

Bible Stories for Adults

Hezekiah

2 Chronicles 24 – 32

Opening

Gathering: How much impact does a parent have on their children's faithfulness?

Today's Focus: Hezekiah trusted God and returned Judah to faithfulness after his father had kicked God out.

Key Verses: *As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.* 2 Chronicles 26:5b

Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. 2 Kings 18:5

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Faithfulness of Israel (2 Kings 17)

How faithful was the northern kingdom of Israel and its kings?

2 Kings 17:21-22 = People and kings persisted in the sins of Jeroboam

How did God respond to this faithlessness of His people?

2 Kings 17:23 = Exiled the people to Assyria and eliminated the nation

How did God respond to this faithlessness of His kings?

1 Kings 21:21-22 = Stopped evil dynasties and called other kings

Faithfulness of Judah's Early Kings (1 Kings 14-15) = Build table on page 5

How faithful were the people of the southern kingdom of Judah?

2 Chronicles 11:13-14, 16-17 = They began very faithful; Included faithful from Israel

Did Judah and its kings remain faithful? = God punished his faithlessness

2 Chronicles 12:1-2 = Rehoboam abandoned the Lord when his position was established

Did Judah return to faithfulness after Rehoboam was punished?

1 Kings 15:1, 3 = No, his son, Abijah, walked in the sins of his father

Why did God allow this one dynasty to remain throughout the life of the nation of Judah?

1 Kings 15:4-5 = Because of David's faithfulness and God's promise to him

Were all of Judah's kings unfaithful?

1 Kings 15:11-14; 22:41, 43 = Next kings, Asa & Jehoshaphat, enacted reforms & were faithful

Why were the next three rulers of Judah considered evil? = Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah

2 Chronicles 21:5-6 = Walked in ways of Israel since Jehoram married Ahab's daughter

How was this reign of evil ended by a seven year old? = Athaliah killed

2 Chronicles 22:10-12; 23:11, 21 = Joash hidden in temple until priest anointed him at 7

Joash (2 Chronicles 24)

How faithful was this new king? = Judah reformed during Jehoiada, temple repaired

2 Chronicles 24:2, 17-19 (1-19) = Faithful until Jehoiada died, then turned from the Lord

How did Joash respond when Jehoiada's son tried to turn him back to the Lord?

2 Chronicles 24:22 (20-22) = Had him stoned for speaking against the king

How did God respond to Joash's rejection of Him and His servant?

2 Chronicles 24:24-25 (23-27) = Judah & Jerusalem conquered by Aram, Joash assassinated

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Amaziah (2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25)

How faithful was Joash's son Amaziah? = Canaanites had built high places to worship their gods
2 Kings 14:1, 3-4 (1-7) = Did right in the eyes of the Lord as Joash, not as good as David

Did God's blessing of victory over Edom (Seir) further build Amaziah's faith?

2 Chronicles 25:14-15 (5-16) = No, he kept & worshipped Edomite gods

How did God punish Amaziah for rejecting Him?

2 Chronicles 25:20, 22, 27 (17-28) = Routed by Israel; Amaziah went in hiding, then was killed

Uzziah - Azariah (2 Chronicles 26)

How faithful was Amaziah's son Uzziah (also called Azariah) = Right in the eyes of the Lord

2 Chronicles 26:1, 4-5 (1-5) = *As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success*

How did God reward Uzziah's faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 26:7-8, 10, 15 (6-15) = God gave him victory, peace, prosperity, fame and power

Did Uzziah lose faith over time as his predecessors had? = God called priests, Uzziah not invited

2 Chronicles 26:16 = Yes, he became proud; entered temple although restricted to priests

How did God punish Uzziah for defying His regulations regarding the temple?

2 Chronicles 26:19, 21 (17-23) = Inflicted with leprosy for rest of his life, lived in quarantine

Jotham (2 Chronicles 27)

How faithful was Uzziah's son Jotham?

2 Chronicles 27:2 (1-2) = Right in the eyes of the Lord; people worshipped at high places

How did God bless Jotham for his faithfulness? = Peace, prosperity, power

2 Chronicles 27:5-6 (3-9) = Made Ammonites subject to Judah

Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16)

How faithful was Jotham's son Ahaz? = Even sacrificed his sons to the Baals

2 Chronicles 28:1-4 = Turned to heavy Baal worship - worse than Ahab in Israel

How did God punish Ahaz for this evil? = Israel took captives, then returned them

2 Chronicles 28:5, 8 (5-15) = Defeated by Syria (Aram) and Israel - people taken prisoner

Did Ahaz turn to God for protection from Syria and Israel? = Ahaz had trouble from every side

2 Chronicles 28:16, 19-20 (16-21) = No, turned to Assyria who brought more trouble than help

Did Ahaz come to his senses and turn to the Lord in his trouble?

2 Chronicles 28:22-25 = Turned even further away; worshipped Syrian gods, closed temple

Note: Archaeology found that Ahaz was originally called Jehoahaz. Apparently dropped Yahweh portion.

God's Responds to His Unfaithful People (2 Kings 17)

How did God respond at this time to the continued evil and rejection by His northern nation of Israel?

2 Kings 17:5-6 = Sent Assyria to conquer & deport the people of Israel

Since Judah had occasionally returned to faithfulness, did God give them even another chance?

Isaiah 1:1-2, 18-20 = He tried to bring them back again by sending Isaiah

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Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29; 2 Kings 18)

Was the next king, as evil and faithless as his father Ahaz?

2 Chronicles 29:1-2 = No, he was faithful, even like *his father David*

How did he match up with the other good kings of Judah?

2 Kings 18:4-7 = None like him before or after; The Lord was with him, successful

What is the first thing Hezekiah did as king that showed his faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 29:3-5 (3-19) = Reopened, repaired & purified the temple, Consecrated priests

What did Hezekiah do as soon as he was told that the temple was ready (took 16 days)?

2 Chronicles 29:20-21, 27-29 (20-36) = Rededicated temple with sacrifices and great worship

Hezekiah's Passover (2 Chronicles 30)

What did Hezekiah decide to do since it was too late to celebrate Passover (14th day of 1st month)?

2 Chronicles 30:2-3 = Hold it a month late - better late than never to worship God

Note: Numbers 9 instructs those unclean at Passover to celebrate a month later

How did he show his desire for all of God's chosen people to return to the Lord?

2 Chronicles 30:1 (4-12) = Invited ALL Israelites - sent a proclamation as far as Dan (v5)

Note: By delaying Passover a month, he'd fit Israel's schedule as set by Jeroboam

How did Hezekiah handle the problem that Israel had forgotten over 200 yrs how to be purified?

2 Chronicles 30:18-20 (13-20) = He prayed that God would accept them anyway; He did

How did everyone feel about this renewed Passover festival?

2 Chronicles 30:26-27 (21-27) = There was great joy, God heard them

Did this great joy die down the day after the festival?

2 Chronicles 31:1 = No, they went throughout Judah and destroyed pagan worship places

Assyria Threatens (2 Chronicles 32:1-8; 2 Kings 18-19)

What happened in the northern nation of Israel a few years later?

2 Kings 18:9-12 = Assyria conquered, exiled and eliminated Israel

Did God protect Judah from any threat by Assyria because of Hezekiah's faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 32:1 = No, God doesn't promise His faithful will be free of problems (Job)

How did Hezekiah encourage the people in Jerusalem?

2 Chronicles 32:6-8 (2-8) = Agreed that the sides weren't even, but because God was on theirs

Note: Hezekiah had insight like Elisha in 2 Kings 6:8-23

What does this mean for our everyday lives?

Romans 8:31 = *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Assyria Challenges God (2 Chronicles 32:9-23; 2 Kings 19)

How did the Assyrians try to get the Jews to turn on Hezekiah? = Pagan high places used for years

2 Chronicles 32:10-12 (9-12) = Hezekiah is lying; He even destroyed your god's high places

Why should the Jews trust the Assyrians instead of Hezekiah?

2 Chronicles 32:13-15 (13-19) = The Assyrians' power and victories show your god can't help

How did the people respond and how did Hezekiah respond?

2 Kings 18:36; 19:1 = People didn't respond; Hezekiah humbled himself before the Lord

What else did Hezekiah do that showed his faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 32:20 (see 2 Kings 19) = Joined Isaiah in deep prayer to God

How did God respond to Hezekiah's prayer? = Salvation only from God, not by Hezekiah's doing

2 Chronicles 32:21-23 (2 Kings 19:35-37) = He sent an angel who defeated the Assyrians

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Hezekiah Gets Sick (2 Kings 20:1-11)

When is the next time we see Isaiah and Hezekiah together?

2 Kings 20:1 = Isaiah tells Hezekiah he is going to die from an illness he has

How does Hezekiah respond to this news that he has a terminal illness?

2 Kings 20:2-3 = He turns to God in prayer for mercy

How did God respond to Hezekiah's prayer?

2 Kings 20:4-7 = He blessed him with another 15 years of life

How else did God bless Hezekiah at this time?

2 Kings 20:8-11 = Gave him a miraculous sign of a shadow going backwards

Hezekiah's Pride (2 Chronicles 32:25-33; 2 Kings 20:12-21)

Why did God send a high-powered entourage from Babylon to visit Hezekiah?

2 Chronicles 32:31 = To test his faith

How did Hezekiah respond to this test?

2 Kings 20:12-13 = He showed off all of his wealth - His pride got to him

What kind of wealth did Hezekiah show off? = *Succeeded in everything he undertook*

2 Chronicles 32:27-30 = Great riches - silver, gold, jewels, spices, weapons, storehouses...

How did God respond to Hezekiah letting his pride get away with him?

2 Kings 20:14-18 = Isaiah said it would all eventually be taken by Babylon

How did Hezekiah feel about this punishment for just giving a tour to guests?

2 Kings 20:19 = He acknowledged his sin and accepted the punishment

How did the people respond to Hezekiah's death?

2 Chronicles 32:32-33 = *The people of Jerusalem honored him when he died*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When and how have I remained faithful while my friends or others around me were being unfaithful?
(1 Kings 15:11-15; 19:14, 18; Genesis 6:9-12; Jeremiah 31:34; Revelation 2:10)
2. When and how have I been unfaithful because others around me were being unfaithful?
(2 Kings 17:21-23; 2 Chronicles 24:17-19; Matthew 18:6-9; 1 Corinthians 5)
3. How have I walked in the faithfulness of my father(s)?
(2 Chronicles 26:4; Deuteronomy 4:9; 5:16; 1 Corinthians 4:14-16; Galatians 3; Hebrews 13:7)
4. How have I walked in the sins of my father(s)?
(2 Chronicles 21:6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10; Matthew 23:29-36; John 8:44)
5. How have I walked faithfully despite the sins of my father(s)?
(1 Kings 15:11-13; 2 Kings 18:1-7; Deuteronomy 24:16; Jeremiah 31:29-30)

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Kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

<u>King</u>	<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Jeroboam		Created his own religion
Nadab		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Baasha		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Elah		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Zimri		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Omri		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and more
Ahab		Moved past Jeroboam's sin with Baal worship
Ahaziah		Walked in the ways of Ahab and Jeroboam
Jehoram	Reduced Baal worship	Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Jehu	Purged Israel of Baal worship	Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Jehoahaz		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Jehoash		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Jeroboam		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Zechariah		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Shallum		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Menahem		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Pekahiah		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Pekah		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin
Hoshea		Walked in the ways of Jeroboam and his sin

Kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah

<u>King</u>	<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Rehoboam	Started faithful	Abandoned God once established
Abijah		Continued in the sins of his father
Asa	Fully committed to the Lord all his life	
Jehoshaphat	Walked in faithful ways of his father	Allied with Ahab of Israel by marriage
Jehoram		Turned Judah to Baalism of Israel
Ahaziah		Walked in evil ways of the house of Ahab
Athaliah		Walked in evil ways of the house of Ahab
Joash	Returned Judah to faithfulness	Rejected God after Jehoida (high priest) died
Amaziah	Followed faithful early example of father	Worshipped gods of Edom after victory
Uzziah	Did right in the eyes of the Lord	Became proud and entered temple
Jotham	Did right in the eyes of the Lord like father	Left high places
Ahaz		Turned to heavy Baal worship, sacrificed sons
Hezekiah	Returned Judah to faithfulness, Best of Judah	
Manasseh	Eventually repented	Reversed goods of his father, sacrificed sons
Amon		Continued in the sins of his father
Josiah	Returned Judah to faithfulness	
Jehoahaz		Evil in the eyes of the Lord
Jehoiakim		Evil in the eyes of the Lord
Jehoiachin		Evil in the eyes of the Lord
Zedekiah		Evil in the eyes of the Lord

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Kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms

Judah (South)					Israel (North)					
Yr BC	King	Yr	Rule	Prophets	Eras	King	Yr	Rule	Prophets	Eras
931	Rehoboam	17	Bad Mostly		Solomon Dies					
913	Abijah	3	Bad Mostly		Civil Strife	Jeroboam	22	Bad		Civil Strife
911	Asa	41	Good		" "					" "
910					" "	Nadab	2	Bad		" "
909					" "	Baasha	24	Bad		" "
888					" "	Elah	2	Bad		" "
887					" "	Zimri	7d	Bad		" "
886					" "	Omri	12	Extra Bad		" "
876					" "	Ahab (Jezebel)	22	The Worst		" "
871	Jehoshaphat	25	Good		" "				Elijah	" "
853					" "	Ahaziah	2	Bad		Wealth &
853					" "	Jehoram	12	Bad Mostly	" "	Prosperity
851	Jehoram	8	Bad		Baalism				" "	" "
843	Ahaziah	1	Bad		" "	Jehu	28	Bad Mostly	Elisha	" "
842	Athaliah	6	Devilish		" "				" "	" "
837	Joash	40	Good Mostly		Golden				" "	" "
816					Age	Jehoahaz	17	Bad	" "	" "
800					" "	Jehoash	16	Bad	" "	" "
798	Amaziah	29	Good Mostly		" "				" "	" "
785					" "	Jeroboam	41	Bad	Amos	" "
780	Uzziah	52	Good		" "				Hosea	" "
744					" "	Zechariah	6m	Bad	" "	Rapid
					" "	Shallum	1m	Bad	" "	Decline
					" "	Menahem	10	Bad	" "	" "
736	Jotham	16	Good	Isaiah &	" "	Pekahiah	2	Bad	& Micah	" "
735	Ahaz	16	Wicked	Micah	Decline				" "	" "
734				" "	" "	Pekah	2	Bad	" "	" "
732				" "	" "	Hoshea	9	Bad	" "	" "
721	Hezekiah	29	The Best	" "	" "					
693	Manasseh	55	The Worst		" "					
640	Amon	2	The Worst	Nahum &	" "					
638	Josiah	31	The Best	Zephaniah	Reform					
				Jeremiah	" "					
609	Jehoahaz	3m	Bad	" "	Destruction					
608	Jehoiakim	11	Wicked	Habakkuk	" "					
598	Jehoiachin	3m	Bad	Jeremiah	" "					
597	Surrender to Babylon		" "	" "	" "					
	Zedekiah	11	Bad	" "	" "					
586	Gedaliah									
561	Jehoiachin Freed									

Haggai & Zechariah