat further the reforms of his father Asa? = Removed high places and Asherah poles
2 Chronicles 17:7, 9 = Sent leaders throughout Judah to teach God's Law
- How did he make sure this faithfulness would last in the nation?
2 Chronicles 19:4-7 (4-11) = Appointed judges and commanded them to be faithful
- How did God bless Jehoshaphat for his faithfulness?
2 Chronicles 17:5, 10 = Was given peace, wealth (tribute from Philistines & Arabs) & power

Jehoshaphat's Downfall (2 Chronicles 18-20)

- How did Jehoshaphat end the civil strife with Israel?
2 Chronicles 18:1 = Married son (Jehoram) to Ahab's daughter (Athaliah)
- Did he take any steps more direct than a political marriage?
2 Chronicles 18:3 (2-34) = Joined Ahab in battle against Aram at Ramoth Gilead
2 Kings 3:7 = Joined Joram in battle against Moab in Desert of Edom
- How did God feel about Jehoshaphat's alliance with Israel?
2 Chronicles 19:2 (1-3) = *Should you help the wicked & love those who hate the Lord?*
2 Chronicles 20:35-37 = Fleet of trading ships Jehoshaphat built with Ahaziah were wrecked

Judah's Period of Baalism (2 Chronicles 21-22)

- Who succeeded Jehoshaphat and how faithful was his reign?
2 Chronicles 21:5-6 (1-7) = Jehoram, Walked in ways of Israel since he married Ahab's daughter
- How did Jehoram show his faithlessness at the beginning of his reign?
2 Chronicles 21:4 = Killed his brothers to protect his throne
- How did God punish Jehoram for his faithlessness? = Elijah sent letter of condemnation (21:12-15)
2 Chronicles 21:8-10 (8-15) = Rebellion from Edom & Libnah
2 Chronicles 21:16-17 = Attacked by Philistines & Arabs; treasures, sons & wives taken
2 Chronicles 21:18-19 = Painful death from bowel disease - *passed away to no one's regret* (v20)
- Who succeeded Jehoram and how faithful was his reign?
2 Chronicles 22:1, 3-4 (1-6) = Ahaziah (Athaliah's son), Ways of Ahab, Advised by Ahab's house
- Why was Ahaziah's reign so short?
2 Chronicles 22:7-9 = Killed by Jehu in purge of Ahab's family (visiting Uncle Joram)
- Who was Athaliah?
2 Chronicles 22:2 = Daughter of Ahab & Jezebel, Jehoram's wife, Ahaziah's mom
- What was Athaliah's top priority when she took rule?
2 Chronicles 22:10 = To purge David's line (killed off royal family)

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Joash Becomes King (2 Chronicles 23)

How was God's chosen line of David protected from Athaliah's purge?

2 Chronicles 22:11-12 = Joash (A's son) was hidden by Jehosheba (Jehoram's d, Jehoida's w)

How did Joash become king?

2 Chronicles 23:2-3, 11 (1-11) = Put in power by priest Jehoida & leaders of Judah

What happened to Athaliah, the last member of Ahab's family?

2 Chronicles 23:12, 15 (12-21) = She was killed

How was Athaliah responsible for her own fate?

Matthew 26:52 = *All who draw the sword will die by the sword*

Joash as King (2 Chronicles 24)

How old was Joash when he became king and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 24:1-2 = 7; *Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years of Jehoida*

What was one of the things Joash did that showed Judah's faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 24:4, 13 (4-14) = Repaired the temple with donations by the people

How faithful did Joash remain after Jehoida died?

2 Chronicles 24:17-19 (15-29) = Abandoned God, worshipped idols, ignored prophets

How did the people respond when shown their unfaithfulness by Jehoida's son?

2 Chronicles 24:20-22 = Forgot Jehoida & killed his son Zechariah

Did Joash at least turn to the Lord when attacked by an enemy?

2 Kings 12:17-18 = Gave temple treasures to Aram (Syria) to buy freedom

Firm to the End (Matthew 10:22)

How was Joash punished for his faithlessness?

2 Chronicles 24:23-25 (23-27) = Wounded by Syrians & assassinated by officials

What lesson did Joash forget that we should remember?

Matthew 10:22 = *he who stands firm to the end will be saved*

What reward have we been promised if we remain faithful to the end?

Revelation 2:10b = *Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I seen God's blessings in response to my faithfulness?
(1 Chronicles 17:7-14; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:1-12; 25:14-46)
2. How have I seen troubles in response to my unfaithfulness?
(1 Kings 14; 16:1-7; Deuteronomy 28:15-68; 11:26-29; Luke 17:1-2; Mark 16:16)
3. How have I seen people's lives impacted by the faithfulness of prior generations?
(1 Kings 11:34-38; Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Kings 10:30; Luke 1:50; Acts 2:38-39)
4. How have I seen people's lives impacted by the faithlessness of prior generations?
(1 Kings 11:31-35; 14:7-14; Exodus 34:6-7; John 8:42-44)
5. How have I built on the faithfulness and avoided the faithlessness of my earlier generations?
(2 Chronicles 14:1-5; 17:1-6; 19:4-11; 24:1-14; Ezekiel 18; Joel 1:3; Luke 18:28-30)