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2 Chronicles

The book of 2 Chronicles is a book in the Christian Old Testament. It is also sometimes referred to as the "Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah."

The book covers a time period from the reign of King Solomon to the Babylonian exile, with a focus on the kings of Judah. It serves as a continuation of the book of 1 Chronicles, which covers the genealogy of the Israelites from Adam to David.

The book is divided into two main sections: the reigns of the kings of Judah and the history of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The first section covers the reigns of the kings of Judah, starting with Solomon and continuing through the line of David. The section focuses on the religious reforms of the kings, their relationships with other nations, and their successes and failures as leaders.

The second section of the book focuses on the Temple in Jerusalem. It covers the building of the Temple by Solomon, the dedication of the Temple, and the worship that took place there. The section also covers the restoration of the Temple by King Hezekiah and the reforms instituted by King Josiah.

Overall, the book of 2 Chronicles emphasizes the importance of following God's laws and the consequences of disobedience. It also emphasizes the centrality of the Temple and worship in the religious life of the Israelites.

Here's a brief description of each chapter in the book of 2 Chronicles:

1. Chapter 1: Solomon seeks wisdom from God and receives it, and begins to amass wealth and build the Temple.
2. Chapter 2: Solomon begins construction on the Temple, and hires workers and materials from other nations.
3. Chapter 3: A detailed description of the construction of the Temple, including measurements and materials.
4. Chapter 4: The furnishings and instruments of the Temple are described, including the altar and the bronze Sea.

5. Chapter 5: The Ark of the Covenant is brought into the completed Temple, and God's presence fills the Temple.
6. Chapter 6: Solomon prays a dedication prayer for the Temple and blesses the people.
7. Chapter 7: God appears to Solomon and promises to bless the nation if they remain faithful to Him. Solomon and the people sacrifice and worship in the Temple.
8. Chapter 8: Solomon continues to build and fortify cities, and maintains trade relationships with other nations.
9. Chapter 9: The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon and marvels at his wisdom and wealth.
10. Chapter 10: Solomon's son Rehoboam becomes king, and the nation splits into two kingdoms: Israel in the north and Judah in the south.
11. Chapter 11: Rehoboam fortifies his kingdom and sets up religious reforms.
12. Chapter 12: Rehoboam and the people rebel against God, and are punished by an invasion from Egypt.
13. Chapter 13: Abijah becomes king of Judah and leads the nation in a battle against Jeroboam and the northern kingdom of Israel.
14. Chapter 14: Asa becomes king of Judah and institutes religious reforms, and is blessed with victory in a battle against an Ethiopian army.
15. Chapter 15: The prophet Azariah encourages Asa to continue with his reforms and remain faithful to God.
16. Chapter 16: Asa seeks help from a foreign king instead of relying on God, and is rebuked by a prophet.
17. Chapter 17: Jehoshaphat becomes king of Judah and strengthens the kingdom by establishing judges and seeking God's guidance.
18. Chapter 18: Jehoshaphat allies with King Ahab of Israel, but is warned by a prophet that the alliance is a mistake.
19. Chapter 19: Jehoshaphat appoints judges to administer justice and uphold God's laws.
20. Chapter 20: Jehoshaphat leads the nation in prayer and fasting when they are attacked by a coalition of nations, and God delivers them.
21. Chapter 21: Jehoram becomes king of Judah and leads the nation into sin and idolatry.
22. Chapter 22: Jehoram's son Ahaziah becomes king, but is killed along with many of his relatives in a coup.
23. Chapter 23: Jehoiada the priest helps overthrow the queen mother who had seized the throne, and crowns Joash as king.
24. Chapter 24: Joash repairs the Temple and reinstates worship, but falls into idolatry and is killed by his own servants.
25. Chapter 25: Amaziah becomes king of Judah and defeats the Edomites in battle, but is punished for turning to false gods.
26. Chapter 26: Uzziah becomes king of Judah and is successful in many endeavors, but is struck with leprosy for his pride.
27. Chapter 27: Jotham becomes king of Judah and leads a successful reign, but the people continue in idolatry.

28. Chapter 28: Ahaz becomes king of Judah
29. Chapter 29: Hezekiah becomes king of Judah and immediately starts a religious reform by reopening the temple in Jerusalem and purifying it. He also reinstates the priests and Levites and leads the people in a celebration of the Passover.
30. Chapter 30: Hezekiah invites the northern kingdom of Israel to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem, but many refuse to come. However, some do come and the celebration is a success.
31. Chapter 31: Hezekiah continues his religious reforms by organizing the priests and Levites, ensuring they are properly supported, and establishing a system for collecting tithes and offerings. He also eliminates idol worship and establishes Jerusalem as the center of worship for all of Judah.
32. Chapter 32: Hezekiah faces an attack by the Assyrian king Sennacherib, who lays siege to Jerusalem. Hezekiah prays to God for deliverance and God sends an angel to destroy the Assyrian army, saving Judah.
33. Chapter 33: Manasseh becomes king of Judah and leads the people into idolatry, causing God to punish them with foreign invasion and captivity. However, Manasseh repents and turns back to God, and God restores him to the throne.
34. Chapter 34: Josiah becomes king of Judah and leads a religious revival by repairing the temple, restoring worship, and rediscovering the book of the law (likely the book of Deuteronomy).
35. Chapter 35: Josiah celebrates a great Passover and reestablishes the priesthood according to God's instructions.
36. Chapter 36: The book ends with the Babylonian captivity, which occurs because the people of Judah continually reject God and refuse to repent. The temple is destroyed, the people are taken into captivity, and the land of Judah is left desolate.

2 CHRONICLES

CHAPTER 1

2Ch. 1:1 Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

2Ch. 1:2 Then Solomon spoke to all Israel — to the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, to the judges and to all the leaders in Israel, the heads of families —

2Ch. 1:3 and Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the LORD's servant had made in the desert.

2Ch. 1:4 Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 1:5 But the bronze altar that Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was in Gibeon in front of the tabernacle of the LORD; so Solomon and the assembly enquired of him there.

2Ch. 1:6 Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the LORD in the

Tent of Meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

2Ch. 1:7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

2Ch. 1:8 Solomon answered God, “You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place.

2Ch. 1:9 Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth.

2Ch. 1:10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

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2Ch. 1:11 God said to Solomon, “Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honour, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king,

2Ch. 1:12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honour, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.”

2Ch. 1:13 Then Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place at Gibeon, from before the Tent of Meeting. And he reigned over Israel.

2Ch. 1:14 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, [Or charioteers] which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 1:15 The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills.

2Ch. 1:16 Solomon’s horses were imported from Egypt — [Or possibly Muzur, a region in Cilicia; also in verse 17] and from Kue [Probably Cilicia] the royal merchants purchased them from Kue.

2Ch. 1:17 They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels [That is, about 15 pounds (about 7 kilograms)] of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. [That is, about 3 3/4 pounds (about 1.7 kilograms)] They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

In chapter 1 of 2 Chronicles, Solomon becomes the king of Israel after his father David and offers sacrifices on the threshing floor at the hill of Gibeon. God appears to Solomon in a dream and offers to grant him any request he desires. Solomon asks for wisdom and knowledge to govern God's people and God is pleased with his request and grants it, in addition to wealth and honor. Solomon begins the construction of the temple and sends a message to King Hiram of Tyre to provide materials and skilled laborers for its

construction. The chapter concludes with a list of Solomon's wealth and the horses and chariots he possessed.

The second book of Chronicles, chapter 1, primarily discusses the reign of King Solomon and his request for wisdom from God. The following are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great." (2 Chronicles 1:1)
2. "Then Solomon spoke to all Israel—to the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, to the judges and to all the leaders in Israel." (2 Chronicles 1:2)
3. "Solomon son of David was king over all Israel." (2 Chronicles 1:13)
4. "That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'" (2 Chronicles 1:7)
5. "Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" (2 Chronicles 1:10)
6. "God said to Solomon, 'Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.'" (2 Chronicles 1:11-12)
7. "Then Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting, and he reigned over Israel." (2 Chronicles 1:13)

These verses highlight the greatness of King Solomon and his request for wisdom from God, which ultimately led to God granting him not only wisdom but also wealth, possessions, and honor.

Chapter 1 of 2 Chronicles focuses on Solomon's ascent to the throne of Israel and his prayer for wisdom. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 1 of 2 Chronicles marks the beginning of Solomon's reign as the king of Israel, following the footsteps of his father, David. It sets the stage for Solomon's reign, highlighting his wisdom, his devotion to God, and his desire to lead the people of Israel in righteousness.

One of the key aspects of this chapter is Solomon's prayer for wisdom. When given the opportunity to ask for anything from God, he humbly acknowledges his limitations and recognizes the immense responsibility of leading a nation. Instead of asking for wealth, power, or personal gain, Solomon chooses wisdom. This choice demonstrates his understanding that true leadership comes from a heart that seeks understanding, discernment, and guidance.

Solomon's request for wisdom also reveals his deep reverence for God. He recognizes that wisdom is a gift from God and that it is essential for governing the people justly and wisely. His humility and recognition of God's sovereignty serve as an example for leaders

in any context. It reminds us that leadership is not about personal ambition or self-centered goals but rather about serving others and seeking divine guidance.

In response to Solomon's prayer, God not only grants him wisdom but also promises to bless him with riches, wealth, and honor. This highlights an important principle: when we seek God first and prioritize His wisdom, other blessings naturally follow. Solomon's story reminds us that true success and prosperity are found in aligning our hearts with God's will and seeking His wisdom above all else.

Chapter 1 of 2 Chronicles also emphasizes the importance of worship and the centrality of the temple in the religious life of Israel. Solomon offers sacrifices to God and seeks to establish the temple as a place of worship and sacrifice for the nation. This demonstrates his commitment to honoring God and ensuring that proper worship is maintained.

In conclusion, chapter 1 of 2 Chronicles presents Solomon as a wise and humble leader who seeks God's wisdom above all else. It reminds us of the importance of humility, reverence for God, and seeking divine guidance in our own lives, whether we are in positions of leadership or not. It also emphasizes the significance of worship and the role it plays in our relationship with God.

CHAPTER 2

2Ch. 2:1 Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

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2Ch. 2:2 He conscripted seventy thousand men as carriers and eighty thousand as stonecutters in the hills and thirty-six hundred as foremen over them.

2Ch. 2:3 Solomon sent this message to Hiram [Hebrew Hiram, a variant of Hiram; also in verses 11 and 12] king of Tyre:

“Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in.

2Ch. 2:4 Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the LORD our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel.

2Ch. 2:5 “The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods.

2Ch. 2:6 But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him?

2Ch. 2:7 “Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, and

experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled craftsmen, whom my father David provided.

2Ch. 2:8 “Send me also cedar, pine and algum [Probably a variant of almug; possibly juniper] logs from Lebanon, for I know that your men are skilled in cutting timber there. My men shall work with yours

2Ch. 2:9 to provide me with plenty of timber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent.

2Ch. 2:10 I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand cors [That is, probably about 120,000 bushels (about 4,400 kilolitres)] of ground wheat, twenty thousand cors of barley, twenty thousand baths [That is, 1007

probably about 95,000 gallons (about 440 kilolitres)] of wine and twenty thousand baths of olive oil.”

2Ch. 2:11 Hiram king of Tyre replied by letter to Solomon: “Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you their king.”

2Ch. 2:12 And Hiram added: “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the LORD and a palace for himself.

2Ch. 2:13 “I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill,

2Ch. 2:14 whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord, David your father.

2Ch. 2:15 “Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised,

2Ch. 2:16 and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them in rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem.”

2Ch. 2:17 Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600.

2Ch. 2:18 He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.

In chapter 2 of 2 Chronicles, Solomon orders the construction of the temple and sends a message to King Hiram of Tyre requesting the services of a skilled craftsman to oversee the work. Hiram responds positively and sends him Hiram-abi, a skilled craftsman who

worked with bronze. Solomon begins to gather the resources necessary for the construction of the temple, including timber, stone, and gold. He also organizes a large workforce consisting of 70,000 laborers and 80,000 stonecutters. The chapter concludes with a summary of the divisions of the Levites and the work they were assigned to do in the temple.

The second book of Chronicles, chapter 2, primarily discusses King Solomon's preparations to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. The following are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself." (2 Chronicles 2:1)
2. "The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods." (2 Chronicles 2:5)
3. "He [Solomon] sent this message to Hiram king of Tyre: 'Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in.'" (2 Chronicles 2:3)
4. "I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill, whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your skilled workers and with those of my lord, David your father." (2 Chronicles 2:13-14)
5. "Then Solomon took a census of all the foreigners residing in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600. He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working." (2 Chronicles 2:17-18)

These verses highlight the importance of the temple that Solomon was preparing to build for the Lord, his request for materials from King Hiram, and the use of skilled workers and foreign laborers to carry out the construction.

[Chapter 2 of 2 Chronicles focuses on Solomon's preparations for building the temple in Jerusalem. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 2 of 2 Chronicles delves into the extensive preparations made by Solomon for the construction of the temple, which would become one of the most significant and revered structures in Israel's history. This chapter provides us with insights into Solomon's dedication, his attention to detail, and his commitment to honoring God through this monumental project.](#)

[Solomon recognizes the magnitude of the task at hand and acknowledges that the temple he intends to build for God is not merely a human endeavor but a sacred undertaking. He reaches out to Hiram, the king of Tyre, for assistance in obtaining skilled workers and materials. This demonstrates Solomon's wisdom in seeking support from those with expertise and resources, as he wants to ensure that the temple is built with the utmost skill and craftsmanship.](#)

In his message to Hiram, Solomon highlights the grandeur and significance of the temple, emphasizing that it will be a place for offering sacrifices to God, seeking His presence, and fulfilling the covenant made with David. This reveals Solomon's deep reverence for God and his commitment to upholding the religious traditions and promises of his father.

Moreover, Solomon acknowledges that no earthly structure can truly contain the greatness of God. He acknowledges God's superiority over any dwelling place and recognizes that the temple serves as a symbolic representation of His presence among the people. This humbling realization reminds us that while physical structures can hold symbolic value and serve as gathering places for worship, the true dwelling place of God is within the hearts of His people.

In addition to the materials and resources obtained from Hiram, Solomon also enlists a vast number of workers from within Israel to contribute to the construction of the temple. He appoints skilled craftsmen, including masons, carpenters, and artisans, ensuring that every detail is meticulously attended to. This meticulousness signifies Solomon's commitment to excellence and his desire to honor God with the best craftsmanship and materials available.

Chapter 2 of 2 Chronicles serves as a reminder of the importance of reverence, dedication, and attention to detail in our own service to God. It encourages us to approach our own endeavors with a similar level of commitment, seeking to offer our best efforts and resources to honor God and fulfill His purposes. Whether it is in building physical structures, engaging in ministry, or serving others, we are called to approach our work with reverence and a desire to bring glory to God.

Overall, Chapter 2 of 2 Chronicles showcases Solomon's dedication and preparation for the construction of the temple. It inspires us to reflect on our own commitment to God's work and reminds us of the importance of offering our best efforts and resources for His glory.

CHAPTER 3

2Ch. 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing-floor of Araunah
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[Hebrew Ornan, a variant of Araunah] the Jebusite, the place provided by David.

2Ch. 3:2 He began building on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

2Ch. 3:3 The foundation Solomon laid for building the temple of God was sixty cubits long and twenty cubits wide [That is, about 90 feet (about 27 metres) long and 30 feet (about 9 metres) wide] (using the cubit of the old standard).

2Ch. 3:4 The portico at the front of the temple was twenty cubits [That is, about 30 feet (about 9 metres); also in verses 8, 11 and 13] long across the width of the building and twenty cubits [Some Septuagint and Syriac manuscripts; Hebrew and a hundred and twenty] high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold.

2Ch. 3:5 He panelled the main hall with pine and covered it with fine gold and decorated it with palm tree and chain designs.

2Ch. 3:6 He adorned the temple with precious stones. And the gold he used was gold of Parvaim.

2Ch. 3:7 He overlaid the ceiling beams, door-frames, walls and doors of the temple with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls.

2Ch. 3:8 He built the Most Holy Place, its length corresponding to the width of the temple — twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. He overlaid the inside with six hundred talents [That is, about 20 tons (about 21 metric tons)] of fine gold.

2Ch. 3:9 The gold nails weighed fifty shekels. [That is, about 1 1/4 pounds (about 0.6 kilogram)] He also overlaid the upper parts with gold.

2Ch. 3:10 In the Most Holy Place he made a pair of sculptured cherubim and overlaid them with gold.

2Ch. 3:11 The total wing-span of the cherubim was twenty cubits. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits [That is, about 7 1/2 feet (about 2.3 metres); also in verse 15] long and touched 1009

the temple wall, while its other wing, also five cubits long, touched the wing of the other cherub.

2Ch. 3:12 Similarly one wing of the second cherub was five cubits long and touched the other temple wall, and its other wing, also five cubits long, touched the wing of the first cherub.

2Ch. 3:13 The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits. They stood on their feet, facing the main hall. [Or facing inward]

2Ch. 3:14 He made the curtain of blue, purple and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim worked into it.

2Ch. 3:15 In the front of the temple he made two pillars, which together were thirty-five cubits [That is, about 52 feet (about 16 metres)] long, each with a capital on top measuring five cubits.

2Ch. 3:16 He made interwoven chains [Or possibly made chains in the inner sanctuary; the meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.] and put them on top of the pillars. He also made a hundred pomegranates and attached them to the chains.

2Ch. 3:17 He erected the pillars in the front of the temple, one to the south and one to the north. The one to the south he named Jakin [Jakin probably means he establishes.] and the one to the north Boaz. [Boaz probably means in him is strength.]

In chapter 3 of 2 Chronicles, the construction of the temple begins in earnest. Solomon begins by laying the foundation of the temple on Mount Moriah, the same site where his father David had purchased a threshing floor from Araunah the Jebusite. The temple is built to exact specifications given by God to David and later passed on to Solomon. The temple is adorned with gold and precious stones, including the famous two cherubim of gold that flank the Ark of the Covenant. The chapter concludes with a description of the inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies, where the Ark is to be placed.

2 Chronicles chapter 3 describes the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon, which was an important event in Israel's history. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite." (2 Chronicles 3:1) - This verse sets the context for the chapter, and highlights the importance of the location where the Temple was built.
2. "The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and its height was 120 cubits. He overlaid it on the inside with pure gold." (2 Chronicles 3:4) - This verse describes the size and opulence of the Temple's entrance, which was covered in pure gold.
3. "He also made chains like a necklace and put them on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates and put them on the chains." (2 Chronicles 3:16) - This verse describes some of the decorative elements that were added to the Temple, including chains and pomegranates.
4. "In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high." (2 Chronicles 3:10) - This verse describes the cherubim that were placed in the inner sanctuary of the Temple, which were important symbols of God's presence.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 3 provides a detailed account of the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and highlights the importance of this event in Israel's history.

[Chapter 3 of 2 Chronicles provides a detailed account of the construction of the temple in Jerusalem, highlighting the precise measurements, materials, and craftsmanship involved. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 3 of 2 Chronicles takes us into the heart of the construction of the temple in Jerusalem. It offers a vivid description of the temple's structure, design, and the meticulous attention given to every detail. This chapter reveals the significance of the temple as the central place of worship for the Israelites and serves as a reflection on the importance of reverence and devotion in our own approach to worship.](#)

[The chapter begins by emphasizing that the temple was built on Mount Moriah, the same place where Abraham had offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice. This location holds great historical and spiritual significance for the people of Israel, highlighting the continuity](#)

and connection between their past and present. It reminds us that our worship is not detached from the foundations of our faith, but rather rooted in the rich history of God's interactions with His people.

The detailed descriptions of the temple's construction, including its measurements, materials, and furnishings, demonstrate the precision and care invested in the project. From the gold overlay on the walls to the intricate carvings and precious stones, every aspect of the temple was crafted with excellence. This attention to detail signifies the importance of offering our best to God, not just in material things but also in the devotion of our hearts.

Furthermore, the temple's design reflects the significance of God's presence among His people. The Holy of Holies, housing the Ark of the Covenant, was the most sacred space within the temple, representing the dwelling place of God on Earth. The meticulous construction and placement of the Ark within this inner sanctuary underscore the holiness and reverence required in approaching the divine presence. It reminds us of the awe and humility we should cultivate when we enter into the presence of God.

Chapter 3 of 2 Chronicles also highlights the skilled artisans and craftsmen involved in the construction of the temple. These individuals were specially gifted by God to contribute to this sacred project. Their talents and craftsmanship remind us of the diverse gifts and abilities that God bestows upon His people, and the importance of utilizing these gifts to honor Him.

Overall, chapter 3 of 2 Chronicles invites us to reflect on the importance of reverence, devotion, and attention to detail in our worship. It encourages us to offer our best to God, not just in our physical spaces of worship but also in the dedication of our hearts and the use of our God-given gifts. Just as the temple was a place where God's presence dwelled among His people, may our lives and our worship reflect a deep reverence and devotion to the One who deserves our highest honor.

CHAPTER 4

2Ch. 4:1 He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high. [That is, about 30 feet (about 9 metres) long and wide, and about 15 feet (about 4.5 metres) high]

2Ch. 4:2 He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits [That is, about 7 1/2 feet (about 2.3 metres)] high. It took a line of thirty cubits [That is, about 45 feet (about 13.5 metres)] to measure round it.

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2Ch. 4:3 Below the rim, figures of bulls encircled it — ten to a cubit. [That is, about 1 1/2 feet (about 0.5 metre)] The bulls were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea.

2Ch. 4:4 The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three

facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were towards the centre.

2Ch. 4:5 It was a handbreadth [That is, about 3 inches (about 8 centimetres)] in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held three thousand baths. [That is, about 14,500 gallons (about 66 kilolitres)]

2Ch. 4:6 He then made ten basins for washing and placed five on the south side and five on the north. In them the things to be used for the burnt offerings were rinsed, but the Sea was to be used by the priests for washing.

2Ch. 4:7 He made ten gold lampstands according to the specifications for them and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.

2Ch. 4:8 He made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. He also made a hundred gold sprinkling bowls.

2Ch. 4:9 He made the courtyard of the priests, and the large court and the doors for the court, and overlaid the doors with bronze.

2Ch. 4:10 He placed the Sea on the south side, at the south-east corner.

2Ch. 4:11 He also made the pots and shovels and sprinkling bowls. So Hiram finished the work he had undertaken for King

Solomon in the temple of God:

2Ch. 4:12 the two pillars; the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; the two sets of network decorating the two bowl shaped capitals on top of the pillars;

2Ch. 4:13 the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network, decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);

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2Ch. 4:14 the stands with their basins;

2Ch. 4:15 the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;

2Ch. 4:16 the pots, shovels, meat forks and all related articles. All the objects that Hiram-Abi made for King Solomon for the temple of the LORD were of polished bronze.

2Ch. 4:17 The king had them cast in clay moulds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan. [Hebrew Zeredatha, a variant of Zarethan]

2Ch. 4:18 All these things that Solomon made amounted to so much that the weight of the bronze was not determined.

2Ch. 4:19 Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in God's temple: the golden altar; the tables on which was the bread of the Presence;

2Ch. 4:20 the lampstands of pure gold with their lamps, to burn in front of the inner sanctuary as prescribed;

2Ch. 4:21 the gold floral work and lamps and tongs (they were solid

gold);

2Ch. 4:22 the pure gold wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers; and the gold doors of the temple: the inner doors to the Most Holy Place and the doors of the main hall.

In chapter 4 of 2 Chronicles, the construction of the temple continues with the making of various utensils and furnishings for the temple. These include a bronze altar, a large bronze basin called the Sea, ten smaller basins, ten golden lampstands, and other various utensils. The description of each item is very detailed, including the measurements, weight, and materials used. The chapter also mentions the skilled craftsmen who were responsible for the construction of the items. The chapter concludes with a mention of the sheer amount of materials used in the construction of the temple, including an immense amount of gold, silver, and bronze.

2 Chronicles chapter 4 continues to describe the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, with a focus on the furnishings and utensils that were placed inside the Temple. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "He made a bronze altar, twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high." (2 Chronicles 4:1) - This verse describes the bronze altar that was placed in the courtyard of the Temple, where sacrifices were offered.
2. "He also made ten basins in which to wash, and set five on the right side and five on the left, to rinse off what was used for the burnt offering; they were made of bronze." (2 Chronicles 4:6) - This verse describes the basins that were used for washing the sacrificial animals and the utensils used for the sacrifices.
3. "He made the ten lampstands of gold according to the specifications for them and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north." (2 Chronicles 4:7) - This verse describes the ten golden lampstands that were placed in the Temple, which provided light for the priests to carry out their duties.
4. "And he made the court of the priests and the great court and doors for the court and overlaid their doors with bronze." (2 Chronicles 4:9) - This verse describes the various courts that were part of the Temple complex, including the court of the priests, which was reserved for the priests to perform their duties.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 4 provides a detailed description of the furnishings and utensils that were placed inside the Temple in Jerusalem, and highlights the importance of these items in the worship and sacrifice of the Israelites.

In chapter 5 of 2 Chronicles, the Ark of the Covenant is brought into the temple of the Lord. The Levites carry the ark along with other sacred items from the tent of meeting and place them in the inner sanctuary of the temple. When they finish, the glory of the Lord fills the temple, and the priests cannot continue their service. King Solomon addresses the people and blesses them before they depart. The chapter concludes with a mention of the immense number of sacrifices made by the Israelites during the dedication of the temple.

Chapter 4 of 2 Chronicles provides a detailed description of the various furnishings and implements that were created for the temple, including the altar, the basin, and the lampstands. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 4 of 2 Chronicles delves into the intricate details of the furnishings and implements that were created for the temple in Jerusalem. It highlights the craftsmanship, symbolism, and purpose behind these items, offering us insights into the importance of worship, cleansing, and illumination in our spiritual lives.

One of the key elements mentioned in this chapter is the bronze altar, which was used for offering sacrifices to God. This altar held a central place in the temple, representing the people's surrender and devotion to God. It reminds us of the significance of worship in our own lives, as we are called to offer our praises, prayers, and sacrifices to God with sincerity and humility.

Another significant feature described in Chapter 4 is the large bronze basin, known as the Sea. This basin was used for ritual cleansing and purification. Its size and capacity symbolize the abundance of God's grace and the need for continual purification and renewal. It serves as a reminder that as we approach God in worship, we must also examine our hearts, seeking His forgiveness and allowing His cleansing to purify us from within.

Additionally, the chapter highlights the intricate details of the lampstands, which were crafted with exquisite skill and adorned with gold. These lampstands served as a source of light within the temple, symbolizing the presence of God illuminating the spiritual darkness. They remind us of the importance of seeking divine guidance, wisdom, and illumination in our lives. Just as the lampstands radiated light within the temple, we are called to be light-bearers in the world, reflecting God's love, truth, and righteousness.

Furthermore, Chapter 4 also mentions the various other utensils, basins, and tools that were created for the temple. Each item had a specific purpose and function, demonstrating the attention to detail and the importance of order and organization in the worship of God. This attention to detail reminds us that our worship should not be haphazard or superficial, but rather intentional, thoughtful, and conducted with reverence.

In conclusion, Chapter 4 of 2 Chronicles emphasizes the significance of worship, purification, and illumination in the life of a believer. It prompts us to reflect on the quality and sincerity of our worship, our continual need for cleansing and renewal, and our role as bearers of God's light in a world that desperately needs it. May we approach God with reverence and offer our lives as living sacrifices, seeking His guidance and allowing His presence to shine through us.

CHAPTER 5

2Ch. 5:1 When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated — the silver and gold and all the furnishings —

and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple.

2Ch. 5:2 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David.

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2Ch. 5:3 And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.

2Ch. 5:4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark,

2Ch. 5:5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up;

2Ch. 5:6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

2Ch. 5:7 The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

2Ch. 5:8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles.

2Ch. 5:9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

2Ch. 5:10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

2Ch. 5:11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions.

2Ch. 5:12 All the Levites who were musicians — Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives — stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.

2Ch. 5:13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their
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voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures for ever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud,

2Ch. 5:14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

2 Chronicles chapter 5 describes the completion of the Temple in Jerusalem, and the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God." (2 Chronicles 5:1) - This verse sets the context for the chapter, and highlights the completion of the Temple and the transfer of the sacred objects into the Temple.
2. "And the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim." (2 Chronicles 5:7) - This verse describes the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple, which was an important symbol of God's presence among the Israelites.
3. "And when the priests came out of the holy place (for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions, and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters)" (2 Chronicles 5:11-12) - This verse describes the large number of priests and Levites who participated in the dedication ceremony of the Temple, and the instruments they used to praise God.
4. "Indeed, it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: 'For He is good, for His mercy endures forever,' that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud." (2 Chronicles 5:13) - This verse describes the moment when God's presence filled the Temple, in response to the praise and worship of the people gathered there.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 5 provides a detailed account of the dedication ceremony of the Temple in Jerusalem, and highlights the importance of this event in the history of the Israelites.

In chapter 6 of 2 Chronicles, King Solomon leads the people of Israel in a prayer of dedication for the newly-built temple. He stands before the altar of the Lord, surrounded by the people, and asks God to dwell in the temple and hear their prayers. Solomon acknowledges that God cannot be contained within a physical structure, but asks that the temple serve as a place where God's presence can be felt and His people can come to worship Him. He also prays for forgiveness and blessings for the people of Israel and for God's protection and guidance. The chapter ends with Solomon blessing the people and offering sacrifices to God.

[Chapter 5 of 2 Chronicles describes the momentous occasion when the ark of the covenant is brought into the newly completed temple in Jerusalem. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

Chapter 5 of 2 Chronicles captures a pivotal moment in Israel's history—the dedication of the temple and the arrival of the ark of the covenant. This chapter portrays a scene of grandeur, reverence, and divine presence, and it invites us to reflect on the significance of God's dwelling among His people and the power of corporate worship.

As the ark is brought into the temple, we witness a unifying event that brings together the leaders, priests, and people of Israel. The occasion is marked by a multitude of sacrifices and the glorious music of the Levitical singers and instrumentalists. This collective act of worship represents the unity and devotion of the entire nation to God. It reminds us of the power and beauty of worship when God's people come together in one accord to honor and seek Him.

The presence of God is vividly depicted in this chapter. As the priests bring the ark into the Holy of Holies, the cloud of God's glory fills the temple, signifying His tangible presence among His people. This awe-inspiring manifestation reminds us of the transcendence and nearness of God. It reveals that when we gather together in true worship and seek Him wholeheartedly, God promises to make His presence known in our midst.

Additionally, the chapter emphasizes the significance of music and praise in worship. The skillful Levitical singers and musicians play a central role in this dedication ceremony, leading the people in worship and praise. The music serves as a channel through which the people express their gratitude, adoration, and reverence to God. It underscores the power of music as a means to connect with the divine and engage our hearts and minds in worship.

Furthermore, the dedication of the temple and the arrival of the ark symbolize the fulfillment of God's promises to the nation of Israel. The temple stands as a tangible reminder of His covenant and His faithfulness to His people. It reinforces the idea that God desires to dwell among His chosen ones and establish a place where they can come to seek Him and offer their worship. It demonstrates God's commitment to be present with His people and to lead them in their journey of faith.

In conclusion, Chapter 5 of 2 Chronicles highlights the importance of corporate worship, the awe-inspiring presence of God, and the power of music and praise. It encourages us to gather as a community of believers, united in our devotion and reverence for God. It reminds us that when we come together in worship, seeking God wholeheartedly, He promises to manifest His presence in our midst. May we embrace the opportunity to worship together and experience the transformative power of God's presence in our lives.

CHAPTER 6

2Ch. 6:1 Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

2Ch. 6:2 I have built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell for ever.”

2Ch. 6:3 While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned round and blessed them.

2Ch. 6:4 Then he said: “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hands has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David. For he said,

2Ch. 6:5 ‘Since the day I brought my people out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, nor have I chosen anyone to be the leader over my people Israel.

2Ch. 6:6 But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.’

2Ch. 6:7 “My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

2Ch. 6:8 But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart.

2Ch. 6:9 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood — he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.’

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2Ch. 6:10 “The LORD has kept the promise he made. I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

2Ch. 6:11 There I have placed the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people of Israel.”

2Ch. 6:12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.

2Ch. 6:13 Now he had made a bronze platform, five cubits [That is, about 7 1/2 feet (about 2.3 metres)] long, five cubits wide and three cubits [That is, about 4 1/2 feet (about 1.4 metres)] high, and had placed it in the centre of the outer court. He stood on the platform and then knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands towards heaven.

2Ch. 6:14 He said: “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth — you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.

2Ch. 6:15 You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it — as it is today.

2Ch. 6:16 “Now LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me according to my law, as you have done.’

2Ch. 6:17 And now, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word that you

promised your servant David come true.

2Ch. 6:18 “But will God really dwell on earth with men? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple that I have built!

2Ch. 6:19 Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence.

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2Ch. 6:20 May your eyes be open towards this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there.

May you hear the prayer your servant prays towards this place.

2Ch. 6:21 Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling-place; and when you hear, forgive.

2Ch. 6:22 “When a man wrongs his neighbour and is required to take an oath and he comes and swears the oath before your altar in this temple,

2Ch. 6:23 then hear from heaven and act. Judge between your servants, repaying the guilty by bringing down on his own head what he has done. Declare the innocent not guilty and so establish his innocence.

2Ch. 6:24 “When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you and when they turn back and confess your name, praying and making supplication before you in this temple,

2Ch. 6:25 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to them and their fathers.

2Ch. 6:26 “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and when they pray towards this place and confess your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them,

2Ch. 6:27 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land that you gave your people for an inheritance.

2Ch. 6:28 “When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when enemies besiege them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come,

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2Ch. 6:29 and when a prayer or plea is made by any of your people Israel — each one aware of his afflictions and pains, and spreading out his hands towards this temple —

2Ch. 6:30 then hear from heaven, your dwelling-place. Forgive, and deal with each man according to all he does, since you know

his heart (for you alone know the hearts of men),

2Ch. 6:31 so that they will fear you and walk in your ways all the time they live in the land that you gave our fathers.

2Ch. 6:32 “As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm — when he comes and prays towards this temple,

2Ch. 6:33 then hear from heaven, your dwelling-place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house that I have built bears your Name.

2Ch. 6:34 “When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them, and when they pray to you towards this city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name,

2Ch. 6:35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause.

2Ch. 6:36 “When they sin against you — for there is no-one who does not sin — and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to a land far away or near;

2Ch. 6:37 and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity and say, ‘We have sinned, we have done wrong and acted wickedly’;

2Ch. 6:38 and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken, and pray towards the land that you gave their fathers, towards the city
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you have chosen and towards the temple that I have built for your Name;

2Ch. 6:39 then from heaven, your dwelling-place, hear their prayer and their pleas, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people, who have sinned against you.

2Ch. 6:40 “Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

2Ch. 6:41 “Now arise, O LORD God, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, may your saints rejoice in your goodness.

2Ch. 6:42 LORD God, do not reject your anointed one. Remember the great love promised to David your servant.”

2 Chronicles chapter 6 records the prayer of King Solomon as he dedicates the newly-built Temple to God. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Then Solomon said, 'The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.'" (2 Chronicles 6:1-2) - This verse highlights the contrast between God's presence in thick darkness and the new Temple that Solomon has built as a permanent dwelling place for God.
2. "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!" (2 Chronicles 6:18) - This verse acknowledges the greatness of God and the humility of the Temple in comparison, emphasizing that God cannot be contained within any physical structure.
3. "If your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and they turn again and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to them and to their fathers." (2 Chronicles 6:24-25) - This verse shows Solomon's understanding that God is a merciful God, who will forgive His people when they repent and turn back to Him.
4. "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays in this house, hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name." (2 Chronicles 6:32-33) - This verse emphasizes that the Temple is not just for the Israelites, but also for foreigners who come to worship the God of Israel. It shows Solomon's understanding that God's name will be made known among all the peoples of the earth through the Temple.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 6 records Solomon's prayer of dedication for the Temple, emphasizing the greatness of God and the importance of repentance and forgiveness for His people.

[Chapter 6 of 2 Chronicles contains Solomon's prayer of dedication for the newly constructed temple in Jerusalem. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 6 of 2 Chronicles presents Solomon's prayer of dedication for the temple, which serves as a profound reflection on the greatness, faithfulness, and sovereignty of God. It reveals Solomon's deep understanding of God's character and his desire for the temple to be a place of encounter and communion with the Almighty.](#)

[Solomon's prayer begins with acknowledging the incomprehensible nature of God's dwelling place, recognizing that even the magnificent temple cannot contain the fullness of God's glory. He humbly acknowledges that the temple is a symbol of God's presence among His people, while understanding that God is far greater than any earthly structure. This realization reminds us that God cannot be confined to human constructs and that our worship should extend far beyond physical spaces.](#)

Throughout his prayer, Solomon expresses his trust and confidence in God's faithfulness. He recalls the promises made to David, recognizing that God has fulfilled His word by allowing the temple to be built. Solomon acknowledges that God's faithfulness extends beyond the temple, encompassing His covenant with the people of Israel and His commitment to bless and guide them. This recognition reminds us of the importance of trusting in God's promises and relying on His faithfulness in our own lives.

Solomon's prayer also addresses various scenarios and circumstances that the people of Israel may encounter. He intercedes for the nation, seeking God's forgiveness, mercy, and restoration. He prays for God's guidance in times of victory and defeat, in times of famine and distress, and in times of repentance and forgiveness. This demonstrates Solomon's understanding that every aspect of life should be brought before God in prayer and that God's grace and wisdom are needed in every situation we face.

Moreover, Solomon's prayer reflects a heart of humility and gratitude. He acknowledges the people's unworthiness before God, recognizing that no one is exempt from sin and the need for forgiveness. He prays for God to hear the prayers offered in the temple, demonstrating a deep desire for genuine communion with the Almighty. This humility and gratitude serve as reminders for us to approach God with humility, acknowledging our own limitations and relying on His mercy and grace.

In conclusion, Chapter 6 of 2 Chronicles presents Solomon's prayer of dedication as a heartfelt and profound expression of his understanding of God's character and his desire for the temple to be a place of encounter with the Divine. It encourages us to recognize the greatness and faithfulness of God, to trust in His promises, and to approach Him with humility, gratitude, and a deep reliance on His guidance and grace. May we also seek to cultivate a life of prayer, where we bring every aspect of our lives before God and experience His presence in a profound and transformative way.

CHAPTER 7

2Ch. 7:1 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

2Ch. 7:2 The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it.

2Ch. 7:3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshipped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures for ever."

2Ch. 7:4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

2Ch. 7:5 And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the people dedicated the

temple of God.

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2Ch. 7:6 The priests took their positions, as did the Levites with the LORD's musical instruments, which King David had made for praising the LORD and which were used when he gave thanks, saying, "His love endures for ever." Opposite the Levites, the priests blew their trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.

2Ch. 7:7 Solomon consecrated the middle part of the courtyard in front of the temple of the LORD, and there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings, [Traditionally peace offerings] because the bronze altar he had made could not hold the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the fat portions.

2Ch. 7:8 So Solomon observed the festival at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him — a vast assembly, people from Lebo [Or from the entrance to] Hamath to the Wadi of Egypt.

2Ch. 7:9 On the eighth day they held an assembly, for they had celebrated the dedication of the altar for seven days and the festival for seven days more.

2Ch. 7:10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their homes, joyful and glad in heart for the good things the LORD had done for David and Solomon and for his people Israel.

2Ch. 7:11 When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace,

2Ch. 7:12 the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

2Ch. 7:13 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people,

2Ch. 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their
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wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2Ch. 7:15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

2Ch. 7:16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there for ever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

2Ch. 7:17 "As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws,

2Ch. 7:18 I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David

your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.'

2Ch. 7:19 "But if you [The Hebrew is plural.] turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you [The Hebrew is plural.] and go off to serve other gods and worship them,

2Ch. 7:20 then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple which I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

2Ch. 7:21 And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'

2Ch. 7:22 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them — that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'"

Chapter 7 begins with the completion of the temple that King Solomon had built in Jerusalem. The chapter starts with the dedication of the temple and the Ark of the Covenant, which was brought into the temple by the priests. When the priests left the temple, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, signifying God's presence.

King Solomon then addressed the people of Israel and prayed to God, asking Him to bless and protect the temple and the people of Israel. In his prayer, he asked God to listen to the prayers of the people when they come to the temple and to forgive them when they confess their sins.

God answered Solomon's prayer by promising to watch over the temple and bless the people of Israel as long as they followed His commands. However, God warned that if they turned away from Him and worshiped other gods, He would punish them.

After the dedication ceremony, Solomon and the people of Israel celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days. On the eighth day, they held a solemn assembly and then returned to their homes, filled with joy and gladness because of God's blessings.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 7 portrays the completion and dedication of the temple as a significant event in the history of Israel. It emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and the blessings that come with it. It also warns of the consequences of turning away from God and worshiping other gods.

2 Chronicles chapter 7 describes the dedication of the Temple and the great manifestation of God's presence that followed. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house." (2 Chronicles 7:1-2) - This verse describes the incredible moment when God's presence filled the Temple, confirming His acceptance of the Temple and Solomon's prayer.
2. "Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he

- successfully accomplished." (2 Chronicles 7:11) - This verse highlights the completion of both the Temple and Solomon's own house, marking the end of a major building project and a significant achievement in the history of Israel.
3. "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) - This verse is one of the most well-known verses in the Bible, emphasizing the importance of humility, prayer, repentance, and seeking God's face. It also shows God's willingness to forgive and heal His people when they turn to Him.
 4. "Thus Solomon held the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt." (2 Chronicles 7:8) - This verse highlights the celebration that followed the dedication of the Temple, with Solomon holding a great feast for seven days, and all of Israel coming together to participate.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 7 describes the completion of the Temple, God's acceptance of it, and the celebration that followed. It also includes the famous verse about God's willingness to forgive and heal His people when they humble themselves and seek His face.

2 Chronicles 8 describes the accomplishments of King Solomon, who built and fortified cities throughout the land of Israel, including the cities of Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. He also conquered several cities in the region of Hamath-Zobah, and made them tributary to Israel. Solomon built up the city of Jerusalem, expanding it and strengthening its defenses. He also continued to offer sacrifices to the Lord at the temple, and appointed various officials to manage the affairs of the kingdom. The chapter also notes that Solomon and the queen of Sheba had a diplomatic and trade relationship, with the queen visiting Solomon and bringing him gifts of gold and spices.

[Chapter 7 of 2 Chronicles concludes the dedication of the temple with a remarkable display of God's glory and a message of hope and warning. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 7 of 2 Chronicles marks the culmination of the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem with a profound display of God's glory and a message that carries both hope and warning. This chapter offers us insights into God's response to the heartfelt prayers and worship of His people, reminding us of His faithfulness, sovereignty, and the conditions for His blessing.](#)

[The chapter begins with the manifestation of God's glory in the form of fire coming down from heaven to consume the sacrifices on the altar. The sight of God's glory and the presence of His power fill the temple, causing the priests and the people to bow in worship and praise. This extraordinary display of God's presence and acceptance of their offerings emphasizes His faithfulness and the validation of their efforts to honor Him.](#)

[Following this awe-inspiring event, God speaks to Solomon, assuring him of His attention and response to the prayers offered in the temple. God declares that He has consecrated the temple as His dwelling place, choosing it as a site where He will hear and](#)

answer the prayers of His people. This reassurance underscores God's desire for intimate relationship with His people and His willingness to respond to their genuine seeking and devotion.

However, along with the message of hope, God also conveys a warning through His words to Solomon. He cautions that if His people turn away from Him and indulge in sin and idolatry, the blessings they have experienced will be replaced with judgment and consequences. This warning emphasizes the importance of obedience, faithfulness, and wholehearted devotion to God. It serves as a reminder that true worship and righteousness are not just confined to a physical structure, but they require a sincere commitment to living in accordance with God's commands.

Chapter 7 concludes with Solomon and the people offering sacrifices and dedicating themselves to God. They celebrate with joy and thanksgiving, recognizing that the temple is a place where they can seek God and experience His presence. This celebration reminds us of the joy and gratitude that should accompany our worship and devotion to God, as we recognize His faithfulness and respond with heartfelt praise.

In conclusion, Chapter 7 of 2 Chronicles reveals God's response to the dedication of the temple, showcasing His glory, faithfulness, and desire for relationship with His people. It emphasizes the conditions for God's blessing and warns against turning away from Him. May we be inspired to seek God with sincerity, to offer our worship with joy and thanksgiving, and to live in obedience and devotion to Him, knowing that He desires to dwell among us and respond to our prayers.

CHAPTER 8

2Ch. 8:1 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built the temple of the LORD and his own palace,
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2Ch. 8:2 Solomon rebuilt the villages that Hiram [Hebrew Hiram, a variant of Hiram; also in verse 18] had given him, and settled Israelites in them.

2Ch. 8:3 Solomon then went to Hamath Zobah and captured it.

2Ch. 8:4 He also built up Tadmor in the desert and all the store cities he had built in Hamath.

2Ch. 8:5 He rebuilt Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon as fortified cities, with walls and with gates and bars,

2Ch. 8:6 as well as Baalath and all his store cities, and all the cities for his chariots and for his horses — [Or charioteers] whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory that he ruled.

2Ch. 8:7 All the people left from the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),

2Ch. 8:8 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites had not destroyed — these Solomon conscripted for his slave labour force, as it is to this day.

2Ch. 8:9 But Solomon did not make slaves of the Israelites for his work; they were his fighting men, commanders of his captains, and commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

2Ch. 8:10 They were also King Solomon's chief officials — two hundred and fifty officials supervising the men.

2Ch. 8:11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the LORD has entered are holy."

2Ch. 8:12 On the altar of the LORD that he had built in front of the portico, Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings to the LORD,

2Ch. 8:13 according to the daily requirement for offerings commanded by Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons and the three annual feasts — the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles.

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2Ch. 8:14 In keeping with the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their duties and the Levites to lead the praise and to assist the priests according to each day's requirement. He also appointed the gatekeepers by divisions for the various gates, because this was what David the man of God had ordered.

2Ch. 8:15 They did not deviate from the king's commands to the priests or to the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.

2Ch. 8:16 All Solomon's work was carried out, from the day the foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid until its completion. So the temple of the LORD was finished.

2Ch. 8:17 Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and Elath on the coast of Edom.

2Ch. 8:18 And Hiram sent him ships commanded by his own officers, men who knew the sea. These, with Solomon's men, sailed to Ophir and brought back four hundred and fifty talents [That is, about 17 tons (about 16 metric tons)] of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.

2 Chronicles chapter 8 records some of the achievements of King Solomon's reign, including his building projects and his administration of the kingdom. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the house of the Lord and his own house, Solomon rebuilt the cities that Hiram had given to him, and settled the people of Israel in them." (2 Chronicles 8:1) - This verse highlights the continuation of Solomon's building projects, including the rebuilding of cities that King Hiram of Tyre had given to him.

2. "And they did not turn away from the commandment of the king to the priests and the Levites concerning any matter or concerning the treasuries." (2 Chronicles 8:15) - This verse emphasizes the importance of Solomon's administration in the kingdom, as the people followed his commandments and trusted the priests and Levites to manage the treasuries.
3. "Thus Solomon did for all the foreign women who were in his harem, who were not of Israelite origin, and who had been brought into Israel by his father David." (2 Chronicles 8:11) - This verse mentions the foreign women in Solomon's harem, which would later become a source of trouble for him and lead to his downfall.
4. "And they brought up the ark and the tent of meeting and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up." (2 Chronicles 8:14) - This verse shows the continuation of the worship practices in the newly-built Temple, as the priests and Levites brought up the ark and other holy vessels for use in the Temple.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 8 highlights the continuation of Solomon's building projects and his administration of the kingdom. It also mentions the foreign women in Solomon's harem and the continuation of worship practices in the Temple.

Chapter 8 of 2 Chronicles recounts the accomplishments of Solomon, particularly in regard to the construction of various cities and his administrative responsibilities. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 8 of 2 Chronicles provides a glimpse into the reign of Solomon, highlighting his achievements in terms of city construction and administrative organization. This chapter offers us insights into Solomon's wisdom, strategic planning, and the prosperity experienced under his rule, prompting us to reflect on the importance of utilizing our resources wisely and governing with integrity.

One of the notable accomplishments mentioned in this chapter is the construction and fortification of various cities in the land of Israel. Solomon recognized the need for a well-organized and secure kingdom, and he took measures to establish strategic cities that would serve as centers for trade, defense, and administration. This highlights the importance of wise planning and foresight in leadership, as well as the value of providing a stable and prosperous environment for the people under one's care.

Moreover, the chapter emphasizes Solomon's attention to detail and meticulous organization in his governance. From the division of labor among the Israelites and the appointment of officials to the establishment of a regular system for providing resources and supplies, Solomon demonstrated his commitment to efficiency and fairness. This serves as a reminder of the importance of good governance, responsible stewardship, and equitable distribution of resources in building a flourishing society.

Furthermore, the chapter mentions Solomon's interaction with Hiram, the king of Tyre, who provided assistance in various construction projects. This collaboration underscores the significance of cultivating positive relationships and partnerships for the betterment

of a community or nation. It reminds us that cooperation and mutual support can lead to shared success and prosperity.

In addition to the practical aspects of Solomon's reign, Chapter 8 also highlights the continued worship and adherence to the laws of God. The chapter mentions Solomon's offerings and the observance of the appointed feasts according to the Law of Moses. This signifies the importance of maintaining a vibrant and faithful spiritual life, even in the midst of worldly achievements and responsibilities.

In conclusion, Chapter 8 of 2 Chronicles presents Solomon as a wise and strategic ruler, emphasizing the importance of careful planning, responsible governance, and the pursuit of prosperity for the people under his rule. It reminds us of the value of utilizing our resources wisely, building secure and prosperous communities, and maintaining a vibrant spiritual life. May we seek to exercise wisdom and integrity in our leadership roles, leveraging our abilities and resources for the betterment of those we serve, and remaining faithful to God's commands in all aspects of life.

CHAPTER 9

2Ch. 9:1 When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's fame, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions. Arriving with a very great caravan — with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones — she came to Solomon and talked with him about all she had on her mind.

2Ch. 9:2 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for him to explain to her.

2Ch. 9:3 When the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon, as well as the palace he had built,

2Ch. 9:4 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, the cupbearers in their robes and the
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burnt offerings he made at [Or the ascent by which he went up to] the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

2Ch. 9:5 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true.

2Ch. 9:6 But I did not believe what they said until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half the greatness of your wisdom was told me; you have far exceeded the report I heard.

2Ch. 9:7 How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

2Ch. 9:8 Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on his throne as king to rule for the LORD your God. Because of the love of your God for Israel and his desire to uphold them for ever, he has made you king over them, to maintain justice and righteousness."

2Ch. 9:9 Then she gave the king 120 talents [That is, about 4 tons

(about 4 metric tons)] of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. There had never been such spices as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

2Ch. 9:10 (The men of Hiram and the men of Solomon brought gold from Ophir; they also brought algum-wood [Probably a variant of almug-wood] and precious stones.

2Ch. 9:11 The king used the algum-wood to make steps for the temple of the LORD and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. Nothing like them had ever been seen in Judah.)

2Ch. 9:12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for; he gave her more than she had brought to him. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.

2Ch. 9:13 The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, [That is, about 23 tons (about 23 metric tons)]
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2Ch. 9:14 not including the revenues brought in by merchants and traders. Also all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land brought gold and silver to Solomon.

2Ch. 9:15 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred bekas [That is, about 7 1/2 pounds (about 3.5 kilograms)] of hammered gold went into each shield.

2Ch. 9:16 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three hundred bekas [That is, about 3 3/4 pounds (about 1.7 kilograms)] of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon.

2Ch. 9:17 Then the king made a great throne inlaid with ivory and overlaid with pure gold.

2Ch. 9:18 The throne had six steps, and a footstool of gold was attached to it. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them.

2Ch. 9:19 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom.

2Ch. 9:20 All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's day.

2Ch. 9:21 The king had a fleet of trading ships [Hebrew of ships that could go to Tarshish] manned by Hiram's [Hebrew Hiram, a variant of Hiram] men. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons.

2Ch. 9:22 King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.

2Ch. 9:23 All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to

hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.

2Ch. 9:24 Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift — articles of silver and gold, and robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.

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2Ch. 9:25 Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horses, [Or charioteers] which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 9:26 He ruled over all the kings from the River [That is, the Euphrates] to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.

2Ch. 9:27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills.

2Ch. 9:28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt [Or possibly Muzur, a region in Cilicia] and from all other countries.

2Ch. 9:29 As for the other events of Solomon's reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam son of Nebat?

2Ch. 9:30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years.

2Ch. 9:31 Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 9 begins with the queen of Sheba visiting King Solomon to test him with hard questions. She is impressed with Solomon's wisdom and wealth, and gives him gifts of gold, precious stones, and spices. Solomon reciprocates by giving her gifts and sending her home.

The rest of the chapter details Solomon's great wealth, wisdom, and accomplishments. He receives tribute from many nations and amasses large amounts of gold, silver, ivory, and other precious materials. The chapter also describes the splendor of Solomon's throne, his drinking cups, and the temple vessels.

The chapter ends by summarizing Solomon's reign, including his wealth, wisdom, and construction projects. It notes that Solomon ruled for 40 years and died, and his son Rehoboam succeeded him as king.

2 Chronicles chapter 9 describes the visit of the queen of Sheba to King Solomon and the abundance of his kingdom. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions, having a very great retinue and camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones." (2 Chronicles 9:1) - This verse introduces the queen of Sheba and her journey to visit Solomon, highlighting his fame and reputation for wisdom.
2. "And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance

- of his servants, and their clothing, and his cupbearers, and their clothing, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more breath in her." (2 Chronicles 9:3-4) - This verse describes the queen's reaction to Solomon's wisdom and the abundance of his kingdom, which left her breathless.
3. "Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!" (2 Chronicles 9:7) - This verse highlights the admiration and praise that the queen of Sheba gave to Solomon and his household.
 4. "Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom." (2 Chronicles 9:22) - This verse summarizes the abundance and wisdom of Solomon's kingdom, highlighting his exceptional status among all the kings of the earth.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 9 focuses on the visit of the queen of Sheba to Solomon and the abundance and wisdom of his kingdom. It highlights the reputation and fame of Solomon, as well as the admiration and praise that he received from the queen of Sheba. [Chapter 9 of 2 Chronicles recounts the visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon, highlighting her awe and admiration for his wisdom and the abundance of his kingdom. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 9 of 2 Chronicles presents the remarkable encounter between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. This encounter serves as a testament to Solomon's renowned wisdom, the wealth and prosperity of his kingdom, and the recognition of his greatness by a foreign ruler. It prompts us to reflect on the importance of seeking wisdom, the blessings of God's provision, and the responsibility that comes with leadership and influence.](#)

[The Queen of Sheba, having heard of Solomon's wisdom and fame, sets out on a journey to test his wisdom for herself. She comes with a retinue of servants and brings abundant gifts as an expression of her admiration and respect. Upon witnessing Solomon's wisdom and the splendor of his kingdom, she is overcome with awe and declares that the reports she had heard did not even begin to capture the reality of his greatness.](#)

[This encounter highlights the significance of wisdom in leadership. Solomon's wisdom was not merely a personal attribute, but it also had far-reaching effects on his kingdom and reputation. His wisdom enabled him to govern with insight, make wise decisions, and attract the attention of foreign dignitaries. It reminds us of the value of seeking wisdom, both through diligent study and by seeking guidance from God, as we navigate the challenges and responsibilities of leadership.](#)

[Additionally, the visit of the Queen of Sheba demonstrates the abundance and prosperity that God had bestowed upon Solomon and his kingdom. The chapter describes the vast wealth, the grandeur of the palace, the extensive trade networks, and the precious materials that adorned the temple. This serves as a reminder that God is the ultimate provider and blesses those who seek Him and follow His ways. It also highlights the importance of stewardship and using the blessings and resources we receive for the greater good and the glory of God.](#)

Moreover, the encounter between Solomon and the Queen of Sheba carries a message of responsibility. Solomon's wisdom and the blessings of his kingdom placed him in a position of influence and leadership. The Queen of Sheba recognizes this and acknowledges that God has placed Solomon on the throne for the purpose of upholding justice and righteousness. This reminds us that leadership and influence come with a responsibility to govern justly, care for the well-being of others, and uphold the values and principles of God's kingdom.

In conclusion, Chapter 9 of 2 Chronicles presents the encounter between Solomon and the Queen of Sheba as a testament to Solomon's wisdom, the abundance of his kingdom, and the recognition of his greatness. It encourages us to seek wisdom, acknowledge God as the source of blessings, and embrace the responsibility that comes with leadership and influence. May we strive to cultivate wisdom, steward God's blessings faithfully, and exercise leadership in a manner that upholds justice, righteousness, and the values of God's kingdom.

CHAPTER 10

2Ch. 10:1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all the Israelites had gone there to make him king.

2Ch. 10:2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt.

2Ch. 10:3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and all Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him:

2Ch. 10:4 “Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labour and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.”

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2Ch. 10:5 Rehoboam answered, “Come back to me in three days.” So the people went away.

2Ch. 10:6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. “How would you advise me to answer these people?” he asked.

2Ch. 10:7 They replied, “If you will be kind to these people and please them and give them a favourable answer, they will always be your servants.”

2Ch. 10:8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

2Ch. 10:9 He asked them, “What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, ‘Lighten the yoke your father put on us’?”

2Ch. 10:10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, “Tell the people who have said to you, ‘Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter’ — tell them, ‘My

little finger is thicker than my father's waist.

2Ch. 10:11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”

2Ch. 10:12 Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, “Come back to me in three days.”

2Ch. 10:13 The king answered them harshly. Rejecting the advice of the elders,

2Ch. 10:14 he followed the advice of the young men and said, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”

2Ch. 10:15 So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from God, to fulfil the word that the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.

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2Ch. 10:16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: “What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!” So all the Israelites went home.

2Ch. 10:17 But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

2Ch. 10:18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, [Hebrew Hadoram, a variant of Adoniram] who was in charge of forced labour, but the Israelites stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem.

2Ch. 10:19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

Chapter 10 of 2 Chronicles begins with the aftermath of King Solomon's death. His son, Rehoboam, becomes king of Israel but quickly faces a rebellion led by Jeroboam. Jeroboam and the people of Israel ask Rehoboam to lighten the heavy burden of taxes and labor that Solomon had imposed on them, but Rehoboam consults with his advisors and decides to take a harsher approach.

Rehoboam's response leads to the split of the kingdom of Israel into two: the northern kingdom of Israel, with Jeroboam as its king, and the southern kingdom of Judah, with Rehoboam as its king. The chapter ends with a list of Rehoboam's reign and his sons.

2 Chronicles chapter 10 describes the reign of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, and the division of the kingdom of Israel. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "So Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam, 'Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.'" (2 Chronicles 10:3-4) - This verse shows the request of Jeroboam and the people of Israel to Rehoboam, asking for relief from the heavy burden that Solomon had placed on them.

2. "And he [Rehoboam] said to them, 'Go away for three days, then come again to me.' So the people went away." (2 Chronicles 10:5) - This verse shows Rehoboam's initial response to the people's request, telling them to come back in three days.
3. "And he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, 'My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'" (2 Chronicles 10:8) - This verse shows Rehoboam's decision to ignore the advice of the older, experienced advisors and listen to the advice of the younger, inexperienced advisors, which ultimately led to the division of the kingdom.
4. "So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day." (2 Chronicles 10:19) - This verse highlights the consequences of Rehoboam's decision, leading to the division of the kingdom and ongoing rebellion against the house of David.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 10 focuses on the division of the kingdom of Israel and the consequences of Rehoboam's decision to ignore the advice of the older, experienced advisors. It highlights the request of Jeroboam and the people of Israel for relief from the heavy burden that Solomon had placed on them, as well as the rebellion and division that followed.

Chapter 10 of 2 Chronicles recounts the events following the death of King Solomon, including the division of the kingdom of Israel under Rehoboam and the consequences of his unwise decisions. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 10 of 2 Chronicles marks a turning point in the history of Israel as it depicts the division of the kingdom under the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son. This chapter serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of wise leadership, humility, and the consequences of unwise decisions.

After Solomon's death, Rehoboam ascends to the throne and faces a request from the people of Israel to lighten the heavy burden of taxation and labor imposed during Solomon's reign. Seeking counsel, Rehoboam first seeks the advice of the elders who had served under his father. However, he disregards their wisdom and instead follows the advice of his younger friends. As a result, he responds to the people with harsh words, threatening to increase their burden instead of showing understanding and compassion.

This unwise decision by Rehoboam leads to the rebellion of ten of the twelve tribes of Israel, who refuse to recognize his authority. The division of the kingdom into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah becomes a lasting consequence of his unwise leadership.

The chapter teaches us the importance of seeking wise counsel and humility in leadership. Rehoboam's failure to listen to the wisdom of the elders demonstrates the danger of arrogance and pride, which can blind leaders to the needs and concerns of the people they serve. It emphasizes the importance of humility in leadership, recognizing that true leadership is about service and understanding the needs of those under our care.

Furthermore, the chapter highlights the significance of unity and the dangers of division. The division of the kingdom weakened the nation and set the stage for future conflicts and struggles. It serves as a reminder that disunity can hinder progress, weaken a community or nation, and create opportunities for outside influences that may not have the best interests of the people at heart. It underscores the importance of fostering unity and working towards reconciliation and common goals.

In conclusion, Chapter 10 of 2 Chronicles offers valuable lessons on wise leadership, humility, and the consequences of unwise decisions. It calls us to seek wise counsel, cultivate humility in our leadership roles, and recognize the importance of unity in pursuing the well-being of those we lead. May we learn from the mistakes of Rehoboam and strive to lead with wisdom, compassion, and a heart that seeks the welfare of those we serve.

CHAPTER 11

2Ch. 11:1 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered the house of Judah and Benjamin — a hundred and eighty thousand fighting men — to make war against Israel and to regain the kingdom for Rehoboam.

2Ch. 11:2 But this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God:

2Ch. 11:3 “Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah and to all the Israelites in Judah and Benjamin,

2Ch. 11:4 `This is what the LORD says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing.”“ So they obeyed the words of the LORD and turned back from marching against Jeroboam.

2Ch. 11:5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built up towns for defence in Judah:

2Ch. 11:6 Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

2Ch. 11:7 Beth Zur, Soco, Adullam,

2Ch. 11:8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

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2Ch. 11:9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

2Ch. 11:10 Zorah, Aijalon and Hebron. These were fortified cities in Judah and Benjamin.

2Ch. 11:11 He strengthened their defences and put commanders in them, with supplies of food, olive oil and wine.

2Ch. 11:12 He put shields and spears in all the cities, and made them very strong. So Judah and Benjamin were his.

2Ch. 11:13 The priests and Levites from all their districts throughout Israel sided with him.

2Ch. 11:14 The Levites even abandoned their pasture-lands and property, and came to Judah and Jerusalem because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them as priests of the LORD.

2Ch. 11:15 And he appointed his own priests for the high places and for

the goat and calf idols he had made.

2Ch. 11:16 Those from every tribe of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the LORD, the God of Israel, followed the Levites to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 11:17 They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam son of Solomon for three years, walking in the ways of David and Solomon during this time.

2Ch. 11:18 Rehoboam married Mahalath, who was the daughter of David's son Jerimoth and of Abihail, the daughter of Jesse's son Eliab.

2Ch. 11:19 She bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah and Zaham.

2Ch. 11:20 Then he married Maacah daughter of Absalom, who bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza and Shelomith.

2Ch. 11:21 Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of Absalom more than any of his other wives and concubines. In all he had eighteen wives and sixty concubines, twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

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2Ch. 11:22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah to be the chief prince among his brothers, in order to make him king.

2Ch. 11:23 He acted wisely, dispersing some of his sons throughout the districts of Judah and Benjamin, and to all the fortified cities.

He gave them abundant provisions and took many wives for them.

Chapter 11 begins with the reign of King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, over the kingdom of Judah. Rehoboam gathers an army of 180,000 men from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to fight against the northern kingdom of Israel, which has rebelled against him under the leadership of Jeroboam. However, the prophet Shemaiah comes to Rehoboam and tells him not to go to war against Israel, as it is God's will for the kingdom to be divided.

Instead of going to war, Rehoboam fortifies the cities of Judah, including Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, Beth Zur, Soco, Adullam, Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron. He also appoints priests and Levites to serve in the temple in Jerusalem, and encourages the people to seek the Lord and follow His commands.

In addition, the chapter mentions the descendants of Rehoboam, including his sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons. It also describes how Jeroboam sets up false gods in the cities of Bethel and Dan in the northern kingdom of Israel, leading the people astray from the worship of the true God.

Overall, Chapter 11 focuses on the reign of Rehoboam over the kingdom of Judah, his decision not to go to war against the northern kingdom of Israel, and his efforts to strengthen and fortify the cities of Judah.

2 Chronicles chapter 11 describes the reign of Rehoboam after the division of the kingdom of Israel and the establishment of the kingdom of Judah. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "But the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah the man of God: 'Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin.'" (2 Chronicles 11:2) - This verse shows that even after the division of the kingdom, God still had a message for both Rehoboam and the people of Israel in Judah and Benjamin.
2. "Thus says the Lord, 'You shall not go up or fight against your relatives. Return every man to his home, for this thing is from me.'" (2 Chronicles 11:4) - This verse shows that God had a plan for the division of the kingdom and that it was not for Rehoboam to fight against his relatives in the northern kingdom of Israel.
3. "And he [Rehoboam] built cities for defense in Judah. He built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam, Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, fortified cities that are in Judah and in Benjamin." (2 Chronicles 11:5-10) - This verse shows that Rehoboam took steps to fortify and defend the cities in his kingdom after the division.
4. "And he [Rehoboam] did what was evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the Lord." (2 Chronicles 12:14) - This verse shows the ultimate downfall of Rehoboam's reign, as he did not seek the Lord and turned to evil.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 11 focuses on the establishment of the kingdom of Judah after the division of the kingdom of Israel and the steps that Rehoboam took to fortify and defend his kingdom. It also highlights the message from God to not fight against the northern kingdom of Israel and the eventual downfall of Rehoboam's reign due to his lack of seeking the Lord.

Chapter 11 of 2 Chronicles recounts the events following the division of the kingdom of Israel, focusing on the reign of Rehoboam in the southern kingdom of Judah. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 11 of 2 Chronicles provides insights into the reign of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, after the division of the kingdom. It highlights the actions and decisions made by Rehoboam, as well as the consequences and challenges he faced. This chapter offers us lessons on the importance of seeking God's guidance, maintaining faithfulness, and the impact of our choices.

Following the division of the kingdom, Rehoboam initially intends to go to war against the northern kingdom of Israel in an attempt to regain control. However, through the word of the prophet Shemaiah, he receives a message from God advising him to refrain from this conflict. Rehoboam heeds the warning and does not pursue the war. This demonstrates the importance of seeking God's guidance and listening to His voice in times of decision-making. It reminds us that seeking divine wisdom and aligning our choices with God's will can spare us from unnecessary conflict and misdirection.

Moreover, Rehoboam focuses on strengthening the southern kingdom of Judah by fortifying cities, appointing priests and Levites, and encouraging faithfulness to God's

laws and commandments. He recognizes the significance of maintaining a relationship with God and promotes the worship of the Lord. This highlights the importance of prioritizing our spiritual lives and cultivating a faithful and obedient heart towards God. It serves as a reminder that true strength and prosperity come from aligning ourselves with God's purposes and living in accordance with His principles.

Additionally, the chapter reveals the challenges and consequences faced by Rehoboam due to the division of the kingdom. Many priests and Levites from the northern kingdom migrate to Judah, seeking a place to worship God in accordance with His laws. Rehoboam accommodates them, welcoming their presence and establishing a strong religious foundation in the southern kingdom. This highlights the significance of inclusivity, compassion, and embracing unity among believers, regardless of political or geographical divisions.

In conclusion, Chapter 11 of 2 Chronicles presents insights into Rehoboam's reign in the southern kingdom of Judah after the division of Israel. It emphasizes the importance of seeking God's guidance, maintaining faithfulness, and the consequences of our choices. May we learn from Rehoboam's example by seeking God's wisdom in decision-making, prioritizing our relationship with Him, embracing unity among believers, and living in accordance with His commands.

CHAPTER 12

2Ch. 12:1 After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel [That is, Judah, as frequently in 2 Chronicles] with him abandoned the law of the LORD.

2Ch. 12:2 Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam.

2Ch. 12:3 With twelve hundred chariots and sixty thousand horsemen and the innumerable troops of Libyans, Sukkites and Cushites [That is, people from the upper Nile region] that came with him from Egypt,

2Ch. 12:4 he captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

2Ch. 12:5 Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says: `You have abandoned me; therefore I now abandon you to Shishak.'"

2Ch. 12:6 The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is just."

2Ch. 12:7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: "Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on

Jerusalem through Shishak.

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2Ch. 12:8 They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands.”

2Ch. 12:9 When Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem, he carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including the gold shields that Solomon had made.

2Ch. 12:10 So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace.

2Ch. 12:11 Whenever the king went to the LORD’s temple, the guards went with him, bearing the shields, and afterwards they returned them to the guardroom.

2Ch. 12:12 Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD’s anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.

2Ch. 12:13 King Rehoboam established himself firmly in Jerusalem and continued as king. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned for seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother’s name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.

2Ch. 12:14 He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.

2Ch. 12:15 As for the events of Rehoboam’s reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer that deal with genealogies?

There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

2Ch. 12:16 Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Abijah his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 12 begins with Rehoboam becoming king of Judah. He and the people of Judah had abandoned the law of the Lord, so the Lord allowed King Shishak of Egypt to invade Judah and take many of its treasures. The king and his officials humbled themselves before the Lord, and the Lord relented from sending complete destruction upon them. Despite this, Rehoboam continued to do evil and did not seek the Lord with all his heart. The chapter ends with a summary of his reign and death.

2 Chronicles chapter 12 describes the downfall of Rehoboam's reign in the kingdom of Judah. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him." (2 Chronicles 12:1) - This verse sets

- the tone for the chapter, highlighting Rehoboam's abandonment of the law of the Lord.
2. "Therefore the Lord sent Shishak king of Egypt against them, who took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house." (2 Chronicles 12:9) - This verse shows the consequence of Rehoboam's abandonment of the law of the Lord, as the Lord allowed the king of Egypt to attack and plunder the treasures of the temple and the king's house.
 3. "Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, 'The Lord is righteous.'" (2 Chronicles 12:6) - This verse shows the response of the people and the king after the attack by the king of Egypt, recognizing the righteousness of the Lord.
 4. "So King Rehoboam grew strong in Jerusalem and reigned. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there." (2 Chronicles 12:13-14) - This verse provides a summary of Rehoboam's reign, highlighting his strength in Jerusalem and his 17-year reign over the city that the Lord had chosen.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 12 focuses on the downfall of Rehoboam's reign in the kingdom of Judah due to his abandonment of the law of the Lord. It highlights the consequence of the attack by the king of Egypt and the recognition of the righteousness of the Lord by the people and the king.

Chapter 12 of 2 Chronicles portrays the downfall of Rehoboam and the kingdom of Judah due to their abandonment of God's ways. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 12 of 2 Chronicles serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences that can arise from turning away from God and pursuing a path of disobedience. In this chapter, we witness the downfall of Rehoboam and the kingdom of Judah, highlighting the importance of faithfulness, humility, and the need for repentance.

The chapter begins by describing how Rehoboam and the people of Judah abandoned the law of the Lord and turned to idolatry. This act of rebellion against God led to their downfall, as God allowed Shishak, the king of Egypt, to invade Judah and plunder its treasures. This invasion and the subsequent loss of wealth and security serve as a direct consequence of their unfaithfulness and disobedience.

The events in this chapter demonstrate the reality that our actions have consequences, and turning away from God's ways leads to spiritual and temporal repercussions. It reminds us of the importance of remaining steadfast in our faith, diligently following God's commands, and seeking His guidance in all aspects of life. It is a call to examine our hearts and ensure that we are not compromising our devotion to God by pursuing worldly desires or idolatry.

However, even in the face of judgment, there is a message of grace and the opportunity for repentance. When the prophet Shemaiah delivers the message of God's judgment to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah, they humble themselves and acknowledge their

wrongdoing. As a result, God relents from complete destruction and allows them to be subjugated under foreign rule rather than facing complete annihilation. This demonstrates God's willingness to extend mercy and offer a path of restoration when we turn back to Him with sincere repentance.

In conclusion, Chapter 12 of 2 Chronicles serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of turning away from God and pursuing a path of disobedience. It reminds us of the importance of faithfulness, humility, and the need for repentance. May we learn from the mistakes of Rehoboam and the people of Judah, remaining steadfast in our devotion to God, seeking His guidance, and turning back to Him in times of spiritual wandering.

CHAPTER 13

2Ch. 13:1 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah became king of Judah,

2Ch. 13:2 and he reigned in Jerusalem for three years. His mother's name was Maacah, [Most Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac (see also 2 Chron. 11:20 and 1 Kings 15:2); Hebrew Micaiah] a daughter [Or granddaughter] of Uriel of Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

2Ch. 13:3 Abijah went into battle with a force of four hundred thousand able fighting men, and Jeroboam drew up a battle line against him with eight hundred thousand able troops.

2Ch. 13:4 Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, "Jeroboam and all Israel, listen to me!

2Ch. 13:5 Don't you know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants for ever by a covenant of salt?

2Ch. 13:6 Yet Jeroboam son of Nebat, an official of Solomon son of David, rebelled against his master.

2Ch. 13:7 Some worthless scoundrels gathered around him and opposed Rehoboam son of Solomon when he was young and indecisive and not strong enough to resist them.

2Ch. 13:8 "And now you plan to resist the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hands of David's descendants. You are indeed a vast army and have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made to be your gods.

2Ch. 13:9 But didn't you drive out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and make priests of your own as the peoples of other lands do? Whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may become a priest of what are not gods.

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2Ch. 13:10 "As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. The priests who serve the LORD are sons of Aaron, and the Levites assist them.

2Ch. 13:11 Every morning and evening they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to the LORD. They set out the bread on the ceremonially clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening. We are observing the requirements of the LORD our God. But you have forsaken him.

2Ch. 13:12 God is with us; he is our leader. His priests with their trumpets will sound the battle cry against you. Men of Israel, do not fight against the LORD, the God of your fathers, for you will not succeed.”

2Ch. 13:13 Now Jeroboam had sent troops round to the rear, so that while he was in front of Judah the ambush was behind them.

2Ch. 13:14 Judah turned and saw that they were being attacked at both front and rear. Then they cried out to the LORD. The priests blew their trumpets

2Ch. 13:15 and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. At the sound of their battle cry, God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

2Ch. 13:16 The Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands.

2Ch. 13:17 Abijah and his men inflicted heavy losses on them, so that there were five hundred thousand casualties among Israel’s able men.

2Ch. 13:18 The men of Israel were subdued on that occasion, and the men of Judah were victorious because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 13:19 Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took from him the towns of Bethel, Jeshanah and Ephron, with their surrounding villages.

2Ch. 13:20 Jeroboam did not regain power during the time of Abijah. And the LORD struck him down and he died.

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2Ch. 13:21 But Abijah grew in strength. He married fourteen wives and had twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

2Ch. 13:22 The other events of Abijah’s reign, what he did and what he said, are written in the annotations of the prophet Iddo.

Chapter 13 of 2 Chronicles describes a battle between Abijah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam, king of Israel. Abijah gave a speech before the battle, in which he reminded the Israelites that the priests and Levites were on the side of Judah, and that they had not followed God's commands. The battle took place in the hills of Ephraim, and Judah emerged victorious, killing 500,000 Israelite soldiers. Jeroboam's son Abijah fell sick after the battle and died, as did Jeroboam himself.

This chapter highlights the ongoing conflict between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, as well as the importance of following God's commands and seeking the support of the priesthood.

2 Chronicles chapter 13 describes the war between Abijah, the king of Judah, and Jeroboam, the king of Israel. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "And Abijah stood up on the top of Mount Zemaraim that is in the hill country of Ephraim and said, 'Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel!'" (2 Chronicles 13:4) - This verse shows Abijah's boldness as he addresses Jeroboam and all Israel from the top of the mountain.
2. "But you have thrown them off, the priests of the Lord, and my sons, who were to be priests, and have gone to make priests for yourselves of every sort of people, so that the service of the Lord is conducted by worthless men." (2 Chronicles 13:9) - This verse highlights the religious aspect of the war, as Abijah accuses Jeroboam of disregarding the priests of the Lord and appointing his own priests.
3. "Thus the men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers." (2 Chronicles 13:18) - This verse shows the outcome of the war, as the men of Judah prevailed due to their reliance on the Lord.
4. "And Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place." (2 Chronicles 13:22) - This verse provides a summary of Abijah's reign and his death, and introduces his son Asa as the new king of Judah.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 13 highlights the war between Abijah and Jeroboam and the religious aspect of the conflict. It also shows the importance of relying on the Lord for victory and introduces Asa as the new king of Judah after Abijah's death.

Chapter 13 of 2 Chronicles recounts the conflict between Abijah, the son of Rehoboam, and Jeroboam, the king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 13 of 2 Chronicles presents the account of a significant battle between Abijah, the king of Judah, and Jeroboam, the king of Israel. This chapter offers insights into the importance of faithfulness to God's covenant, the power of prayer, and the consequences of disobedience.

The chapter begins by highlighting the stark contrast between the two kings. Abijah, a descendant of David, stands as a representative of the faithful line of Judah, while Jeroboam, who led the northern kingdom of Israel, symbolizes rebellion against God's established order. Abijah's speech before the battle emphasizes his commitment to following the Lord and his confidence in God's covenant promises.

Throughout the chapter, Abijah's trust in God is evident as he seeks divine intervention through prayer. He acknowledges that the battle is not merely a physical confrontation but a spiritual one, recognizing that victory depends on the Lord's favor. Abijah's reliance on prayer underscores the importance of seeking God's guidance and strength in times of difficulty and conflict. It serves as a reminder that our true source of power and success lies in our relationship with God.

The chapter also reveals the consequences of disobedience and rebellion against God's commands. Jeroboam and the Israelites had turned away from the worship of the true

God and established their own counterfeit religious practices. As a result, God's favor was not with them in the battle against Judah. The defeat of Jeroboam's forces highlights the fact that disobedience carries serious consequences and that aligning ourselves with God's will is essential for victory and blessing.

Furthermore, this chapter demonstrates God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Despite the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel, God remains committed to preserving the line of David and maintaining His covenant with the tribe of Judah. The victory of Abijah and the preservation of the Davidic line reflect God's faithfulness to His chosen people and His ongoing plan for the redemption of humanity.

In conclusion, Chapter 13 of 2 Chronicles offers valuable lessons on the importance of faithfulness to God's covenant, the power of prayer, and the consequences of disobedience. It reminds us of the significance of relying on God's strength and seeking His guidance in times of conflict. May we remain faithful to God's commands, trust in His power, and seek His guidance through prayer as we navigate the battles and challenges of life.

CHAPTER 14

2Ch. 14:1 And Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. Asa his son succeeded him as king, and in his days the country was at peace for ten years.

2Ch. 14:2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.

2Ch. 14:3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. [That is, symbols of the goddess Asherah; here and elsewhere in 2 Chronicles]

2Ch. 14:4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.

2Ch. 14:5 He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him.

2Ch. 14:6 He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No-one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest.

2Ch. 14:7 "Let us build up these towns," he said to Judah, "and put walls round them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God; we sought him and he has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

2Ch. 14:8 Asa had an army of three hundred thousand men from Judah, equipped with large shields and with spears, and two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, armed with small shields and with bows. All these were brave fighting men.

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2Ch. 14:9 Zerah the Cushite marched out against them with a vast army

[Hebrew with an army of a thousand thousands or with an army of thousands upon thousands] and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.

2Ch. 14:10 Asa went out to meet him, and they took up battle positions in the Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah.

2Ch. 14:11 Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no-one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O LORD, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you."

2Ch. 14:12 The LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled,

2Ch. 14:13 and Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. Such a great number of Cushites fell that they could not recover; they were crushed before the LORD and his forces. The men of Judah carried off a large amount of plunder.

2Ch. 14:14 They destroyed all the villages around Gerar, for the terror of the LORD had fallen upon them. They plundered all these villages, since there was much booty there.

2Ch. 14:15 They also attacked the camps of the herdsmen and carried off droves of sheep and goats and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

Chapter 14 begins with the reign of Asa, son of Abijah, over Judah. Asa is described as doing what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord, and he seeks to reform Judah by removing foreign altars and high places. Asa also strengthens the fortifications of Judah and builds up his army.

In the midst of his reign, Asa is confronted by an Ethiopian army of a million men and 300 chariots. Asa calls upon the Lord for help and, in response, the Lord delivers a great victory for Judah. Asa and his army pursue the Ethiopians and defeat them, taking much spoil.

After the victory, the prophet Azariah comes to Asa and encourages him to continue to seek the Lord, warning him that if he forsakes the Lord, the Lord will also forsake him. Asa takes this message to heart and continues his reforms in Judah, including removing his own grandmother from her position as queen mother because of her worship of false gods.

The chapter ends with a summary of Asa's reign and his continued efforts to reform Judah and seek the Lord.

2 Chronicles chapter 14 describes the reign of Asa, the new king of Judah, and his efforts to strengthen the kingdom. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God." (2 Chronicles 14:2) - This verse establishes Asa's character as a king who did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord.

2. "And Asa cried to the Lord his God, 'O Lord, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O Lord, you are our God; let not man prevail against you.'" (2 Chronicles 14:11) - This verse shows Asa's reliance on the Lord for help and victory against a multitude of Ethiopians.
3. "And the Lord struck down the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled." (2 Chronicles 14:12) - This verse shows the outcome of the battle between Asa and the Ethiopians, as the Lord struck down the Ethiopians and they fled.
4. "And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul." (2 Chronicles 14:4) - This verse shows the covenant that Asa and the people of Judah made to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 14 highlights the reign of Asa as a good and righteous king who relied on the Lord for help and victory. It also shows the importance of seeking the Lord with all one's heart and soul, and the covenant that Asa and the people of Judah made to do so.

Chapter 14 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Asa of Judah and highlights his commitment to seeking God and implementing reforms in the nation. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 14 of 2 Chronicles presents the reign of King Asa of Judah, a period marked by his devotion to God and his efforts to bring about spiritual and social reforms in the nation. This chapter offers valuable insights into the importance of seeking God wholeheartedly, relying on His strength, and the blessings that come from obedience.

King Asa is described as a king who did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord. He begins his reign by removing idols and pagan altars from the land, urging the people to turn their hearts towards the true God. Asa's actions reflect his commitment to following God's commands and his desire to lead the nation in righteousness.

Moreover, Asa takes steps to fortify the kingdom against potential enemies. He builds up the cities of Judah and strengthens the military defenses. However, he recognizes that true security and victory come from the Lord. In the face of a vast Ethiopian army, Asa turns to God in prayer, acknowledging his reliance on Him and His power. God responds by granting Asa a resounding victory, showing His faithfulness to those who trust in Him.

The chapter also highlights the blessings that result from obedience and seeking God. Asa experiences a period of peace and prosperity in the land because he and the people of Judah sought the Lord wholeheartedly. The nation enjoys a time of rest from external threats, and Asa's leadership brings about positive changes and reforms, fostering spiritual renewal among the people.

In this chapter, we are reminded of the importance of seeking God diligently, purging our lives of anything that hinders our relationship with Him, and relying on His strength.

Asa's example shows us the significance of wholehearted devotion and the blessings that flow from obedience to God's commands. It encourages us to trust in God's power and seek His guidance in all aspects of our lives.

Furthermore, Chapter 14 demonstrates the faithfulness of God to those who are committed to Him. As we align ourselves with God's will and seek His face, He shows Himself strong on our behalf, providing guidance, protection, and blessings.

In conclusion, Chapter 14 of 2 Chronicles offers valuable lessons on seeking God wholeheartedly, relying on His strength, and experiencing the blessings that come from obedience. It challenges us to examine our lives, remove anything that hinders our relationship with God, and strive for wholehearted devotion to Him. May we learn from Asa's example and seek the Lord diligently, trusting in His power and experiencing His faithfulness in our lives.

CHAPTER 15

2Ch. 15:1 The Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded.

2Ch. 15:2 He went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.

2Ch. 15:3 For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law.

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2Ch. 15:4 But in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them.

2Ch. 15:5 In those days it was not safe to travel about, for all the inhabitants of the lands were in great turmoil.

2Ch. 15:6 One nation was being crushed by another and one city by another, because God was troubling them with every kind of distress.

2Ch. 15:7 But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

2Ch. 15:8 When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of [Vulgate and Syriac (see also Septuagint and verse 1); Hebrew does not have Azariah son of.] Oded the prophet, he took courage. He removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the towns he had captured in the hills of Ephraim. He repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the portico of the LORD's temple.

2Ch. 15:9 Then he assembled all Judah and Benjamin and the people from Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon who had settled among them, for large numbers had come over to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

2Ch. 15:10 They assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

2Ch. 15:11 At that time they sacrificed to the LORD seven hundred head of cattle and seven thousand sheep and goats from the plunder they had brought back.

2Ch. 15:12 They entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul.

2Ch. 15:13 All who would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, were to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

2Ch. 15:14 They took an oath to the LORD with loud acclamation, with shouting and with trumpets and horns.

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2Ch. 15:15 All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.

2Ch. 15:16 King Asa also deposed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive Asherah pole. Asa cut the pole down, broke it up and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

2Ch. 15:17 Although he did not remove the high places from Israel, Asa's heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life.

2Ch. 15:18 He brought into the temple of God the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated.

2Ch. 15:19 There was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

Chapter 15 begins with the prophet Azariah (also known as Oded) approaching King Asa of Judah after his victorious battle against the Ethiopians. Azariah reminds Asa that God is with him as long as he is with God, and warns him that if he abandons God, he will be abandoned in return.

Asa then sets to work on reforms, removing idols from the land and repairing the altar of the Lord. He calls the people of Judah and Benjamin to Jerusalem, and they all gather together to offer sacrifices to God and pledge their allegiance to him.

Asa also removes his own grandmother, Maacah, from her position as queen mother, as she had made an Asherah pole, an object of worship for a Canaanite goddess. Asa destroys the pole and burns it in the Kidron Valley.

The chapter ends with a description of the peace that the land experiences under Asa's rule, as he removes the idols and makes reforms to bring the people of Judah back to the Lord.

2 Chronicles chapter 15 continues to describe the reign of Asa and his efforts to strengthen the kingdom by promoting worship of the Lord. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, 'Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The Lord is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.'" (2 Chronicles 15:1-2) - This verse shows how

- the prophet Azariah encouraged Asa and the people of Judah to seek the Lord and promised that the Lord would be with them if they did so.
2. "And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul, but that whoever would not seek the Lord, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman." (2 Chronicles 15:12-13) - This verse shows the covenant that Asa and the people of Judah made to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul, and the consequences for those who would not do so.
 3. "And the heart of Asa was wholly true all his days." (2 Chronicles 15:17) - This verse shows that Asa remained faithful to the Lord throughout his reign.
 4. "And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa." (2 Chronicles 15:19) - This verse shows that the efforts of Asa and the people of Judah to seek the Lord resulted in a time of peace without war.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 15 highlights the importance of seeking the Lord with all one's heart and soul, and the covenant that Asa and the people of Judah made to do so. It also shows that Asa remained faithful to the Lord throughout his reign, and that their efforts resulted in a time of peace without war.

Chapter 15 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Asa of Judah and his efforts to bring about religious reforms and revival in the nation. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 15 of 2 Chronicles depicts a period of revival and renewal under the leadership of King Asa. It highlights the importance of seeking God, the blessings that come from turning to Him, and the need for wholehearted commitment to God's commands.

The chapter begins with the prophet Azariah delivering a message to King Asa and the people of Judah, urging them to return to the Lord and His ways. They are reminded of the consequences they had faced in the past due to their unfaithfulness, as well as the blessings that awaited them if they would seek God with their whole heart.

Inspired by this message, King Asa takes decisive action to remove idols and false gods from the land. He leads the people in renewing their covenant with God, vowing to seek Him with all their heart and soul. Asa's commitment to spiritual reform and his efforts to cleanse the land of idolatry reflect his recognition that true prosperity and security come from a genuine relationship with God.

The chapter further describes the great assembly that Asa gathers, where sacrifices are offered and a renewed commitment to the Lord is made. The people rejoice in their renewed devotion to God and experience His presence and blessings. God gives them rest from their enemies, and the land enjoys a period of peace and stability.

This chapter teaches us the importance of seeking God and turning away from anything that hinders our relationship with Him. It emphasizes the need for sincere repentance and wholehearted commitment to God's commands. Asa's actions serve as a reminder that spiritual renewal and revival often require intentional steps of removing idols and sinful practices from our lives, as well as actively seeking God's presence and guidance.

Furthermore, Chapter 15 highlights the faithfulness of God in responding to those who genuinely seek Him. When the people of Judah turn their hearts towards God and demonstrate their commitment, He blesses them with peace and prosperity. It underscores the truth that when we align ourselves with God's will and seek Him with sincerity, He honors our efforts and grants us His favor.

In conclusion, Chapter 15 of 2 Chronicles presents a powerful message of spiritual revival and renewal under the leadership of King Asa. It encourages us to seek God wholeheartedly, remove anything that hinders our relationship with Him, and commit ourselves to His commands. May we be inspired by the example of King Asa and the people of Judah to turn to God with sincerity, experience His presence and blessings, and live lives that honor Him.

CHAPTER 16

2Ch. 16:1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.

2Ch. 16:2 Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the LORD's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus.

2Ch. 16:3 "Let there be a treaty between me and you," he said, "as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."

2Ch. 16:4 Ben-Hadad agreed with King Asa and sent the commanders of his forces against the towns of Israel. They conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim [Also known as Abel Beth Maacah] and all the store cities of Naphtali.

2Ch. 16:5 When Baasha heard this, he stopped building Ramah and abandoned his work.

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2Ch. 16:6 Then King Asa brought all the men of Judah, and they carried away from Ramah the stones and timber Baasha had been using. With them he built up Geba and Mizpah.

2Ch. 16:7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.

2Ch. 16:8 Were not the Cushites [That is, people from the upper Nile region] and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? [Or charioteers] Yet when you relied on the LORD, he delivered them into your hand.

2Ch. 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.”

2Ch. 16:10 Asa was angry with the seer because of this; he was so enraged that he put him in prison. At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.

2Ch. 16:11 The events of Asa’s reign, from beginning to end, are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

2Ch. 16:12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the physicians.

2Ch. 16:13 Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his fathers.

2Ch. 16:14 They buried him in the tomb that he had cut out for himself in the City of David. They laid him on a bier covered with spices and various blended perfumes, and they made a huge fire in his honour.

Chapter 16 of 2 Chronicles begins by describing Asa's 36th year as king of Judah. Asa made an alliance with the king of Syria and broke his alliance with the king of Israel. As a result, Baasha, the king of Israel, began to attack Judah, causing Asa to take silver and gold from the treasuries of the temple and his own palace to hire the king of Syria to fight against Baasha. The strategy worked, and Baasha withdrew his army.

Then, in the 39th year of his reign, Asa became sick with a disease in his feet. Rather than turning to God for help, he sought the aid of physicians. Asa died in the 41st year of his reign and was buried in the tomb he had made for himself in the city of David. His son Jehoshaphat succeeded him as king of Judah.

The chapter ends by describing the accomplishments of Asa's reign and the events that took place after his death, including a war between Jehoshaphat and the king of Israel.

2 Chronicles chapter 16 describes the later years of Asa's reign, including his alliance with Ben-hadad, king of Syria, and his illness. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah." (2 Chronicles 16:1) - This verse sets the stage for the events of the chapter, as Baasha, king of Israel, threatens Asa's kingdom by building a fortified city.
2. "Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the Lord and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying, 'Let there be a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me.'" (2 Chronicles 16:2-3) - This verse shows how Asa turned to Ben-hadad, king of Syria, for help against Baasha, and how he paid him with treasure from the temple and the king's house.

3. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him." (2 Chronicles 16:9) - This verse is a reminder that the Lord is watching over the earth and supporting those whose hearts are blameless toward him.
4. "And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign." (2 Chronicles 16:13) - This verse marks the end of Asa's reign, as he died after ruling for forty-one years.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 16 highlights Asa's reliance on Ben-hadad and his neglect of seeking the Lord's help, as well as the reminder that the Lord supports those who are blameless toward him. It also marks the end of Asa's reign.

Chapter 16 of 2 Chronicles portrays the later years of King Asa's reign and highlights a significant mistake he made regarding seeking help from others instead of relying on God. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 16 of 2 Chronicles reveals a pivotal moment in the life of King Asa of Judah. After experiencing God's faithfulness and witnessing His blessings in the earlier years of his reign, Asa encounters a test of faith and makes a critical error in seeking help from a foreign king rather than relying on God. This chapter offers important lessons on the dangers of misplaced trust and the need for unwavering faith in God.

The chapter begins with an attack from King Baasha of Israel against Judah. Instead of seeking God's guidance and intervention as he did in previous battles, King Asa makes a decision that leads to his downfall. He seeks help from Ben-Hadad, the king of Aram, by sending him silver and gold from the treasuries of the temple. Although this may have seemed like a practical solution, it revealed a lack of faith and trust in God's ability to deliver Judah.

God sends Hanani, the seer, to confront Asa and remind him of his previous victories and God's faithfulness. Hanani rebukes Asa for relying on the king of Aram instead of seeking God's help. Asa's response to the rebuke is filled with anger and oppression, further highlighting his departure from faithfulness and the consequences of his misplaced trust.

This chapter serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of placing our trust in human strength and worldly solutions rather than relying on God. Asa's decision to seek help from a foreign king not only displayed a lack of faith but also demonstrated his failure to acknowledge God as the ultimate source of strength and deliverance. It reminds us of the importance of unwavering trust in God and seeking His guidance in all circumstances.

Furthermore, this chapter reveals the consequences of Asa's actions. Despite his earlier devotion and trust in God, Asa is now plagued with ongoing conflicts and wars throughout the rest of his reign. The chapter ends with Asa becoming severely ill and failing to seek God's healing but instead relying solely on physicians. This further illustrates the contrast between his initial faithfulness and his eventual reliance on human means.

In conclusion, Chapter 16 of 2 Chronicles serves as a sobering reminder of the dangers of misplaced trust and the need for unwavering faith in God. It encourages us to seek God's guidance and deliverance in all situations, rather than relying solely on our own strength or the solutions of the world. May we learn from Asa's mistake and cultivate a steadfast faith, trusting in God's faithfulness and seeking His help above all else.

CHAPTER 17

2Ch. 17:1 Jehoshaphat his son succeeded him as king and strengthened himself against Israel.

2Ch. 17:2 He stationed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah and put garrisons in Judah and in the towns of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured.

2Ch. 17:3 The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways that his father David had followed. He did not consult the Baals

2Ch. 17:4 but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel.

2Ch. 17:5 The LORD established the kingdom under his control; and all Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so that he had great wealth and honour.

2Ch. 17:6 His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.

2Ch. 17:7 In the third year of his reign he sent his officials Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel and Micaiah to teach in the towns of Judah.

2Ch. 17:8 With them were certain Levites — Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah and Tob-Adonijah — and the priests Elishama and Jehoram.

2Ch. 17:9 They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the LORD; they went round to all the towns of Judah and taught the people.

2Ch. 17:10 The fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not make war with Jehoshaphat.

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2Ch. 17:11 Some Philistines brought Jehoshaphat gifts and silver as tribute, and the Arabs brought him flocks: seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred goats.

2Ch. 17:12 Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful; he built forts and store cities in Judah

2Ch. 17:13 and had large supplies in the towns of Judah. He also kept experienced fighting men in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 17:14 Their enrolment by families was as follows: From Judah,

commanders of units of 1,000: Adnah the commander, with 300,000 fighting men;
2Ch. 17:15 next, Jehohanan the commander, with 280,000;
2Ch. 17:16 next, Amasiah son of Zicri, who volunteered himself for the service of the LORD, with 200,000.
2Ch. 17:17 From Benjamin: Eliada, a valiant soldier, with 200,000 men armed with bows and shields;
2Ch. 17:18 next, Jehozabad, with 180,000 men armed for battle.
2Ch. 17:19 These were the men who served the king, besides those he stationed in the fortified cities throughout Judah.

2 Chronicles 17 describes the reign of Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, as king of Judah. It begins by describing how Jehoshaphat strengthened his position in the land by building up fortresses and armies in various towns throughout Judah. The chapter goes on to describe how he sent officials and priests throughout the land to teach the Law of the Lord to the people, in order to promote obedience and faithfulness to God. Jehoshaphat's reign is then contrasted with that of his father Asa, who had made alliances with foreign nations rather than relying on the Lord. The chapter concludes by describing how Jehoshaphat became wealthy and powerful, and how he continued to promote the worship of the Lord throughout Judah.

2 Chronicles chapter 17 describes the reign of Jehoshaphat, son of Asa, and his efforts to strengthen the kingdom of Judah. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place and strengthened himself against Israel. He placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim that Asa his father had captured." (2 Chronicles 17:1-2) - These verses introduce Jehoshaphat and highlight his efforts to strengthen the kingdom by placing forces in fortified cities and setting garrisons in captured territories.
2. "But his heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asherim out of Judah." (2 Chronicles 17:6) - This verse emphasizes Jehoshaphat's courage in following the ways of the Lord, and his efforts to remove pagan worship sites from the land.
3. "So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around." (2 Chronicles 17:10) - This verse describes the peace and rest that the Lord granted Jehoshaphat and his kingdom.
4. "And the fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, and they made no war against Jehoshaphat." (2 Chronicles 17:10) - This verse highlights the respect and fear that the surrounding kingdoms had for Jehoshaphat and his kingdom, as a result of his commitment to the Lord.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 17 emphasizes Jehoshaphat's commitment to following the ways of the Lord, his efforts to strengthen the kingdom, and the peace and respect that the Lord granted him and his kingdom.

Chapter 17 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, and highlights his commitment to God, the prosperity of the nation under his leadership, and the importance of seeking God's ways. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 17 of 2 Chronicles presents the reign of Jehoshaphat, the son of King Asa of Judah. It portrays Jehoshaphat as a king who seeks after God and leads the nation in righteousness and prosperity. This chapter offers valuable lessons on the importance of seeking God, embracing His ways, and experiencing the blessings that result from a faithful and obedient heart.

Jehoshaphat begins his reign by strengthening his position and fortifying the cities of Judah. But what sets him apart is his unwavering commitment to the Lord. He follows the example of his father Asa and seeks God with all his heart. As a result, God establishes his kingdom, blesses him with wealth and honor, and gives him military victories against his enemies.

The chapter also describes Jehoshaphat's efforts to bring about spiritual reforms in the nation. He sends priests and Levites throughout the land to teach the people the Book of the Law of the Lord. This demonstrates Jehoshaphat's recognition that true prosperity and success come from living according to God's commands and seeking His ways. The people respond by turning their hearts to the Lord, resulting in a time of peace and prosperity.

Jehoshaphat's reign teaches us the significance of seeking God wholeheartedly and embracing His ways. He shows us that leadership rooted in righteousness and devotion to God brings about blessings not only for the leader but also for the entire nation. His commitment to teaching the people God's Word underscores the importance of spiritual instruction and the impact it can have on the lives of individuals and the community as a whole.

Furthermore, Chapter 17 highlights the faithfulness of God in response to genuine seeking. God blesses Jehoshaphat with material wealth, military victories, and honor because of his devotion and obedience. It reminds us that when we align ourselves with God's ways and seek Him with sincerity, He rewards us and establishes us in His purposes.

In conclusion, Chapter 17 of 2 Chronicles presents Jehoshaphat as a righteous king who seeks after God and leads the nation in prosperity and righteousness. It encourages us to seek God with all our hearts, embrace His ways, and teach others His Word. May we learn from Jehoshaphat's example and strive to live lives that honor God, experience His blessings, and positively impact those around us.

CHAPTER 18

2Ch. 18:1 Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honour, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage.

2Ch. 18:2 Some years later he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria. Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for him and the people with him and urged him to attack Ramoth Gilead.

2Ch. 18:3 Ahab king of Israel asked Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?” Jehoshaphat replied, “I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will join you in the war.”

2Ch. 18:4 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “First seek the counsel of the LORD.”

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2Ch. 18:5 So the king of Israel brought together the prophets — four hundred men — and asked them, “Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?” “Go,” they answered, “for God will give it into the king’s hand.”

2Ch. 18:6 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not a prophet of the LORD here whom we can enquire of?”

2Ch. 18:7 The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, “There is still one man through whom we can enquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.” “The king should not say that,” Jehoshaphat replied.

2Ch. 18:8 So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, “Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once.”

2Ch. 18:9 Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing-floor by the entrance to the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them.

2Ch. 18:10 Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns, and he declared, “This is what the LORD says: `With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.’”

2Ch. 18:11 All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. “Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious,” they said, “for the LORD will give it into the king’s hand.”

2Ch. 18:12 The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, “Look, as one man the other prophets are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favourably.”

2Ch. 18:13 But Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell him only what my God says.”

2Ch. 18:14 When he arrived, the king asked him, “Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?” “Attack and be victorious,” he answered, “for they will be given into your hand.”

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2Ch. 18:15 The king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the

LORD?”

2Ch. 18:16 Then Micaiah answered, “I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said, ‘These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.’”

2Ch. 18:17 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?”

2Ch. 18:18 Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing on his right and on his left.

2Ch. 18:19 And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab king of Israel into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’ “One suggested this, and another that.

2Ch. 18:20 Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him.’ “By what means?’ the LORD asked.

2Ch. 18:21 “‘I will go and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said. “‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’

2Ch. 18:22 “So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.”

2Ch. 18:23 Then Zedekiah son of Kenaanah went up and slapped Micaiah in the face. “Which way did the spirit from [Or Spirit of] the LORD go when he went from me to speak to you?” he asked.

2Ch. 18:24 Micaiah replied, “You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room.”

2Ch. 18:25 The king of Israel then ordered, “Take Micaiah and send him back to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king’s son,

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2Ch. 18:26 and say, ‘This is what the king says: Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.’”

2Ch. 18:27 Micaiah declared, “If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.” Then he added, “Mark my words, all you people!”

2Ch. 18:28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

2Ch. 18:29 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will enter the battle in disguise, but you wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

2Ch. 18:30 Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, “Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.”

2Ch. 18:31 When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they

thought, "This is the king of Israel." So they turned to attack him, but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him.

God drew them away from him,

2Ch. 18:32 for when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they stopped pursuing him.

2Ch. 18:33 But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between the sections of his armour. The king told the chariot driver, "Wheel around and get me out of the fighting.

I've been wounded."

2Ch. 18:34 All day long the battle raged, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening.

Then at sunset he died.

Chapter 18 of 2 Chronicles begins with Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, joining forces with Ahab, the king of Israel, to go to war against Ramoth-gilead, a city that belonged to Israel but was currently under Syrian control. Before going to battle, Jehoshaphat suggests consulting the prophets of the Lord to see if they should proceed with the war. Ahab calls his own prophets, who unanimously advise him to go to war, but Jehoshaphat requests that they inquire of the Lord as well. Ahab reluctantly agrees and summons Micaiah, a prophet of the Lord. Micaiah prophesies that the battle will result in defeat for Israel, and Ahab orders him to be imprisoned until the battle is over.

Despite Micaiah's warning, Jehoshaphat and Ahab go to battle, and as predicted, Ahab is mortally wounded and dies in his chariot. Jehoshaphat returns to Jerusalem in peace, and Jehu the son of Hanani confronts him, rebuking him for forming an alliance with Ahab, an unrighteous king who did evil in the sight of the Lord.

The chapter ends with a brief account of the reign of Jehoshaphat, during which he continued to promote the worship of the Lord and strengthen the nation of Judah.

2 Chronicles chapter 18 tells the story of King Jehoshaphat's alliance with King Ahab of Israel and their ill-fated military campaign against Ramoth-gilead. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a marriage alliance with Ahab." (2 Chronicles 18:1) - This verse sets the stage for the story, describing Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab, a king known for his wickedness.
2. "And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, 'Inquire first for the word of the Lord.'" (2 Chronicles 18:4) - This verse highlights Jehoshaphat's commitment to seeking the Lord's guidance, even when entering into an alliance with a wicked king.
3. "But Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there not here another prophet of the Lord of whom we may inquire?'" (2 Chronicles 18:6) - This verse shows Jehoshaphat's caution in accepting the word of Ahab's prophets, and his desire to hear from a prophet of the Lord.
4. "And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?'" (2 Chronicles 18:17) - This verse reveals the animosity between Ahab and the prophet Micaiah, who predicted Ahab's defeat in battle.

5. "And the battle continued that day, and the king of Israel was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening. Then at sunset he died." (2 Chronicles 18:34) - This verse describes the outcome of the battle, in which Ahab was killed, just as Micaiah had prophesied.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 18 serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of making alliances with wicked rulers, and the importance of seeking the Lord's guidance in all decisions. It also underscores the faithfulness of the Lord to fulfill his word, even when it may be difficult to accept.

Chapter 18 of 2 Chronicles recounts the alliance between King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahab of Israel and their decision to go to war against Ramoth-gilead. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 18 of 2 Chronicles presents a cautionary tale about the consequences of forming alliances with those who do not share the same faith and values. It depicts the ill-advised partnership between King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahab of Israel and the disastrous outcome that follows. This chapter offers valuable lessons on the importance of seeking God's guidance and discernment in our relationships and decisions.

The chapter begins with Jehoshaphat visiting Ahab in Samaria, where Ahab proposes going to war against Ramoth-gilead. Jehoshaphat agrees to join forces with Ahab but expresses his desire to seek the counsel of the Lord first. Ahab assembles his prophets, who prophesy success in the battle, but Jehoshaphat recognizes their bias and asks for a prophet of the Lord. Micaiah is summoned, and despite initially giving a positive response, he reveals the true message from God: disaster and defeat await them.

Jehoshaphat's decision to align himself with Ahab, a wicked king, and his reliance on the false prophets instead of seeking God's counsel, serve as reminders of the dangers of compromising one's faith and trusting in human wisdom. Despite his initial desire to seek the Lord's guidance, Jehoshaphat falls into the trap of listening to false prophets and ignoring the warning from Micaiah.

The consequences of Jehoshaphat's decision become evident in the battle against Ramoth-gilead. Ahab is killed, and Jehoshaphat barely escapes with his life. This tragic outcome underscores the importance of seeking God's wisdom and discernment in our alliances and decisions. It serves as a reminder that compromising our faith and aligning ourselves with those who do not honor God can lead to disastrous consequences.

Chapter 18 reminds us of the need for discernment and spiritual discernment in our relationships and decision-making. It encourages us to seek God's guidance and counsel, even when faced with pressure or temptation to compromise our faith. We should be cautious about forming alliances with those who do not share our values and beliefs, as they can lead us astray from God's will and bring harm to our lives.

Furthermore, this chapter serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the consequences of disobedience. Despite Jehoshaphat's mistake, God is merciful and spares his life. It

highlights the importance of repentance and turning back to God even after making wrong choices.

In conclusion, Chapter 18 of 2 Chronicles offers valuable lessons on the importance of seeking God's guidance, discernment, and maintaining faithfulness to Him in our relationships and decisions. It cautions us against compromising our faith and aligning ourselves with those who do not honor God. May we learn from Jehoshaphat's mistake and strive to seek God's wisdom and follow His leading in all areas of our lives.

CHAPTER 19

2Ch. 19:1 When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem,
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2Ch. 19:2 Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, “Should you help the wicked and love [Or and make alliances with] those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is upon you.

2Ch. 19:3 There is, however, some good in you, for you have rid the land of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God.”

2Ch. 19:4 Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 19:5 He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah.

2Ch. 19:6 He told them, “Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict.

2Ch. 19:7 Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

2Ch. 19:8 In Jerusalem also, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites, priests and heads of Israelite families to administer the law of the LORD and to settle disputes. And they lived in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 19:9 He gave them these orders: “You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the LORD.

2Ch. 19:10 In every case that comes before you from your fellow countrymen who live in the cities — whether bloodshed or other concerns of the law, commands, decrees or ordinances — you are to warn them not to sin against the LORD; otherwise his wrath will come on you and your brothers. Do this, and you will not sin.

2Ch. 19:11 “Amariah the chief priest will be over you in any matter concerning the LORD, and Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the leader of the tribe of Judah, will be over you in any matter

concerning the king, and the Levites will serve as officials
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before you. Act with courage, and may the LORD be with
those who do well.”

Chapter 19 of 2 Chronicles begins with Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, returning to Jerusalem after a military victory. However, as he was returning, he was confronted by Jehu the son of Hanani the seer, who rebuked him for making alliances with the wicked king of Israel, Ahab. Jehu reminded Jehoshaphat that the Lord had previously rebuked his father Asa for making alliances with the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel, who did not follow God.

Jehoshaphat took this warning to heart and began to reform his kingdom. He appointed judges throughout the land to administer justice according to the Law of Moses, and he commanded them to be impartial and to fear the Lord. He also warned them that they were not just judging for men, but for the Lord himself, and that the Lord would be with them as long as they followed his commands.

Jehoshaphat then appointed Levites, priests, and heads of the families of Israel to serve as judges in the courts. He instructed them to always judge fairly, to not show partiality, to not take bribes, and to not be intimidated by powerful people. He encouraged them to have courage and to do what was right in the sight of the Lord, and he promised them that the Lord would be with them as they carried out their duties.

The chapter ends with a final exhortation from Jehoshaphat to the judges, in which he reminds them that they serve the Lord and that they must always be faithful to him. He tells them to act with courage and to be strong in the Lord, and he promises them that if they do so, they will be blessed by him.

Overall, chapter 19 of 2 Chronicles emphasizes the importance of justice and righteousness in the kingdom of God. Jehoshaphat's reforms reflect his desire to obey the Lord and to create a just society in which all people are treated fairly and impartially. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of courage and faithfulness in carrying out God's commands.

2 Chronicles chapter 19 describes King Jehoshaphat's efforts to reform the judiciary system in Judah. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, 'Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the Lord.'" (2 Chronicles 19:2) - This verse highlights the rebuke Jehoshaphat received from the prophet Jehu for his alliance with Ahab in the previous chapter.
2. "In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests and heads of families of Israel, to give judgment for the Lord and to decide disputed cases." (2 Chronicles 19:8) - This verse describes Jehoshaphat's efforts to reform the judiciary system by appointing judges who would rule in accordance with the Lord's law.
3. "He charged them: 'Thus you shall do in the fear of the Lord, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart: whenever a case comes to you from your brothers who live

in their cities, concerning bloodshed, law or commandment, statutes or rules, then you shall warn them, that they may not incur guilt before the Lord and wrath may not come upon you and your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you will not incur guilt." (2 Chronicles 19:9-10) - This verse outlines the standards Jehoshaphat set for his judges, emphasizing the importance of ruling justly and in accordance with the Lord's law.

4. "And he appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, 'Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the Lord. He is with you in giving judgment.'" (2 Chronicles 19:5-6) - This verse underscores the gravity of the judges' responsibility, and reminds them that they are ultimately accountable to the Lord for their decisions.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 19 highlights the importance of justice and righteousness in governance, and emphasizes the need for leaders to seek the Lord's guidance in all aspects of their rule.

Chapter 19 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reforms implemented by King Jehoshaphat of Judah after his return from battle and the appointment of judges in the land. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 19 of 2 Chronicles reveals the heart of King Jehoshaphat and his commitment to justice and righteousness in the land of Judah. After his return from the disastrous alliance with King Ahab, Jehoshaphat is confronted by Jehu the seer, who rebukes him for his partnership with the wicked. In response, Jehoshaphat humbles himself and sets out to bring about reforms in his kingdom.

Jehoshaphat appoints judges throughout the land and charges them with the responsibility of upholding justice and the fear of the Lord. He emphasizes the importance of impartial judgment and warns them against showing favoritism or accepting bribes. Jehoshaphat's actions reflect his desire to establish a just society and a legal system rooted in God's principles.

This chapter offers important lessons on the role of leadership in promoting righteousness and justice. Jehoshaphat's appointment of judges demonstrates the need for a fair and unbiased judicial system, where the fear of the Lord guides every decision. He understands that justice is not based on personal preferences or worldly standards but on the divine principles of righteousness.

Moreover, this chapter underscores the importance of humility and repentance in response to correction. Jehoshaphat humbles himself when confronted by Jehu's rebuke, recognizing the error of his ways and taking steps to rectify the situation. His humility sets an example for leaders and individuals alike, reminding us of the need to acknowledge our mistakes and seek God's forgiveness and guidance.

The reforms initiated by Jehoshaphat in Chapter 19 highlight the significance of aligning our lives, our systems, and our societies with God's standards. They encourage us to pursue justice and righteousness in all areas of life, recognizing that God's principles provide a solid foundation for a thriving and harmonious community.

In addition, this chapter emphasizes the impact of leadership on the people. Jehoshaphat's commitment to justice and his efforts to establish a fair judicial system inspire the people to follow his example and walk in righteousness. His actions shape the moral fabric of the nation and contribute to the overall well-being of society.

In conclusion, Chapter 19 of 2 Chronicles offers valuable insights into the role of leadership in promoting justice, righteousness, and humility. It challenges us to evaluate our own lives and systems, ensuring that they align with God's principles. May we be inspired by Jehoshaphat's example to pursue justice, embrace humility, and strive to establish communities and societies that reflect God's righteousness.

CHAPTER 20

2Ch. 20:1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites [Some Septuagint manuscripts; Hebrew Ammonites] came to make war on Jehoshaphat.

2Ch. 20:2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, [One Hebrew manuscript; most Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint and Vulgate Aram] from the other side of the Sea. [That is, the Dead Sea] It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi).

2Ch. 20:3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to enquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

2Ch. 20:4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

2Ch. 20:5 Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard

2Ch. 20:6 and said: “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no-one can withstand you.

2Ch. 20:7 our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it for ever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

2Ch. 20:8 They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying,

2Ch. 20:9 ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before
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this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

2Ch. 20:10 “But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when

they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them.

2Ch. 20:11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance.

2Ch. 20:12 our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

2Ch. 20:13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.

2Ch. 20:14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

2Ch. 20:15 He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: `Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.

2Ch. 20:16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.

2Ch. 20:17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.”“

2Ch. 20:18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.

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2Ch. 20:19 Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

2Ch. 20:20 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.”

2Ch. 20:21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendour of his [Or him with the splendour of] holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures for ever.”

2Ch. 20:22 As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

2Ch. 20:23 The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from

Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

2Ch. 20:24 When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked towards the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no-one had escaped.

2Ch. 20:25 So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing [Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts corpses] and also articles of value — more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it.

2Ch. 20:26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Beracah [Beracah means praise.] to this day.

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2Ch. 20:27 Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies.

2Ch. 20:28 They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lutes and trumpets.

2Ch. 20:29 The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

2Ch. 20:30 And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

2Ch. 20:31 So Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.

2Ch. 20:32 He walked in the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

2Ch. 20:33 The high places, however, were not removed, and the people still had not set their hearts on the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 20:34 The other events of Jehoshaphat's reign, from beginning to end, are written in the annals of Jehu son of Hanani, which are recorded in the book of the kings of Israel.

2Ch. 20:35 Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, who was guilty of wickedness.

2Ch. 20:36 He agreed with him to construct a fleet of trading ships. [Hebrew of ships that could go to Tarshish] After these were built at Ezion Geber,

2Ch. 20:37 Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have made an alliance with Ahaziah, the LORD will destroy what you have made."

The ships were wrecked and were not able to set sail to

Chapter 20 begins with the news that the armies of Moab, Ammon, and other nations have gathered to attack Judah. King Jehoshaphat is afraid and turns to the Lord for help. He proclaims a fast and all of Judah gathers together to seek God's help.

Jehoshaphat prays to the Lord, reminding Him of the covenant with their ancestors and asking for His help in this time of need. Jahaziel, a Levite, prophesies that God will fight for them and they need only to stand firm and watch His salvation. Jehoshaphat and the people fall on their faces in worship.

The next day, Jehoshaphat leads the people out to face their enemies, singing and praising God. As they approach the battlefield, they find that God has already caused the enemy armies to turn on each other and defeat themselves. Judah does not even have to fight - they only collect the spoils of war.

The chapter ends with the people returning to Jerusalem and continuing to praise and worship God for His deliverance. Jehoshaphat also strengthens Judah's defenses and the nation enjoys a time of peace and prosperity.

Overall, 2 Chronicles 20 is a story of faith and trust in God's deliverance, as well as a reminder of the importance of seeking the Lord's help in times of trouble.

2 Chronicles chapter 20 recounts the story of King Jehoshaphat's miraculous victory over the invading armies of Moab and Ammon. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord." (2 Chronicles 20:3-4) - This verse highlights Jehoshaphat's initial response to the news of the impending invasion, which was to turn to the Lord in prayer and fasting.
2. "O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chronicles 20:12) - This verse records Jehoshaphat's prayer to the Lord, in which he acknowledges his own weakness and dependence on God's help.
3. "Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's...You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf.'" (2 Chronicles 20:15, 17) - These verses record the message the Lord sent to Jehoshaphat through the prophet Jahaziel, reassuring him of God's presence and power in the face of the invading armies.
4. "And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed." (2 Chronicles 20:22) - This verse describes the miraculous victory that Judah experienced through God's intervention, as the invading armies turned against each other and were defeated.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 20 emphasizes the importance of turning to the Lord in times of crisis and trusting in His power and provision. It also highlights the role of worship and praise in warfare, as the singing and praise of the people led to God's intervention and victory.

Chapter 20 of 2 Chronicles recounts the story of King Jehoshaphat's victory over a vast enemy army through seeking God's guidance and placing their trust in Him. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 20 of 2 Chronicles presents a remarkable account of King Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah facing a formidable enemy army. It highlights the power of seeking God, relying on His strength, and exercising faith in the face of overwhelming odds. This chapter offers valuable lessons on the importance of prayer, trust, and praise in times of adversity.

The chapter begins with the news of a great multitude from Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir advancing against Judah. Faced with this overwhelming threat, Jehoshaphat turns his attention to seek the Lord and calls upon the people to fast and pray. He acknowledges their powerlessness against the enemy but expresses their trust in God's deliverance.

Jehoshaphat's prayer serves as a model of humility, acknowledging God's sovereignty, power, and past deliverance. He pleads for God's intervention and reminds Him of His promises to the people. In response to their prayer, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon Jahaziel, who delivers a message of assurance and encouragement, assuring them that the battle is not theirs but God's.

In an act of faith and obedience, Jehoshaphat leads the people to march out to face the enemy, with singers going before them, praising the Lord. In a miraculous turn of events, God confuses the enemy armies, and they end up destroying each other. The people of Judah are victorious without lifting a sword, and they gather a great amount of plunder.

Chapter 20 teaches us several important lessons. It reminds us of the power of prayer and seeking God's guidance in times of trouble. Jehoshaphat's humility and dependence on God serve as examples for us to follow. Instead of relying on their own strength or strategies, they acknowledged their reliance on God and His faithfulness.

The chapter also emphasizes the importance of trust and faith in God's promises. Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah exercised unwavering trust in God's ability to deliver them, even in the face of insurmountable odds. They put their faith in His word and experienced His miraculous intervention.

Furthermore, this chapter highlights the significance of praise and worship in times of adversity. The people of Judah approached the battle with songs of praise on their lips, recognizing God's power and giving Him the honor and glory. Their act of praise demonstrated their confidence in God's victory and set the stage for His miraculous intervention.

In conclusion, Chapter 20 of 2 Chronicles offers powerful lessons on the power of prayer, trust, and praise in times of adversity. It encourages us to seek God's guidance, put our faith in His promises, and approach challenges with a heart of worship. May we learn from Jehoshaphat's example and experience the faithfulness and deliverance of our mighty God in every aspect of our lives.

CHAPTER 21

2Ch. 21:1 Then Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Jehoram his son succeeded him as king.

2Ch. 21:2 Jehoram's brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat, were Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariahu, Michael and Shephatiah. All these were sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. [That is, Judah, as frequently in 2 Chronicles]

2Ch. 21:3 Their father had given them many gifts of silver and gold and articles of value, as well as fortified cities in Judah, but he had given the kingdom to Jehoram because he was his firstborn son.

2Ch. 21:4 When Jehoram established himself firmly over his father's kingdom, he put all his brothers to the sword along with some of the princes of Israel.

2Ch. 21:5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eight years.

2Ch. 21:6 He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

2Ch. 21:7 Nevertheless, because of the covenant the LORD had made with David, the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David. He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants for ever.

2Ch. 21:8 In the time of Jehoram, Edom rebelled against Judah and set up its own king.

2Ch. 21:9 So Jehoram went there with his officers and all his chariots. The Edomites surrounded him and his chariot commanders, but he rose up and broke through by night.

2Ch. 21:10 To this day Edom has been in rebellion against Judah. Libnah revolted at the same time, because Jehoram had forsaken the LORD, the God of his fathers.

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2Ch. 21:11 He had also built high places on the hills of Judah and had caused the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves and had led Judah astray.

2Ch. 21:12 Jehoram received a letter from Elijah the prophet, which said: "This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says:

`You have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah.

2Ch. 21:13 But you have walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and you have led Judah and the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, just as the house of Ahab did. You have also murdered your own brothers, members of your father's house, men who were better than you.

2Ch. 21:14 So now the LORD is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives and everything that is yours, with a heavy blow.

2Ch. 21:15 You yourself will be very ill with a lingering disease of the bowels, until the disease causes your bowels to come out.”“

2Ch. 21:16 The LORD aroused against Jehoram the hostility of the Philistines and of the Arabs who lived near the Cushites.

2Ch. 21:17 They attacked Judah, invaded it and carried off all the goods found in the king's palace, together with his sons and wives.

Not a son was left to him except Ahaziah, [Hebrew Jehoahaz, a variant of Ahaziah] the youngest.

2Ch. 21:18 After all this, the LORD afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels.

2Ch. 21:19 In the course of time, at the end of the second year, his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great pain. His people made no fire in his honour, as they had for his fathers.

2Ch. 21:20 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eight years. He passed away, to no-one's regret, and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings

Chapter 21 of 2 Chronicles begins with the reign of Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, who becomes king of Judah after his father's death. The chapter describes his wicked reign and the consequences of his actions.

Jehoram marries a daughter of Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, and follows the ways of the kings of Israel instead of the ways of God. He kills all of his brothers and some of the officials of Judah to secure his throne. Because of his wickedness, the Lord sends a letter to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet, warning him of judgment to come.

Jehoram faces challenges during his reign. Edom rebels against Judah and Jehoram's rule, and Jehoram manages to defeat them. However, the chapter notes that this victory was only temporary, as Edom remained in rebellion against Judah during Jehoram's reign.

In addition to this, the Philistines and Arabians invade Judah, plundering the king's house and carrying off his wives and children, except for his youngest son, Jehoahaz. The chapter notes that this was a punishment from God for Jehoram's wickedness.

Jehoram suffers from a severe and painful disease in his bowels and dies after a two-year reign. He is not mourned by the people of Judah, and the chapter ends with the statement that he is buried in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 21 highlights the consequences of wickedness and disobedience to God's ways, as well as the importance of choosing a righteous path as a leader.

2 Chronicles chapter 21 tells the story of Jehoram, the son of King Jehoshaphat, who succeeded his father as king of Judah. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...He even made high places in the hill country of Judah and led the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom and made Judah go astray." (2 Chronicles 21:6) - This verse highlights Jehoram's disobedience to God and his introduction of idolatry and immorality to Judah.
2. "Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father, 'Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel and have led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom, as the house of Ahab led Israel into whoredom, and also you have killed your brothers, of your father's house, who were better than yourself, behold, the Lord will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions...'" (2 Chronicles 21:12-14) - This verse records the message the Lord sent to Jehoram through the prophet Elijah, announcing the judgment that would come upon him and his household because of his disobedience.
3. "And the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the anger of the Philistines and of the Arabians who are near the Ethiopians." (2 Chronicles 21:16) - This verse describes how the Lord brought judgment upon Jehoram by inciting neighboring nations to attack him and plunder his kingdom.
4. "And when Jehoram had ascended the hill of Ziz, he saw the army of the enemy and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem who were before him, and he himself drew his bow in his strength. And the Lord was gracious to him, and he drew the bow and shot it." (2 Chronicles 21:16-17) - This verse describes Jehoram's final act of rebellion against God, as he attempted to fight against the invading armies without seeking the Lord's help. However, despite his disobedience, the Lord showed him mercy by allowing him to succeed in this one instance.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 21 serves as a warning against the dangers of disobedience and idolatry, and emphasizes the importance of seeking the Lord's guidance and help in all things.

Chapter 21 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, and highlights the consequences of his wickedness and the judgment that befalls him and his kingdom. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 21 of 2 Chronicles presents a sobering account of King Jehoram's reign and the tragic consequences of his wickedness. It serves as a cautionary tale about the destructive power of ungodly leadership and the importance of honoring God's commands. This chapter offers valuable lessons on the consequences of disobedience and the need for repentance and humility before God.

Jehoram begins his reign by killing his brothers and leading Judah astray by following the ways of the kings of Israel. He forsakes the ways of the Lord and leads the people into

idolatry. As a result, God sends a letter through the prophet Elijah, pronouncing judgment upon Jehoram and his kingdom. The letter reveals the severity of God's judgment, including a plague that afflicts Jehoram with a painful disease.

This chapter teaches us that unfaithfulness and disobedience to God's commands have serious consequences. Jehoram's actions not only bring judgment upon himself but also lead to suffering and turmoil in the nation. It emphasizes the importance of honoring God's ways and upholding His commands in our lives and leadership positions.

Furthermore, the chapter highlights the role of prophets as messengers of God's truth and the importance of heeding their warnings. Elijah's letter serves as a reminder that God uses prophets to communicate His will and pronounce judgment when necessary. It shows the significance of listening to the voice of God through His chosen messengers and responding with humility and repentance.

The tragic outcome of Jehoram's reign also underscores the need for repentance and turning back to God. Despite the severity of God's judgment, the chapter ends with a glimmer of hope, as Jehoram's son, Ahaziah, is spared from destruction due to the covenant God made with David. It reminds us of God's faithfulness even in the midst of judgment and offers an opportunity for future generations to seek God's forgiveness and restoration.

CHAPTER 22

2Ch. 22:1 The people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, Jehoram's youngest son, king in his place, since the raiders, who came with the Arabs into the camp, had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign.

2Ch. 22:2 Ahaziah was twenty-two [Some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:26); Hebrew forty-two] years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri.

2Ch. 22:3 He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong.

2Ch. 22:4 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for after his father's death they became his advisers, to his undoing.

2Ch. 22:5 He also followed their counsel when he went with Joram [Hebrew Jehoram, a variant of Joram; also in verses 6 and 7] son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. The Arameans wounded Joram;

2Ch. 22:6 so he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramoth [Hebrew Ramah, a variant of Ramoth] in his battle with Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah [Some Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Vulgate

and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:29); most Hebrew manuscripts Azariah] son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel to see Joram son of Ahab because he had been wounded.

2Ch. 22:7 Through Ahaziah's visit to Joram, God brought about Ahaziah's downfall. When Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.

2Ch. 22:8 While Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's

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relatives, who had been attending Ahaziah, and he killed them.

2Ch. 22:9 He then went in search of Ahaziah, and his men captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. He was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He was a son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So there was no-one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain the kingdom.

2Ch. 22:10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah.

2Ch. 22:11 But Jehosheba, [Hebrew Jehoshabeath, a variant of Jehosheba] the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba, [Hebrew Jehoshabeath, a variant of Jehosheba] the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so that she could not kill him.

2Ch. 22:12 He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

Chapter 22 begins with the account of Ahaziah, the youngest son of Jehoram, who succeeded his father as king of Judah at the age of 22. Ahaziah followed in the footsteps of his father and the wicked kings of Israel, practicing idolatry and leading the people of Judah astray.

Ahaziah made an alliance with King Joram of Israel and went to war against the Syrian city of Ramoth-gilead. During the battle, Ahaziah was wounded and returned to Jerusalem to recover. However, he was killed by Jehu, a commander of the Israelite army who had been anointed by the prophet Elisha to carry out God's judgment against the house of Ahab.

After Ahaziah's death, his mother Athaliah, who was also the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, seized the throne of Judah and killed all of her grandchildren who could have challenged her rule. However, one of Ahaziah's sons, named Joash, was hidden away in the temple by his aunt Jehoshabeath, who was married to the high priest Jehoiada.

For six years, Athaliah ruled over Judah, promoting the worship of Baal and suppressing the worship of the true God. However, in the seventh year, Jehoiada gathered together the priests and Levites, as well as the leaders of Judah and Benjamin, and revealed Joash as the rightful king. The people of Judah rallied around Joash and put Athaliah to death. With Joash on the throne, the temple was restored and the worship of the true God was reinstated in Judah. Jehoiada served as Joash's advisor and oversaw his early reign, during which the king showed great devotion to God and sought to restore the temple and the kingdom.

Overall, 2 Chronicles Chapter 22 is a story of the rise and fall of a wicked king, the faithfulness of a few individuals who protected the rightful heir to the throne, and the restoration of true worship in Judah under a new and faithful king.

2 Chronicles chapter 22 tells the story of Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram, who became king of Judah after his father's death. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor in doing wickedly." (2 Chronicles 22:3) - This verse highlights Ahaziah's continued disobedience and idolatry, as well as the negative influence of his mother, who was from the wicked family of Ahab.
2. "And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah." (2 Chronicles 22:10) - This verse describes how Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, seized the throne of Judah after her son's death by killing all of the royal family, except for Ahaziah's infant son, Joash.
3. "But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, because she was a sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah, so that she did not put him to death." (2 Chronicles 22:11-12) - This verse describes how Joash was saved from Athaliah's murderous rampage through the brave actions of Jehoshabeath, who hid him in secret and protected him from harm.
4. "And he was with them hidden in the house of God six years, and Athaliah reigned over the land." (2 Chronicles 22:12) - This verse emphasizes the length of time that Joash was hidden in the house of God, and the fact that Athaliah continued to rule over Judah during this time.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 22 highlights the continued disobedience and idolatry of the kings of Judah, as well as the importance of protecting and preserving the line of David, which would eventually lead to the birth of Jesus Christ.

[Chapter 22 of 2 Chronicles continues the narrative of the kings of Judah, focusing on the reign of Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram, and the tragic events that unfold during his short rule. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 22 of 2 Chronicles recounts the short and tragic reign of King Ahaziah of Judah, who followed in the footsteps of his wicked father, Jehoram. This chapter serves as a reminder of the destructive consequences of ungodly leadership and the importance of](#)

aligning ourselves with God's will and purpose. It also highlights the sovereignty of God in executing His judgments and fulfilling His plans.

Ahaziah's rule is marked by his association with the wicked king, Ahab of Israel, and his participation in idolatry. He continues to follow the sinful ways of his father and leads the people astray. However, his reign is cut short when he is struck down by Jehu, who has been anointed by God to bring judgment upon the house of Ahab.

This chapter offers several important reflections. Firstly, it underscores the principle that our choices and actions have consequences. Ahaziah's decision to align himself with the wicked and forsake God's ways leads to his downfall. It serves as a sobering reminder that our associations and alliances have a profound impact on our lives and the direction we take.

Secondly, the chapter highlights the sovereignty of God in executing His judgments and fulfilling His purposes. God raises up Jehu as an instrument of His judgment, bringing an end to the wicked house of Ahab. It reminds us that even in the midst of human choices and actions, God is ultimately in control and works out His plans according to His wisdom.

Lastly, this chapter prompts us to reflect on the importance of seeking godly leadership and living according to God's commands. Ahaziah's reign stands as a stark contrast to the righteous and faithful kings who honored God's ways. It serves as a warning about the dangers of disregarding God's principles and following the ways of the world.

In conclusion, Chapter 22 of 2 Chronicles serves as a reminder of the destructive consequences of ungodly leadership and the importance of aligning ourselves with God's will. It underscores the principle that our choices have consequences and highlights the sovereignty of God in executing His judgments and fulfilling His purposes. May we learn from the tragic reign of Ahaziah and strive to seek godly leadership, walk in obedience to God's commands, and align ourselves with His purposes in all aspects of our lives.

CHAPTER 23

2Ch. 23:1 In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength. He made a covenant with the commanders of units of a hundred: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zicri.

2Ch. 23:2 They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem,

2Ch. 23:3 the whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son shall reign, as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David.

2Ch. 23:4 Now this is what you are to do: A third of you priests and Levites who are going on duty on the Sabbath are to keep watch at the doors,

2Ch. 23:5 a third of you at the royal palace and a third at the Foundation Gate, and all the other men are to be in the courtyards of the temple of the LORD.

2Ch. 23:6 No-one is to enter the temple of the LORD except the priests and Levites on duty; they may enter because they are consecrated, but all the other men are to guard what the LORD has assigned to them. [Or to observe the LORD's command not to enter]

2Ch. 23:7 The Levites are to station themselves round the king, each man with his weapons in his hand. Anyone who enters the temple must be put to death. Stay close to the king wherever he goes."

2Ch. 23:8 The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each one took his men — those who were going on duty on the Sabbath and those who were going off duty — for Jehoiada the priest had not released any of the divisions.

2Ch. 23:9 Then he gave the commanders of units of a hundred the spears and the large and small shields that had belonged to King David and that were in the temple of God.

2Ch. 23:10 He stationed all the men, each with his weapon in his hand, round the king — near the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the temple.

2Ch. 23:11 Jehoiada and his sons brought out the king's son and put the crown on him; they presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the king!"

2Ch. 23:12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and cheering the king, she went to them at the temple of the LORD.

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2Ch. 23:13 She looked, and there was the king, standing by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and singers with musical instruments were leading the praises. Then Athaliah tore her robes and shouted, "Treason! Treason!"

2Ch. 23:14 Jehoiada the priest sent out the commanders of units of a hundred, who were in charge of the troops, and said to them: "Bring her out between the ranks [Or out from the precincts] and put to the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not put her to death at the temple of the LORD."

2Ch. 23:15 So they seized her as she reached the entrance of the Horse Gate on the palace grounds, and there they put her to death.

2Ch. 23:16 Jehoiada then made a covenant that he and the people and the king [Or covenant between the LORD and the people and the king that they (see 2 Kings 11:17)] would be the LORD's people.

2Ch. 23:17 All the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.

2Ch. 23:18 Then Jehoiada placed the oversight of the temple of the LORD in the hands of the priests, who were Levites, to whom David had made assignments in the temple, to present the burnt offerings of the LORD as written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and singing, as David had ordered.

2Ch. 23:19 He also stationed doorkeepers at the gates of the LORD's temple so that no-one who was in any way unclean might enter.

2Ch. 23:20 He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people and all the people of the land and brought the king down from the temple of the LORD. They went into the palace through the Upper Gate and seated the king on the royal throne,

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2Ch. 23:21 and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been slain with the sword.

Chapter 23 of 2 Chronicles recounts the account of Athaliah's overthrow and the crowning of Joash as the rightful king of Judah. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 23 of 2 Chronicles presents a powerful story of courage, faithfulness, and the restoration of rightful leadership. It tells the account of Athaliah's tyrannical rule and her eventual overthrow, leading to the crowning of Joash as the legitimate king of Judah. This chapter offers valuable lessons on the importance of standing for righteousness, protecting God's chosen leaders, and preserving the lineage of promise.

Athaliah, the wicked daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, usurped the throne of Judah after her son Ahaziah's death. She sought to destroy all the heirs of David's line, attempting to extinguish the royal line that would lead to the coming Messiah. However, Jehoiada the priest, along with other faithful individuals, orchestrated a plan to protect and anoint Joash as the rightful king.

This chapter teaches us about the significance of standing for righteousness even in the face of great opposition. Jehoiada, the priest, and his allies risked their lives to protect and preserve the rightful king. They displayed unwavering faithfulness to God's covenant promises and took bold action to restore God's chosen leader to the throne.

Furthermore, this chapter highlights the importance of unity among God's people. Jehoiada gathered the Levites, the priests, and the commanders to form a united front against Athaliah. Their collective efforts and common purpose brought about the downfall of the wicked ruler and the restoration of the rightful order. It serves as a reminder that when God's people stand together in obedience and unity, they can achieve great things for His kingdom.

The crowning of Joash as king also carries a symbolic meaning. It represents the preservation of the Davidic line and the fulfillment of God's promises to establish an everlasting kingdom through the Messiah. Despite the attempts of Athaliah to disrupt God's plan, His providence ensures that His purposes prevail.

In conclusion, Chapter 23 of 2 Chronicles showcases the triumph of righteousness and the restoration of rightful leadership. It emphasizes the importance of standing for truth, protecting God's chosen leaders, and preserving the lineage of promise. May we be inspired by the courage and faithfulness displayed by Jehoiada and his allies, and may we stand firm in upholding righteousness, unity, and God's purposes in our lives and communities.

Chapter 23 begins with the story of Jehoiada, a priest who played a key role in overthrowing the evil queen Athaliah and restoring the rightful king, Joash, to the throne of Judah. Jehoiada called together the captains of the army, the Levites, and the heads of the families in Judah, and had them swear allegiance to Joash. Jehoiada then revealed that Athaliah had seized the throne by killing all the other members of the royal family, and he commanded the Levites to escort Joash to the temple and anoint him as king. The Levites surrounded Joash with their weapons drawn, while the priest anointed him and pronounced him king. Athaliah heard the commotion and rushed to the temple, only to be confronted by the Levites, who led her away and put her to death outside the temple. Jehoiada then established a covenant between the king and the people, and the people celebrated by tearing down the temple of Baal and killing its priest. Overall, this chapter highlights the importance of righteous leadership and the need to remain faithful to God's covenant, even in the face of great opposition.

2 Chronicles chapter 23 tells the story of how Joash, the young son of Ahaziah who had been hidden away from the murderous queen Athaliah, was finally crowned king of Judah with the help of the priest Jehoiada. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "And in the seventh year Jehoiada took courage and entered into a covenant with the commanders of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri." (2 Chronicles 23:1) - This verse describes how Jehoiada, the priest, gathered together a group of military commanders to support his plan to overthrow Athaliah and crown Joash as king.
2. "And they went around Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers' houses of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem." (2

- Chronicles 23:2) - This verse describes how Jehoiada gathered together a larger group of supporters, including the Levites and heads of the tribes of Israel, to help him carry out his plan.
3. "And he brought out the king's son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, 'Long live the king!'" (2 Chronicles 23:11) - This verse describes the moment when Joash was finally crowned king of Judah, and the people celebrated his coronation with joy and enthusiasm.
 4. "And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the Lord's people." (2 Chronicles 23:16) - This verse highlights the spiritual dimension of Jehoiada's plan, which was not just about political power but about restoring the people of Judah to their covenant relationship with the Lord.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 23 tells the story of how Joash was crowned king of Judah in a dramatic and triumphant ceremony, and how Jehoiada played a key role in this process by gathering together a coalition of supporters and leading the people in a renewed commitment to the Lord.

CHAPTER 24

2Ch. 24:1 Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba.

2Ch. 24:2 Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest.

2Ch. 24:3 Jehoiada chose two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters.

2Ch. 24:4 Some time later Joash decided to restore the temple of the LORD.

2Ch. 24:5 He called together the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go to the towns of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the temple of your God. Do it now." But the Levites did not act at once.

2Ch. 24:6 Therefore the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest and said to him, "Why haven't you required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by Moses the servant of the LORD and by the assembly of Israel for the Tent of the Testimony?"

2Ch. 24:7 Now the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into the temple of God and had used even its sacred objects for the Baals.

2Ch. 24:8 At the king's command, a chest was made and placed outside, at the gate of the temple of the LORD.

2Ch. 24:9 A proclamation was then issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they should bring to the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God had required of Israel in the desert.

2Ch. 24:10 All the officials and all the people brought their contributions

gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full.

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2Ch. 24:11 Whenever the chest was brought in by the Levites to the king's officials and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this regularly and collected a great amount of money.

2Ch. 24:12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to the men who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD. They hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple.

2Ch. 24:13 The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it.

2Ch. 24:14 When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the LORD's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and silver. As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD.

2Ch. 24:15 Now Jehoiada was old and full of years, and he died at the age of a hundred and thirty.

2Ch. 24:16 He was buried with the kings in the City of David, because of the good he had done in Israel for God and his temple.

2Ch. 24:17 After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them.

2Ch. 24:18 They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and worshipped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came upon Judah and Jerusalem.

2Ch. 24:19 Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

2Ch. 24:20 Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: `Why do you disobey the LORD's commands?"

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You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you."

2Ch. 24:21 But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's temple.

2Ch. 24:22 King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, "May the LORD see this and call you to account."

2Ch. 24:23 At the turn of the year, [Probably in the spring] the army of Aram marched against Joash; it invaded Judah and Jerusalem

and killed all the leaders of the people. They sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus.

2Ch. 24:24 Although the Aramean army had come with only a few men, the LORD delivered into their hands a much larger army.

Because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, judgment was executed on Joash.

2Ch. 24:25 When the Arameans withdrew, they left Joash severely wounded. His officials conspired against him for murdering the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed him in his bed. So he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

2Ch. 24:26 Those who conspired against him were Zabad, [A variant of Jozabad] son of Shimeath an Ammonite woman, and Jehozabad, son of Shimrith [A variant of Shomer] a Moabite woman.

2Ch. 24:27 The account of his sons, the many prophecies about him, and the record of the restoration of the temple of God are written in the annotations on the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 24 of 2 Chronicles begins by describing the reign of Joash, the son of Ahaziah, over Judah. Joash became king at the young age of seven, and reigned for forty years in Jerusalem. The chapter then goes on to describe how Joash ordered the restoration of the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, which had fallen into disrepair. Joash commanded the Levites and priests to collect money from the people of Judah in order to finance the restoration, and the work was carried out with great care and attention to detail. After the restoration of the temple was completed, Joash ordered that the remaining funds be used to make new utensils and vessels for use in worship. The chapter goes on to describe how Joash and the people of Judah worshipped God in the restored temple, and how the king and the priests made offerings and sacrifices to the Lord. However, despite Joash's early devotion to God and his efforts to restore the temple, the chapter takes a dark turn. After the death of Jehoiada, the high priest who had been Joash's mentor and guide, the king turned away from God and began to worship idols. Joash even had Jehoiada's son Zechariah stoned to death in the courtyard of the temple, because Zechariah had prophesied against Joash's apostasy. The chapter concludes with a brief account of the end of Joash's reign, and his eventual assassination by his own servants. The chapter notes that Joash was not buried in the tombs of the kings, because he had turned away from the Lord. In summary, 2 Chronicles chapter 24 describes Joash's reign over Judah, his restoration of the temple, and his eventual downfall due to his apostasy and idolatry.

2 Chronicles chapter 24 tells the story of Joash's reign as king of Judah and his efforts to repair the temple of the Lord. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba." (2 Chronicles 24:1) -

This verse provides some basic information about Joash, including his age when he became king and the name of his mother.

2. "And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest." (2 Chronicles 24:2) - This verse highlights the positive influence of Jehoiada on Joash, who followed the priest's advice and remained faithful to the Lord as long as he lived.
3. "And Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters." (2 Chronicles 24:3) - This verse describes how Jehoiada arranged marriages for Joash and helped him to establish a family.
4. "And Joash said to the priests, 'All the money of the holy things that is brought into the house of the Lord, the money for which each man is assessed—the money from the assessment of persons—and the money that a man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the Lord, let the priests take, each from his donor, and let them repair the house wherever any need of repairs is discovered.'" (2 Chronicles 24:5-6) - This verse describes how Joash ordered the repair and renovation of the temple of the Lord, using funds collected from the people as well as from voluntary donations.
5. "So the workmen labored, and the repairing went forward in their hands, and they restored the house of God to its proper condition and strengthened it." (2 Chronicles 24:13) - This verse describes the successful completion of the repairs to the temple of the Lord, which was restored to its proper condition and made stronger than before.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 24 highlights the positive aspects of Joash's reign as king of Judah, including his commitment to repairing and renewing the temple of the Lord, and his willingness to follow the guidance of the priest Jehoiada.

[Chapter 24 of 2 Chronicles recounts the reign of King Joash and the events surrounding the repair of the temple and the subsequent decline of Joash's faithfulness. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 24 of 2 Chronicles presents a narrative of King Joash's reign, focusing on his efforts to repair the temple and the subsequent decline of his faithfulness. It serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of spiritual complacency and the importance of wholehearted devotion to God. This chapter offers valuable lessons on the need for ongoing commitment, the consequences of turning away from God, and the faithfulness of God's messengers.](#)

[At the beginning of his reign, Joash shows great zeal in repairing the temple of the Lord, which had fallen into disrepair. He gathers the priests and Levites, establishes a system for collecting funds, and oversees the restoration work. The people respond generously, and the temple is restored to its former glory.](#)

[However, after the death of Jehoiada the priest, Joash turns away from the Lord and begins to worship idols. He listens to the advice of wicked officials and even orders the execution of Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, who had faithfully rebuked the king for his](#)

apostasy. The decline in Joash's faithfulness leads to God's judgment and the invasion of the land by Aram.

This chapter reminds us of the importance of ongoing commitment and wholehearted devotion to God. Joash's initial zeal for repairing the temple is commendable, but it does not guarantee lasting faithfulness. It serves as a warning that we must guard against spiritual complacency and continually cultivate our relationship with God, seeking Him wholeheartedly.

Furthermore, this chapter highlights the consequences of turning away from God and following idols. Joash's apostasy not only brings God's judgment upon him but also leads to the invasion and plundering of the land. It underscores the principle that our choices have consequences and that turning away from God's ways leads to spiritual and temporal destruction.

Additionally, the chapter emphasizes the faithfulness of God's messengers. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, courageously rebukes Joash for his idolatry, even at the cost of his own life. His message serves as a reminder that God sends messengers to call us back to faithfulness, and it is crucial to heed their warnings and respond with repentance.

In conclusion, Chapter 24 of 2 Chronicles serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of spiritual complacency and the consequences of turning away from God. It challenges us to maintain ongoing commitment, wholehearted devotion, and faithfulness to God in all aspects of our lives. May we learn from Joash's decline and the faithfulness of God's messengers, continually seeking Him, and guarding our hearts against the allure of idols and spiritual complacency.

CHAPTER 25

2Ch. 25:1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years. His
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mother's name was Jehoaddin; [Hebrew Jehoaddan, a variant of Jehoaddin] she was from Jerusalem.

2Ch. 25:2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not wholeheartedly.

2Ch. 25:3 After the kingdom was firmly in his control, he executed the officials who had murdered his father the king.

2Ch. 25:4 Yet he did not put their sons to death, but acted in accordance with what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded: "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sins." [Deut. 24:16]

2Ch. 25:5 Amaziah called the people of Judah together and assigned them according to their families to commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin. He

then mustered those twenty years old or more and found that there were three hundred thousand men ready for military service, able to handle the spear and shield.

2Ch. 25:6 He also hired a hundred thousand fighting men from Israel for a hundred talents [That is, about 3 1/3 tons (about 3.4 metric tons); also in verse 9] of silver.

2Ch. 25:7 But a man of God came to him and said, “O king, these troops from Israel must not march with you, for the LORD is not with Israel — not with any of the people of Ephraim.

2Ch. 25:8 Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow.”

2Ch. 25:9 Amaziah asked the man of God, “But what about the hundred talents I paid for these Israelite troops?” The man of God replied, “The LORD can give you much more than that.”

2Ch. 25:10 So Amaziah dismissed the troops who had come to him from Ephraim and sent them home. They were furious with Judah and left for home in a great rage.

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2Ch. 25:11 Amaziah then marshalled his strength and led his army to the Valley of Salt, where he killed ten thousand men of Seir.

2Ch. 25:12 The army of Judah also captured ten thousand men alive, took them to the top of a cliff and threw them down so that all were dashed to pieces.

2Ch. 25:13 Meanwhile the troops that Amaziah had sent back and had not allowed to take part in the war raided Judean towns from Samaria to Beth Horon. They killed three thousand people and carried off great quantities of plunder.

2Ch. 25:14 When Amaziah returned from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought back the gods of the people of Seir. He set them up as his own gods, bowed down to them and burned sacrifices to them.

2Ch. 25:15 The anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and he sent a prophet to him, who said, “Why do you consult this people’s gods, which could not save their own people from your hand?”

2Ch. 25:16 While he was still speaking, the king said to him, “Have we appointed you an adviser to the king? Stop! Why be struck down?” So the prophet stopped but said, “I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel.”

2Ch. 25:17 After Amaziah king of Judah consulted his advisers, he sent this challenge to Jehoash [Hebrew Joash, a variant of Jehoash; also in verses 18, 21, 23 and 25] son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel: “Come, meet me face to face.”

2Ch. 25:18 But Jehoash king of Israel replied to Amaziah king of Judah, “A thistle in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon, ‘Give your daughter to my son in marriage.’ Then a wild beast in Lebanon came along and trampled the thistle underfoot.

2Ch. 25:19 You say to yourself that you have defeated Edom, and now you are arrogant and proud. But stay at home! Why ask for trouble and cause your own downfall and that of Judah also?”

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2Ch. 25:20 Amaziah, however, would not listen, for God so worked that he might hand them over to Jehoash, because they sought the gods of Edom.

2Ch. 25:21 So Jehoash king of Israel attacked. He and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth Shemesh in Judah.

2Ch. 25:22 Judah was routed by Israel, and every man fled to his home.

2Ch. 25:23 Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Ahaziah, [Hebrew Jehoahaz, a variant of Ahaziah] at Beth Shemesh. Then Jehoash brought him to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate — a section about six hundred feet [Hebrew four hundred cubits (about 180 metres)] long.

2Ch. 25:24 He took all the gold and silver and all the articles found in the temple of God that had been in the care of Obed-Edom, together with the palace treasures and the hostages, and returned to Samaria.

2Ch. 25:25 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel.

2Ch. 25:26 As for the other events of Amaziah’s reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

2Ch. 25:27 From the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they conspired against him in Jerusalem and he fled to Lachish, but they sent men after him to Lachish and killed him there.

2Ch. 25:28 He was brought back by horse and was buried with his fathers in the City of Judah.

Chapter 25 of 2 Chronicles continues the account of the reign of King Amaziah of Judah. The chapter begins by describing how Amaziah reigned for twenty-five years and was considered to be a righteous king who followed in the footsteps of his father Joash. The author notes that Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not with a whole heart.

The chapter goes on to describe how Amaziah assembled an army of three hundred thousand men from Judah and Benjamin, and hired another hundred thousand soldiers

from Israel for a hundred talents of silver. However, a prophet of God warned him not to include the Israelite soldiers in his army, as they were not loyal to the Lord. Amaziah heeded the prophet's warning and sent the Israelite soldiers back, losing the money he had paid them.

Despite this setback, Amaziah went ahead with his plan to attack the Edomites, and he and his army were able to defeat them. However, after the battle, Amaziah brought back some idols from the land of the Edomites and set them up to be worshipped. This greatly angered the Lord, and a prophet was sent to warn Amaziah of his sin.

The chapter concludes with a description of how Amaziah challenged the king of Israel, Jehoash, to battle, but was ultimately defeated. Jehoash captured Amaziah and took some of the treasures of the temple and palace in Jerusalem as spoils of war.

Overall, chapter 25 portrays Amaziah as a king who had some successes in battle but ultimately failed to remain faithful to the Lord, leading to his downfall.

2 Chronicles chapter 25 tells the story of Amaziah's reign as king of Judah, including his victories in battle and his eventual downfall. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 25:1) - This verse provides some basic information about Amaziah, including his age when he became king and the name of his mother.
2. "And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart." (2 Chronicles 25:2) - This verse notes that while Amaziah generally followed the ways of the Lord, he did not do so with complete devotion or sincerity.
3. "And he hired a hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for a hundred talents of silver." (2 Chronicles 25:6) - This verse describes how Amaziah recruited an army of mercenaries from the northern kingdom of Israel to help him in battle against his enemies.
4. "But a man of God came to him and said, 'O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the Lord is not with Israel, with all these Ephraimites.'" (2 Chronicles 25:7) - This verse describes how a prophet warned Amaziah not to rely on the assistance of the Israelite mercenaries, who were not faithful to the Lord.
5. "And Amaziah said to the man of God, 'But what shall we do about the hundred talents that I have given to the army of Israel?' The man of God answered, 'The Lord is able to give you much more than this.'" (2 Chronicles 25:9) - This verse shows Amaziah's concern for the financial cost of dismissing the Israelite mercenaries, and the prophet's reassurance that the Lord would provide for him.
6. "And Amaziah took courage and led out his people and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down ten thousand men of Seir." (2 Chronicles 25:11) - This verse describes one of Amaziah's victories in battle, when he defeated the army of Seir and captured their city.
7. "But Amaziah would not listen, for it was of God, in order that he might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought the gods of Edom." (2 Chronicles 25:20) - This verse explains how Amaziah's pride and disobedience

led to his defeat in battle against the king of Israel, who had warned him not to go to war.

Overall, 2 Chronicles chapter 25 highlights the mixed legacy of Amaziah's reign, including his victories in battle and his commitment to following the ways of the Lord, but also his lack of whole-hearted devotion and his eventual downfall due to pride and disobedience.

Chapter 25 of 2 Chronicles tells the story of King Amaziah's reign and his military campaigns. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 25 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Amaziah of Judah and his military endeavors. It presents a complex narrative that offers insights into the consequences of pride, the importance of seeking God's guidance, and the significance of personal responsibility. This chapter provides valuable lessons on the dangers of self-reliance and the need to trust in God completely.

Amaziah begins his reign by assembling a mighty army and preparing for war. However, he seeks to bolster his forces by hiring additional soldiers from Israel, despite being warned by a prophet that God is not with Israel and that he should not rely on them. Amaziah dismisses the prophet's warning, leading to his downfall and defeat in battle.

This chapter teaches us about the perils of pride and self-reliance. Amaziah's decision to depend on his own military strength and to disregard the counsel of the prophet demonstrates an arrogance that ultimately leads to his defeat. It serves as a reminder that true success and victory come from trusting in God and seeking His guidance, rather than relying on our own abilities and resources.

Furthermore, the chapter highlights the importance of personal responsibility and accountability. Amaziah is confronted by a prophet who warns him of the consequences of his actions, but he chooses to ignore the warning. As a result, he suffers the repercussions of his decisions. It serves as a reminder that we are responsible for our choices and actions, and we must be willing to face the consequences of our disobedience.

Additionally, this chapter underscores the faithfulness and sovereignty of God. Despite Amaziah's disobedience and defeat, God shows mercy by not allowing complete destruction and instead granting him a measure of success. It demonstrates God's willingness to extend grace and offer opportunities for repentance, even in the midst of our failures.

In conclusion, Chapter 25 of 2 Chronicles serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of pride, self-reliance, and disobedience. It reminds us of the importance of seeking God's guidance, trusting in His provision, and taking personal responsibility for our actions. May we learn from Amaziah's mistakes and strive to humbly rely on God's wisdom and strength, seeking His guidance and faithfully following His commands in all aspects of our lives.

CHAPTER 26

2Ch. 26:1 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, [Also called Azariah] who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.

2Ch. 26:2 He was the one who rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah rested with his fathers.

2Ch. 26:3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem.

2Ch. 26:4 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.

2Ch. 26:5 He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear [Many Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint and Syriac; other Hebrew manuscripts vision] of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

2Ch. 26:6 He went to war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod. He then rebuilt towns near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines.

2Ch. 26:7 God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites.

2Ch. 26:8 The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful.

2Ch. 26:9 Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate and at the angle of the wall, and he fortified them.

2Ch. 26:10 He also built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns, because he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain. He had people working his fields and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil.

2Ch. 26:11 Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary

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and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials.

2Ch. 26:12 The total number of family leaders over the fighting men was 2,600.

2Ch. 26:13 Under their command was an army of 307,500 men trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies.

2Ch. 26:14 Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armour, bows and slingstones for the entire army.

2Ch. 26:15 In Jerusalem he made machines designed by skilful men for use on the towers and on the corner defences to shoot arrows

and hurl large stones. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

2Ch. 26:16 But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

2Ch. 26:17 Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in.

2Ch. 26:18 They confronted him and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honoured by the LORD God.”

2Ch. 26:19 Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD’s temple, leprosy [The Hebrew word was used for various diseases affecting the skin — not necessarily leprosy; also in verses 20, 21 and 23.] broke out on his forehead.

2Ch. 26:20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

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2Ch. 26:21 King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house — [Or in a house where he was relieved of responsibilities] leprous, and excluded from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

2Ch. 26:22 The other events of Uzziah’s reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

2Ch. 26:23 Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, “He had leprosy.” And Jotham his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 26 begins with the story of Uzziah, also known as Azariah, who became king of Judah at the age of sixteen and reigned for fifty-two years. Uzziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and he sought God during the lifetime of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God.

Under Uzziah's leadership, Judah experienced great prosperity and military success. He built up the city of Jerusalem and strengthened the fortifications around it. He also built towers in the desert and dug many wells, for he had many herds and flocks.

Uzziah had a large and well-trained army, equipped with the latest weapons and armor. His fame spread far and wide, and he was greatly respected and admired. But his success and fame led to pride, and he made the mistake of entering the temple of the Lord and

burning incense on the altar, which was a priestly duty reserved for the descendants of Aaron.

Azariah the priest and eighty other courageous priests confronted Uzziah and rebuked him for his pride and arrogance. Uzziah became angry with them, but as he raged against the priests, he was suddenly struck with leprosy, and he was forced to live in isolation for the rest of his life.

After Uzziah's fall, his son Jotham became king and ruled over Judah. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and he continued to strengthen the defenses of Judah against its enemies.

That's a summary of 2 Chronicles chapter 26.

Here are some important verses in "2 Chronicles" chapter 26:

1. "And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah." (2 Chronicles 26:1) - This verse sets the scene for the reign of Uzziah, also known as Azariah, who becomes king of Judah at a young age.
2. "He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." (2 Chronicles 26:5) - This verse highlights Uzziah's faith and his desire to seek God during his reign, which leads to his prosperity.
3. "Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains." (2 Chronicles 26:11) - This verse describes Uzziah's military strength and organization during his reign.
4. "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense." (2 Chronicles 26:16) - This verse foreshadows Uzziah's downfall as he becomes prideful and attempts to perform a priestly duty that was reserved only for the descendants of Aaron.
5. "And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land." (2 Chronicles 26:21) - This verse marks the end of Uzziah's reign as he is struck with leprosy and his son Jotham takes over as ruler of Judah.

Chapter 26 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Uzziah (also known as Azariah) and his successes and failures as a ruler. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 26 of 2 Chronicles presents the account of King Uzziah's reign, highlighting both his accomplishments and his downfall. It offers valuable lessons on the dangers of pride, the blessings of seeking God, and the importance of remaining faithful to His commands. This chapter serves as a reminder that true success and prosperity come from humble obedience to God.

Uzziah begins his reign as a faithful king, seeking the Lord and following His ways. As a result, God blesses him with success in various endeavors, including military conquests, agricultural prosperity, and the development of a well-equipped army. Uzziah's fame spreads far and wide, and he becomes a respected and powerful ruler.

However, as Uzziah's power and influence grow, so does his pride. He oversteps his role as king and attempts to take on the duties reserved for the priests by entering the temple to burn incense. This act of disobedience results in God's judgment, as Uzziah is struck with leprosy and is forced to live in isolation until his death.

This chapter teaches us about the dangers of pride and the importance of humility before God. Uzziah's downfall serves as a warning that even the most successful and powerful individuals are not exempt from the consequences of pride. It reminds us that true greatness is found in recognizing our dependence on God and humbly submitting to His authority.

Additionally, the chapter emphasizes the blessings that come from seeking God and obeying His commands. Uzziah's early years are marked by his faithfulness and his desire to follow the Lord, and as a result, God grants him success in his endeavors. It serves as a reminder that when we seek God wholeheartedly, He blesses us and enables us to accomplish great things according to His will.

Furthermore, Uzziah's leprosy serves as a reminder of the importance of honoring the boundaries that God has set. Uzziah's attempt to take on the role of the priests demonstrates a disregard for God's order and a failure to recognize his own limitations. It teaches us the significance of respecting God's established order and faithfully fulfilling the roles and responsibilities assigned to us.

In conclusion, Chapter 26 of 2 Chronicles provides us with important lessons on the dangers of pride, the blessings of seeking God, and the importance of remaining faithful to His commands. It challenges us to cultivate humility, recognize our dependence on God, and faithfully fulfill the roles and responsibilities He has entrusted to us. May we learn from Uzziah's successes and failures, striving to seek God wholeheartedly and walk in humble obedience, acknowledging that true prosperity and greatness come from His hand.

CHAPTER 27

2Ch. 27:1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok.

2Ch. 27:2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the LORD. The people, however, continued their corrupt practices.

2Ch. 27:3 Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the temple of the LORD

and did extensive work on the wall at the hill of Ophel.

2Ch. 27:4 He built towns in the Judean hills and forts and towers in the wooded areas.

2Ch. 27:5 Jotham made war on the king of the Ammonites and conquered them. That year the Ammonites paid him a hundred talents [That is, about 3 1/3 tons (about 3.4 metric tons)] of silver, ten thousand cors [That is, probably about 60,500 bushels (about 2,200 kilolitres)] of wheat and ten thousand cors of barley. The Ammonites brought him the same amount also in the second and third years.

2Ch. 27:6 Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the LORD his God.

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2Ch. 27:7 The other events in Jotham's reign, including all his wars and the other things he did, are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

2Ch. 27:8 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years.

2Ch. 27:9 Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Ahaz his son succeeded him as king.

In 2 Chronicles 27, we read about the reign of Jotham, who was the son of King Uzziah. Jotham was 25 years old when he became king, and he ruled for 16 years in Jerusalem. The chapter begins by noting that Jotham did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Uzziah had done. Jotham was a faithful king who sought to follow God's commands and obey his laws.

During his reign, Jotham built up the city of Jerusalem and fortified its walls. He also built cities in the hill country of Judah and constructed fortresses and towers to help defend the land against enemy attacks.

In addition to his military efforts, Jotham was also a prosperous king who amassed great wealth and possessions. He collected large amounts of silver, gold, and other valuable items, and he built many impressive structures throughout the land.

Overall, Jotham was a successful and righteous king who led the people of Judah in following the ways of the Lord. Although his reign was relatively short, it was marked by peace and prosperity, and he left a positive legacy for his successors to follow.

Here are some important verses in "2 Chronicles" chapter 27:

1. "Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok." (2 Chronicles 27:1) - This verse introduces Jotham, who becomes king of Judah after his father Uzziah's reign.
2. "He built the high gate of the house of the Lord, and on the wall of Ophel he built much." (2 Chronicles 27:3) - This verse describes Jotham's building projects, including the construction of a gate to the temple in Jerusalem and the fortification of the city's walls.

3. "So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God." (2 Chronicles 27:6) - This verse highlights Jotham's faith and how his devotion to God led to his success as a king.
4. "Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead." (2 Chronicles 27:9) - This verse marks the end of Jotham's reign and the beginning of his son Ahaz's reign over Judah.

Chapter 27 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Jotham and his faithfulness to God. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 27 of 2 Chronicles provides an account of the reign of King Jotham and highlights his commitment to God and the prosperity that resulted from his faithfulness. It offers valuable lessons on the rewards of seeking God, the importance of personal obedience, and the influence of a righteous leader.

Jotham ascends to the throne of Judah after his father Uzziah, and he follows in his father's footsteps by seeking the Lord and walking in His ways. Jotham builds and strengthens various cities in Judah, engages in successful military campaigns, and enjoys a period of stability and prosperity during his reign.

This chapter teaches us about the rewards that come from seeking God and obeying His commands. Jotham's commitment to God and his dedication to following His ways result in the blessings of peace, security, and prosperity for the kingdom of Judah. It serves as a reminder that when we prioritize our relationship with God and align our lives with His principles, He rewards us with His favor and blessings.

Furthermore, the chapter underscores the importance of personal obedience and responsibility. While Jotham's faithfulness sets a positive example for the people of Judah, it is also crucial to note that each individual is responsible for their own relationship with God. Jotham's righteousness cannot save or ensure the faithfulness of others. It reminds us that personal obedience and a genuine heart for God are essential for spiritual growth and flourishing.

Moreover, the influence of a righteous leader is evident in this chapter. Jotham's commitment to God not only brings blessings to the kingdom but also sets a tone of righteousness for the people under his reign. A leader's faithfulness to God can inspire and encourage those they lead to walk in the ways of the Lord. Jotham's example demonstrates the significance of leadership in shaping the spiritual climate of a nation or community.

In conclusion, Chapter 27 of 2 Chronicles offers valuable insights into the reign of King Jotham and his faithfulness to God. It reminds us of the rewards that come from seeking God and obeying His commands, both on a personal level and within a community. It emphasizes the importance of personal obedience and the influential role of a righteous leader. May we be inspired by Jotham's example and strive to seek God wholeheartedly,

walk in obedience to His commands, and lead with righteousness and integrity in our own spheres of influence

CHAPTER 28

2Ch. 28:1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

2Ch. 28:2 He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and also made cast idols for worshipping the Baals.

2Ch. 28:3 He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

2Ch. 28:4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree.

2Ch. 28:5 Therefore the LORD his God handed him over to the king of Aram. The Arameans defeated him and took many of his people as prisoners and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hands of the king of Israel, who inflicted heavy casualties on him.

2Ch. 28:6 In one day Pekah son of Remaliah killed a hundred and twenty thousand soldiers in Judah — because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 28:7 Zicri, an Ephraimite warrior, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the officer in charge of the palace, and Elkanah, second to the king.

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2Ch. 28:8 The Israelites took captive from their kinsmen two hundred thousand wives, sons and daughters. They also took a great deal of plunder, which they carried back to Samaria.

2Ch. 28:9 But a prophet of the LORD named Oded was there, and he went out to meet the army when it returned to Samaria. He said to them, "Because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand. But you have slaughtered them in a rage that reaches to heaven.

2Ch. 28:10 And now you intend to make the men and women of Judah and Jerusalem your slaves. But aren't you also guilty of sins against the LORD your God?

2Ch. 28:11 Now listen to me! Send back your fellow countrymen that you have taken as prisoners, for the LORD's fierce anger rests on you."

2Ch. 28:12 Then some of the leaders in Ephraim — Azariah son of Jehohanan, Berekiah son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai — confronted those who were arriving from the war.

2Ch. 28:13 "You must not bring those prisoners here," they said, "or we

will be guilty before the LORD. Do you intend to add to our sin and guilt? For our guilt is already great, and his fierce anger rests on Israel.”

2Ch. 28:14 So the soldiers gave up the prisoners and plunder in the presence of the officials and all the assembly.

2Ch. 28:15 The men designated by name took the prisoners, and from the plunder they clothed all who were naked. They provided them with clothes and sandals, food and drink, and healing balm. All those who were weak they put on donkeys. So they took them back to their fellow countrymen at Jericho, the City of Palms, and returned to Samaria.

2Ch. 28:16 At that time King Ahaz sent to the king [One Hebrew manuscript, Septuagint and Vulgate (see also 2 Kings 16:7); most Hebrew manuscripts kings] of Assyria for help.

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2Ch. 28:17 The Edomites had again come and attacked Judah and carried away prisoners,

2Ch. 28:18 while the Philistines had raided towns in the foothills and in the Negev of Judah. They captured and occupied Beth Shemesh, Aijalon and Gederoth, as well as Soco, Timnah and Gimzo, with their surrounding villages.

2Ch. 28:19 The LORD had humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, [That is, Judah, as frequently in 2 Chronicles] for he had promoted wickedness in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the LORD.

2Ch. 28:20 Tiglath-Pileser [Hebrew Tilgath-Pilneser, a variant of Tiglath Pileser] king of Assyria came to him, but gave him trouble instead of help.

2Ch. 28:21 Ahaz took some of the things from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace and from the princes and presented them to the king of Assyria, but that did not help him.

2Ch. 28:22 In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD.

2Ch. 28:23 He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him; for he thought, “Since the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will sacrifice to them so that they will help me.” But they were his downfall and the downfall of all Israel.

2Ch. 28:24 Ahaz gathered together the furnishings from the temple of God and took them away. [Or and cut them up] He shut the doors of the LORD’s temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 28:25 In every town in Judah he built high places to burn sacrifices to other gods and provoked the LORD, the God of his fathers, to anger.

2Ch. 28:26 The other events of his reign and all his ways, from beginning

to end, are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

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2Ch. 28:27 Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of Jerusalem, but he was not placed in the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 28 of 2 Chronicles recounts the reign of King Ahaz of Judah. The chapter begins by describing Ahaz's wickedness, including his worship of false gods and his sacrifices of his own children to idols. Despite his unfaithfulness, God allowed Ahaz to have some military success against Israel, but ultimately he was defeated and taken captive by the Arameans.

After his defeat, Ahaz sought the help of the Assyrian king, Tiglath-Pileser, who came to his aid and helped him defeat the Arameans. However, Ahaz had to pay tribute to the Assyrian king and became his vassal.

The chapter goes on to describe more of Ahaz's sins, including his desecration of the temple in Jerusalem and his idolatry throughout the land. The prophet Oded came to Ahaz and rebuked him for his disobedience, but Ahaz did not listen.

Finally, the chapter concludes with a brief summary of Ahaz's reign and his death, noting that he was not buried in the tombs of the kings of Israel.

Here are some important verses in "2 Chronicles" chapter 28:

1. "Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done." (2 Chronicles 28:1) - This verse introduces Ahaz, who becomes king of Judah after his father Jotham's reign. However, unlike his father, Ahaz is described as a wicked king who does not follow God's ways.
2. "Moreover, the Lord delivered Ahaz king of Judah into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took many captives to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with great slaughter." (2 Chronicles 28:5-6) - These verses describe the consequences of Ahaz's disobedience to God. His enemies, including the kings of Syria and Israel, attack and defeat him, causing great suffering and loss for the people of Judah.
3. "For again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him." (2 Chronicles 28:22-23) - These verses describe the widespread idolatry and unfaithfulness of the people of Israel, which contributes to the suffering of Judah under Ahaz's reign.
4. "Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the Lord. This is that King Ahaz. For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, 'Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me.' But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel." (2 Chronicles 28:22-23) - These verses describe Ahaz's desperate attempts to seek help from the gods of his enemies, rather than turning to God for aid. This

further demonstrates his lack of faith and trust in God, which leads to his downfall.

Chapter 28 of 2 Chronicles recounts the reign of King Ahaz and the consequences of his disobedience to God. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 28 of 2 Chronicles presents a sobering account of King Ahaz's reign and the dire consequences that resulted from his disobedience to God. It serves as a cautionary tale about the destructive power of idolatry, the importance of faithfulness to God's commands, and the potential ramifications of our choices.

Ahaz, unlike his father Jotham, strays from the ways of the Lord and embraces idolatry. He leads the people of Judah astray by worshiping false gods, offering sacrifices to idols, and engaging in pagan practices. As a result, God allows neighboring nations to invade and afflict Judah, causing immense suffering and loss.

This chapter reminds us of the destructive nature of idolatry and the consequences of turning away from God. Ahaz's decision to worship false gods and abandon the commands of the Lord leads to the downfall of the nation and brings immense suffering upon the people. It serves as a reminder that our choices have consequences and that pursuing anything other than God ultimately leads to spiritual and temporal ruin.

Furthermore, the chapter underscores the importance of faithfulness to God's commands. Ahaz's disregard for God's laws and his refusal to trust in the Lord result in the loss of divine protection and the onset of calamity. It emphasizes the need for obedience and wholehearted devotion to God, acknowledging His authority and following His ways.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the mercy and patience of God. Despite Ahaz's disobedience and the resulting consequences, God still extends His grace and sends prophets to call the king and the people to repentance. It demonstrates God's desire for reconciliation and restoration, even in the face of severe judgment.

In conclusion, Chapter 28 of 2 Chronicles serves as a cautionary tale about the destructive power of idolatry and the consequences of turning away from God. It reminds us of the importance of faithfulness to God's commands, the potential ramifications of our choices, and the mercy of God even in times of judgment. May we heed the lessons from Ahaz's reign and strive to worship the one true God, obey His commands, and walk in His ways, knowing that true fulfillment and blessing are found in Him alone.

CHAPTER 29

2Ch. 29:1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah.

2Ch. 29:2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done.

2Ch. 29:3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.

2Ch. 29:4 He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side

2Ch. 29:5 and said, “Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.

2Ch. 29:6 Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD’s dwelling-place and turned their backs on him.

2Ch. 29:7 They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel.

2Ch. 29:8 Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes.

2Ch. 29:9 This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity.

2Ch. 29:10 Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us.

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2Ch. 29:11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense.”

2Ch. 29:12 Then these Levites set to work: from the Kohathites, Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah; from the Merarites, Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel; from the Gershonites, Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah;

2Ch. 29:13 from the descendants of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeiel; from the descendants of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah;

2Ch. 29:14 from the descendants of Heman, Jehiel and Shimei; from the descendants of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel.

2Ch. 29:15 When they had assembled their brothers and consecrated themselves, they went in to purify the temple of the LORD, as the king had ordered, following the word of the LORD.

2Ch. 29:16 The priests went into the sanctuary of the LORD to purify it. They brought out to the courtyard of the LORD’s temple everything unclean that they found in the temple of the LORD. The Levites took it and carried it out to the Kidron Valley.

2Ch. 29:17 They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the LORD. For eight more days they consecrated the temple of the LORD itself, finishing in the sixteenth day of the first month.

2Ch. 29:18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported: “We have purified the entire temple of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table for setting out the consecrated bread, with all its articles.

2Ch. 29:19 We have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz removed in his unfaithfulness while he was king. They are now in front of the LORD’s altar.”

2Ch. 29:20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the LORD.

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2Ch. 29:21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah. The king commanded the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer these on the altar of the LORD.

2Ch. 29:22 So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and sprinkled it on the altar; next they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled their blood on the altar; then they slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled their blood on the altar.

2Ch. 29:23 The goats for the sin offering were brought before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

2Ch. 29:24 The priests then slaughtered the goats and presented their blood on the altar for a sin offering to atone for all Israel, because the king had ordered the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.

2Ch. 29:25 He stationed the Levites in the temple of the LORD with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king’s seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the LORD through his prophets.

2Ch. 29:26 So the Levites stood ready with David’s instruments, and the priests with their trumpets.

2Ch. 29:27 Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel.

2Ch. 29:28 The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.

2Ch. 29:29 When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshipped.

2Ch. 29:30 King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer.

So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshipped.

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2Ch. 29:31 Then Hezekiah said, “You have now dedicated yourselves to

the LORD. Come and bring sacrifices and thank-offerings to the temple of the LORD.” So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank-offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.

2Ch. 29:32 The number of burnt offerings the assembly brought was seventy bulls, a hundred rams and two hundred male lambs — all of them for burnt offerings to the LORD.

2Ch. 29:33 The animals consecrated as sacrifices amounted to six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep and goats.

2Ch. 29:34 The priests, however, were too few to skin all the burnt offerings; so their kinsmen the Levites helped them until the task was finished and until other priests had been consecrated, for the Levites had been more conscientious in consecrating themselves than the priests had been.

2Ch. 29:35 There were burnt offerings in abundance, together with the fat of the fellowship offerings [Traditionally peace offerings] and the drink offerings that accompanied the burnt offerings. So the service of the temple of the LORD was re-established.

2Ch. 29:36 Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

Chapter 29 begins with the reign of Hezekiah, who became king of Judah at the age of 25 and ruled for 29 years in Jerusalem. Hezekiah was a righteous king who sought to restore the worship of God in the temple, which had been neglected during the reign of his father, Ahaz. Hezekiah first opens the doors of the temple and has them repaired, and then he calls the priests and Levites to consecrate themselves and the temple to the Lord. The priests and Levites purify the temple and remove all the impurities that had accumulated over the years of neglect.

After the temple is cleansed, Hezekiah orders the offerings and sacrifices to be resumed, and he commands the people to bring their offerings to the temple. The people respond with great enthusiasm, and the priests and Levites are able to offer a great number of sacrifices and burnt offerings. Hezekiah then appoints the priests and Levites to their proper duties and organizes them into divisions for the service of the temple.

Hezekiah also sends messengers to the northern tribes of Israel and to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Many people from these tribes respond to the invitation and come to Jerusalem for the Passover, which is celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving. The Passover is extended for an additional week, and the people continue to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings during this time.

Chapter 29 ends with a note of praise for Hezekiah's reforms: "Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good, right, and faithful before the Lord his God. And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered." (2 Chronicles 29:35-36)

2 Chronicles chapter 29 describes the reign of King Hezekiah, who initiated important religious reforms in Judah. Some of the important verses in this chapter are:

1. "Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah." (2 Chronicles 29:1) - This verse introduces King Hezekiah and provides some information about his background.
2. "In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them." (2 Chronicles 29:3) - This verse highlights one of Hezekiah's first actions as king, which was to repair the temple and reinstate worship there.
3. "He said to the Levites who taught all Israel, who were holy to the Lord, 'Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the Lord your God and his people Israel.'" (2 Chronicles 29:5-6) - Hezekiah commands the Levites to prepare the temple for worship and to bring back the Ark of the Covenant.
4. "Thus the service of the house of the Lord was restored to the Levites in accordance with the command of the king." (2 Chronicles 29:35) - This verse indicates that Hezekiah's religious reforms were successful, as the temple was restored and worship was reinstated.
5. "And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, because of what God had done for the people, for it had come about suddenly." (2 Chronicles 29:36) - This verse expresses the joy and gratitude that Hezekiah and the people felt after their successful religious reforms.

Chapter 29 of 2 Chronicles recounts the early reign of King Hezekiah and his efforts to restore the worship of God in Judah. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 29 of 2 Chronicles provides an inspiring account of King Hezekiah's dedication to restoring the worship of God in Judah. It offers valuable lessons on the power of repentance, the importance of renewing our commitment to God, and the blessings that come from seeking Him wholeheartedly.

Hezekiah ascends to the throne of Judah in a time of spiritual decline and neglect of God's commands. However, he wastes no time in seeking to rectify this situation. He opens the doors of the temple, cleanses it from the defilement of idol worship, and gathers the priests and Levites to reinstate the proper sacrifices and offerings according to the Law of Moses.

This chapter teaches us about the power of repentance and renewal. Hezekiah recognizes the need to turn away from idolatry and to return to the worship of the true God. His actions demonstrate a genuine desire to align the nation with God's commands and to restore a right relationship with Him. It serves as a reminder that no matter how far we have strayed or how entrenched we are in sin, there is always an opportunity for repentance and renewal in God's grace.

Furthermore, the chapter highlights the importance of wholehearted commitment to God. Hezekiah's efforts to restore the worship of God are not half-hearted or superficial; he takes decisive action, engages the priests and Levites, and leads by example. His leadership inspires the people to follow suit, and together they offer sacrifices, praises, and thanksgiving to God. It illustrates the significance of genuine devotion and wholehearted worship in cultivating spiritual revival and unity among God's people.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the blessings that come from seeking God wholeheartedly. As the people turn back to God and restore the proper worship in the temple, God responds with His favor and blessings. Hezekiah and the people experience forgiveness, healing, and the restoration of their land. It serves as a reminder that when we seek God with sincerity and reverence, He is faithful to respond and pour out His blessings upon us.

In conclusion, Chapter 29 of 2 Chronicles offers a powerful example of King Hezekiah's dedication to restoring the worship of God in Judah. It teaches us about the power of repentance, the importance of renewing our commitment to God, and the blessings that come from seeking Him wholeheartedly. May we be inspired by Hezekiah's example and strive to cultivate a heart of repentance, wholehearted devotion, and genuine worship, knowing that God's grace and blessings abound for those who seek Him.

CHAPTER 30

2Ch. 30:1 Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.

2Ch. 30:2 The king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month.

2Ch. 30:3 They had not been able to celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem.

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2Ch. 30:4 The plan seemed right both to the king and to the whole assembly.

2Ch. 30:5 They decided to send a proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, calling the people to come to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. It had not been celebrated in large numbers according to what was written.

2Ch. 30:6 At the king's command, couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and from his officials, which read: "People of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

2Ch. 30:7 Do not be like your fathers and brothers, who were unfaithful to the LORD, the God of their fathers, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see.

2Ch. 30:8 Do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were; submit to the LORD. Come to the sanctuary, which he has consecrated for ever. Serve the LORD your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you.

2Ch. 30:9 If you return to the LORD, then your brothers and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will come back to this land, for the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him.”

2Ch. 30:10 The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but the people scorned and ridiculed them.

2Ch. 30:11 Nevertheless, some men of Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem.

2Ch. 30:12 Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the LORD.

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2Ch. 30:13 A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month.

2Ch. 30:14 They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley.

2Ch. 30:15 They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the temple of the LORD.

2Ch. 30:16 Then they took up their regular positions as prescribed in the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests sprinkled the blood handed to them by the Levites.

2Ch. 30:17 Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean and could not consecrate their lambs to the LORD.

2Ch. 30:18 Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the LORD, who is good, pardon everyone

2Ch. 30:19 who sets his heart on seeking God — the LORD, the God of his fathers — even if he is not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.”

2Ch. 30:20 And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

2Ch. 30:21 The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests sang to the LORD every day, accompanied by the LORD's instruments of praise. [Or priests praised the LORD every day with resounding instruments belonging to the LORD.]

2Ch. 30:22 Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites, who showed good understanding of the service of the LORD. For the seven days they ate their assigned portion and offered
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fellowship offerings [Traditionally peace offerings] and praised the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 30:23 The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so for another seven days they celebrated joyfully.

2Ch. 30:24 Hezekiah king of Judah provided a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep and goats for the assembly, and the officials provided them with a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep and goats. A great number of priests consecrated themselves.

2Ch. 30:25 The entire assembly of Judah rejoiced, along with the priests and Levites and all who had assembled from Israel, including the aliens who had come from Israel and those who lived in Judah.

2Ch. 30:26 There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 30:27 The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling-place.

Chapter 30 of 2 Chronicles begins with King Hezekiah sending out letters throughout all of Israel and Judah, inviting everyone to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Hezekiah was hoping to bring unity to the divided kingdom and restore worship to God. The messengers who carried the letters were mocked and scorned in some places, but in others they were received with joy and many people came to Jerusalem for the Passover. Hezekiah prayed for those who had come, asking God to forgive them and purify them, even if they had not followed all of the laws for ceremonial cleanliness. The Passover was celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving. There were so many people that they had to extend the celebration for another week. Hezekiah made sure that everyone was well-fed and provided offerings for the priests and Levites. The people praised God for His goodness and mercy.

After the Passover celebration, the people went out into the cities of Judah and destroyed the idols and pagan shrines. Hezekiah continued to promote worship of the true God and did many other good things during his reign.

2 Chronicles chapter 30 continues the story of King Hezekiah's religious reforms and focuses on his efforts to celebrate the Passover with all the people of Judah and Israel. Some of the important verses in this chapter are:

1. "And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel." (2 Chronicles 30:1) - This verse shows Hezekiah's desire to unify the people of Israel and Judah in worshipping the Lord.
2. "For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month— for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 30:2-3) - This verse highlights the logistical challenges that Hezekiah faced in trying to celebrate the Passover and his decision to delay it until the second month.
3. "So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed." (2 Chronicles 30:5) - This verse shows Hezekiah's commitment to observing the Passover in accordance with God's commands.
4. "And the runners went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them." (2 Chronicles 30:10) - This verse shows that not all of the people were willing to follow Hezekiah's call to celebrate the Passover, and some even mocked the messengers.
5. "For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, 'May the good Lord pardon everyone who sets his heart to seek God, the Lord, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness.'" (2 Chronicles 30:18-19) - This verse shows that Hezekiah's prayer for the people was answered, and that even those who were not ritually pure were able to celebrate the Passover and seek the Lord.

2 Chronicles 31 describes the religious reforms made by King Hezekiah after he became king of Judah. Hezekiah ordered the priests and Levites to cleanse and restore the temple, and the people responded by bringing in a large amount of offerings, tithes, and dedicated things.

Hezekiah also appointed officials to oversee the distribution of the offerings to the priests and Levites, ensuring that everyone received their portion. The chapter notes that the people of Israel were faithful in bringing their tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Hezekiah also established chambers in the temple for the storage of the offerings, and appointed officials to oversee the distribution of supplies to the priests and Levites.

The chapter concludes by describing Hezekiah's faithfulness to the Lord and his obedience to the laws and commandments of God, which brought him great success and blessings from the Lord.

Chapter 30 of 2 Chronicles focuses on King Hezekiah's invitation to all the people of Israel and Judah to come and celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 30 of 2 Chronicles presents a remarkable account of King Hezekiah's invitation to all the people of Israel and Judah to gather in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover. It offers valuable lessons on the power of unity, the importance of reconciliation, and the blessings that come from seeking God together as a community.

Hezekiah recognizes the spiritual significance of the Passover, a key festival in the Israelite calendar, and desires to restore its observance. Despite the initial reluctance and division among the people, he extends an invitation to everyone, regardless of their geographical location or their past spiritual condition, to come and worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

This chapter teaches us about the power of unity and reconciliation. Hezekiah's invitation to the northern tribes of Israel, who had been separated from Judah and had fallen into idolatry, demonstrates his desire for reconciliation and the reunification of God's people. It reveals the importance of setting aside differences and coming together as one united community to worship and seek God. It serves as a reminder that unity and reconciliation are central to God's heart and can bring about great spiritual revival and blessing.

Furthermore, the chapter emphasizes the blessings that come from seeking God together as a community. As the people respond to Hezekiah's invitation and come to Jerusalem to observe the Passover, they experience God's gracious response. They are filled with joy, repentance, and a renewed commitment to follow the Lord. God responds with healing, forgiveness, and a spirit of unity among the people. It highlights the power of collective worship and the blessings that flow when God's people come together in obedience and devotion.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the mercy and grace of God. Despite the people's initial disobedience and their failure to observe the Passover according to God's command, God extends His grace and allows them to celebrate the festival with great joy and abundance. It demonstrates God's willingness to forgive, restore, and bless His people when they turn back to Him with repentant hearts.

In conclusion, Chapter 30 of 2 Chronicles offers a powerful example of King Hezekiah's invitation to all the people of Israel and Judah to celebrate the Passover and seek God together in Jerusalem. It teaches us about the power of unity, reconciliation, and collective worship. It reminds us of the blessings that come from seeking God as a community and the gracious response of God when we turn back to Him with repentance and wholehearted devotion. May we be inspired by Hezekiah's example and strive to cultivate unity, reconciliation, and a vibrant community of worship and devotion to God in our own lives and communities.

CHAPTER 31

2Ch. 31:1 When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.

2Ch. 31:2 Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions — each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites — to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, [Traditionally peace offerings] to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the LORD's dwelling.

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2Ch. 31:3 The king contributed from his own possessions for the morning and evening burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moons and appointed feasts as written in the Law of the LORD.

2Ch. 31:4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and Levites so that they could devote themselves to the Law of the LORD.

2Ch. 31:5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.

2Ch. 31:6 The men of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps.

2Ch. 31:7 They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month.

2Ch. 31:8 When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and blessed his people Israel.

2Ch. 31:9 Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps;

2Ch. 31:10 and Azariah the chief priest, from the family of Zadok, answered, "Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the LORD has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over."

2Ch. 31:11 Hezekiah gave orders to prepare storerooms in the temple of the LORD, and this was done.

2Ch. 31:12 Then they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts. Conaniah, a Levite, was in charge of these things, and his brother Shimei was next in rank.

2Ch. 31:13 Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismakiah, Mahath and Benaiah were supervisors under

Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by appointment of King
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Hezekiah and Azariah the official in charge of the temple of
God.

2Ch. 31:14 Kore son of Imnah the Levite, keeper of the East Gate, was
in charge of the freewill offerings given to God, distributing
the contributions made to the LORD and also the
consecrated gifts.

2Ch. 31:15 Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah and Shecaniah
assisted him faithfully in the towns of the priests, distributing
to their fellow priests according to their divisions, old and
young alike.

2Ch. 31:16 In addition, they distributed to the males three years old or
more whose names were in the genealogical records — all
who would enter the temple of the LORD to perform the
daily duties of their various tasks, according to their
responsibilities and their divisions.

2Ch. 31:17 And they distributed to the priests enrolled by their families in
the genealogical records and likewise to the Levites twenty
years old or more, according to their responsibilities and their
divisions.

2Ch. 31:18 They included all the little ones, the wives, and the sons and
daughters of the whole community listed in these
genealogical records. For they were faithful in consecrating
themselves.

2Ch. 31:19 As for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who lived on
the farm lands around their towns or in any other towns, men
were designated by name to distribute portions to every male
among them and to all who were recorded in the genealogies
of the Levites.

2Ch. 31:20 This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was
good and right and faithful before the LORD his God.

2Ch. 31:21 In everything that he undertook in the service of God's
temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he
sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he
prospered.

2 Chronicles 31 describes the reforms of King Hezekiah to restore the worship of the
Lord in Judah. Some of the important verses in this chapter include:

1. "When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of
Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They
destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in
Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites
returned to their own towns and to their own property." (2 Chronicles 31:1) - This
verse shows that the Israelites had participated in the reformation led by King

- Hezekiah and had taken action to remove idols and pagan practices from their land.
2. "Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the Lord's dwelling." (2 Chronicles 31:2) - This verse describes the organization of the priests and Levites to perform their duties in the temple and lead the worship of the Lord.
 3. "Hezekiah gave orders to prepare storerooms in the temple of the Lord, and this was done." (2 Chronicles 31:11) - This verse highlights King Hezekiah's efforts to provide for the needs of the temple and its ministers by preparing storerooms to store the offerings and tithes that were given.
 4. "In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered." (2 Chronicles 31:21) - This verse summarizes King Hezekiah's character and his success as a king. He sought the Lord in everything he did, obeyed His commands, and worked wholeheartedly for the service of God's temple. As a result, he prospered in all his endeavors.

Chapter 31 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reforms implemented by King Hezekiah to restore proper worship and support the priests and Levites. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 31 of 2 Chronicles provides an inspiring account of King Hezekiah's reforms to restore proper worship and support the priests and Levites in Judah. It offers valuable lessons on the importance of stewardship, the blessings of obedience, and the faithfulness of God in providing for His people.

Hezekiah's reforms involve reestablishing the proper roles and responsibilities of the priests and Levites, organizing the distribution of offerings and tithes, and ensuring that the Temple is properly maintained. The people respond with enthusiasm, bringing their tithes and offerings, resulting in an abundance of provisions for the priests and Levites.

This chapter teaches us about the importance of stewardship and faithful giving. Hezekiah's reforms demonstrate the significance of recognizing God's ownership over all things and our responsibility to support the work of His ministry. The people willingly and generously bring their tithes and offerings, understanding the importance of providing for the spiritual needs of the community and the maintenance of the Temple. It serves as a reminder that when we faithfully give back to God, He blesses us abundantly and provides for our needs.

Furthermore, the chapter highlights the blessings that come from obedience to God's commands. As the people faithfully bring their tithes and offerings, the priests and Levites are able to dedicate themselves fully to their duties in the Temple. The nation experiences prosperity and abundance, and God's favor rests upon them. It illustrates the

principle that when we prioritize God's work and follow His instructions, He rewards us with His blessings and provision.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the faithfulness of God in providing for His people. Hezekiah's reforms and the people's faithful giving lead to an overflow of provisions for the priests and Levites. It demonstrates God's faithfulness in sustaining His servants and ensuring that they have what they need to fulfill their responsibilities. It serves as a reminder that God is the ultimate provider and that when we trust in Him and prioritize His work, He takes care of us.

In conclusion, Chapter 31 of 2 Chronicles presents a powerful example of King Hezekiah's reforms to restore proper worship and support the priests and Levites. It teaches us about the importance of stewardship, faithful giving, and obedience to God's commands. It reminds us of the blessings that come from prioritizing God's work and the faithfulness of God in providing for His people. May we be inspired by Hezekiah's example and strive to be faithful stewards, generous givers, and obedient followers of God, trusting in His provision and experiencing the blessings that come from a life lived in alignment with His will.

CHAPTER 32

2Ch. 32:1 After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.

2Ch. 32:2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem,

2Ch. 32:3 he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him.

2Ch. 32:4 A large force of men assembled, and they blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. "Why should the kings [Hebrew; Septuagint and Syriac king] of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" they said.

2Ch. 32:5 Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the supporting terraces [Or the Millo] of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.

2Ch. 32:6 He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words:

2Ch. 32:7 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him.

2Ch. 32:8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people

gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

2Ch. 32:9 Later, when Sennacherib king of Assyria and all his forces were laying siege to Lachish, he sent his officers to Jerusalem with this message for Hezekiah king of Judah and for all the people of Judah who were there:

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2Ch. 32:10 “This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege?”

2Ch. 32:11 When Hezekiah says, ‘The LORD our God will save us from the hand of the king of Assyria,’ he is misleading you, to let you die of hunger and thirst.

2Ch. 32:12 Did not Hezekiah himself remove this god’s high places and altars, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship before one altar and burn sacrifices on it’?”

2Ch. 32:13 “Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the other lands? Were the gods of those nations ever able to deliver their land from my hand?”

2Ch. 32:14 Who of all the gods of these nations that my fathers destroyed has been able to save his people from me? How then can your god deliver you from my hand?”

2Ch. 32:15 Now do not let Hezekiah deceive you and mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!”

2Ch. 32:16 Sennacherib’s officers spoke further against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah.

2Ch. 32:17 The king also wrote letters insulting the LORD, the God of Israel, and saying this against him: “Just as the gods of the peoples of the other lands did not rescue their people from my hand, so the god of Hezekiah will not rescue his people from my hand.”

2Ch. 32:18 Then they called out in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to terrify them and make them afraid in order to capture the city.

2Ch. 32:19 They spoke about the God of Jerusalem as they did about the gods of the other peoples of the world — the work of men’s hands.

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2Ch. 32:20 King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this.

2Ch. 32:21 And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when

he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword.

2Ch. 32:22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all others. He took care of them [Hebrew; Septuagint and Vulgate He gave them rest] on every side.

2Ch. 32:23 Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah. From then on he was highly regarded by all the nations.

2Ch. 32:24 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the LORD, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign.

2Ch. 32:25 But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the LORD's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

2Ch. 32:26 Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the LORD's wrath did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah.

2Ch. 32:27 Hezekiah had very great riches and honour, and he made treasuries for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables.

2Ch. 32:28 He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle, and pens for the flocks.

2Ch. 32:29 He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him very great riches.

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2Ch. 32:30 It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channelled the water down to the west side of the City of David. He succeeded in everything he undertook.

2Ch. 32:31 But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.

2Ch. 32:32 The other events of Hezekiah's reign and his acts of devotion are written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

2Ch. 32:33 Hezekiah rested with his fathers and was buried on the hill where the tombs of David's descendants are. All Judah and the people of Jerusalem honoured him when he died. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 32 of 2 Chronicles begins with the account of the mighty King Hezekiah of Judah, who is faced with the threat of an invasion by King Sennacherib of Assyria. In

preparation for the attack, Hezekiah takes steps to strengthen the city of Jerusalem, repairing the city walls, building towers and weapons, and diverting water to the city. Hezekiah also encourages his people to have faith in God and not fear the enemy, sending out his officials to speak to the people and reassure them that God is with them. Hezekiah prays to God for deliverance from the Assyrian army, and God answers his prayer by sending an angel to destroy the Assyrian army, sparing Jerusalem from destruction. After the miraculous deliverance, Hezekiah becomes proud and is disciplined by God through illness. However, Hezekiah repents and is healed, and he uses the remainder of his reign to further strengthen the kingdom of Judah. The chapter ends with a brief account of Hezekiah's wealth and glory, as well as his death and burial.

2 Chronicles chapter 32 describes the reign of King Hezekiah and his efforts to strengthen Judah against the threat of the Assyrian army. Some of the important verses from this chapter are:

1. "After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself." (2 Chronicles 32:1) - This verse sets the stage for the conflict between Judah and Assyria.
2. "He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down, and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance." (2 Chronicles 32:5) - This verse describes Hezekiah's efforts to fortify Jerusalem against the Assyrian threat.
3. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." (2 Chronicles 32:7-8) - Hezekiah's words to his people as they prepare to face the Assyrian army, emphasizing their trust in God.
4. "Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.'" (2 Chronicles 32:20) - This verse describes how God answers Hezekiah's prayer and sends an angel to strike down the Assyrian army.
5. "And many brought gifts to the Lord to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward." (2 Chronicles 32:23) - This verse describes the aftermath of the Assyrian threat, with Hezekiah receiving gifts and recognition for his victory.

[Chapter 32 of 2 Chronicles recounts the events surrounding King Hezekiah's defense against the Assyrian invasion. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 32 of 2 Chronicles presents a remarkable account of King Hezekiah's trust in God and his successful defense against the Assyrian invasion. It offers valuable lessons on the power of faith, the importance of prayer, and the faithfulness of God in times of trouble.](#)

Hezekiah faces a formidable threat as the mighty Assyrian army, led by King Sennacherib, marches against Jerusalem. However, rather than succumbing to fear or relying solely on human strength, Hezekiah takes decisive action to fortify the city, rally his troops, and trust in the Lord for deliverance.

This chapter teaches us about the power of faith in the face of overwhelming circumstances. Hezekiah demonstrates unwavering trust in God's faithfulness and power. He encourages his people not to be afraid, reminding them that God is with them and will fight on their behalf. It serves as a reminder that even in the most challenging situations, when we put our faith in God and seek His guidance, He can turn the tide in our favor.

Furthermore, the chapter emphasizes the importance of prayer in times of trouble. Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah cry out to God, laying their concerns and fears before Him. They seek His intervention and deliverance. Their prayers are answered as God sends an angel to strike down the Assyrian army, saving Jerusalem from destruction. It illustrates the significance of seeking God's wisdom, guidance, and intervention through prayer, knowing that He hears and responds to the cries of His people.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the faithfulness of God in times of trouble. Hezekiah's trust in God is not misplaced. God delivers His people from the Assyrian threat, honoring the faith and obedience of Hezekiah and the people of Judah. It demonstrates God's commitment to protecting and preserving His chosen people when they put their trust in Him.

In conclusion, Chapter 32 of 2 Chronicles offers a powerful example of King Hezekiah's trust in God and his successful defense against the Assyrian invasion. It teaches us about the power of faith, the importance of prayer, and the faithfulness of God in times of trouble. May we be inspired by Hezekiah's unwavering trust in God, follow his example of seeking God's guidance through prayer, and trust in God's faithfulness to deliver us in our own times of challenge and adversity.

CHAPTER 33

2Ch. 33:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-five years.

2Ch. 33:2 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

2Ch. 33:3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshipped them.

2Ch. 33:4 He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem for ever."

2Ch. 33:5 In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to

all the starry hosts.

2Ch. 33:6 He sacrificed his sons in [Or He made his sons pass through] the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practised sorcery, 1078

divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

2Ch. 33:7 He took the carved image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name for ever.

2Ch. 33:8 I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your forefathers, if only they will be careful to do everything that I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and ordinances given through Moses."

2Ch. 33:9 But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

2Ch. 33:10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.

2Ch. 33:11 So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

2Ch. 33:12 In his distress he sought the favour of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

2Ch. 33:13 And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

2Ch. 33:14 Afterwards he rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David, west of the Gihon spring in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate and encircling the hill of Ophel; he also made it much higher. He stationed military commanders in all the fortified cities in Judah.

2Ch. 33:15 He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the LORD, as well as all the altars he had built 1079

on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city.

2Ch. 33:16 Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings [Traditionally peace offerings] and thank-offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel.

2Ch. 33:17 The people, however, continued to sacrifice at the high

places, but only to the LORD their God.

2Ch. 33:18 The other events of Manasseh's reign, including his prayer to his God and the words the seers spoke to him in the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, are written in the annals of the kings of Israel. [That is, Judah, as frequently in 2 Chronicles]

2Ch. 33:19 His prayer and how God was moved by his entreaty, as well as all his sins and unfaithfulness, and the sites where he built high places and set up Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself — all are written in the records of the seers.

[One Hebrew manuscript and Septuagint; most Hebrew manuscripts of Hozai]

2Ch. 33:20 Manasseh rested with his fathers and was buried in his palace. And Amon his son succeeded him as king.

2Ch. 33:21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for two years.

2Ch. 33:22 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. Amon worshipped and offered sacrifices to all the idols Manasseh had made.

2Ch. 33:23 But unlike his father Manasseh, he did not humble himself before the LORD; Amon increased his guilt.

2Ch. 33:24 Amon's officials conspired against him and assassinated him in his palace.

2Ch. 33:25 Then the people of the land killed all who had plotted against King Amon, and they made Josiah his son king in his place.

Chapter 33 of 2 Chronicles begins with the account of the reign of Manasseh, who became king at the age of twelve and ruled for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. Manasseh did evil in the sight of the Lord by following the practices of the nations whom the Lord had driven out of the land of Israel. He rebuilt the high places, erected altars to other gods, and practiced idolatry, even sacrificing his own sons in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom. This angered the Lord, who sent Assyrian armies to take Manasseh captive and carry him off to Babylon. While in captivity, Manasseh humbled himself before God, repented of his sins, and prayed for forgiveness. God heard his prayer, and Manasseh was restored to his throne in Jerusalem.

The chapter goes on to describe the reign of Manasseh's son Amon, who followed in his father's footsteps and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He only ruled for two years before he was assassinated by his own servants, who were then killed by the people of the land. Amon's son Josiah then became king, and he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He removed the idols and pagan shrines from the land of Israel, repaired the Temple in Jerusalem, and reinstated the observance of the Passover. The chapter concludes with a summary of Josiah's reign and his death.

In summary, chapter 33 of 2 Chronicles tells the story of the reigns of Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah, highlighting the evil deeds of Manasseh and Amon and the reforms of Josiah. It emphasizes the importance of repentance and obedience to God, as demonstrated by

Manasseh's restoration to the throne after his repentance, and by Josiah's efforts to turn the people back to the worship of the one true God.

2 Chronicles chapter 33 records the reign of Manasseh, one of the kings of Judah, and his eventual repentance. Some important verses from this chapter include:

- Verse 2: Manasseh did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.
- Verse 3: Manasseh rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed and set up altars to other gods. He also bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshipped them.
- Verse 9: Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites.
- Verse 11: So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.
- Verse 12: In his distress, Manasseh sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors.
- Verse 13: And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.
- Verse 15: Manasseh got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the Lord, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; he threw them out of the city.
- Verse 16: He repaired the altar of the Lord and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel.
- Verse 17: But the people continued to offer sacrifices at the high places, although only to the Lord their God.

[Chapter 33 of 2 Chronicles recounts the reign of King Manasseh and his eventual repentance. Here is a reflection on this chapter:](#)

[Chapter 33 of 2 Chronicles presents a sobering account of King Manasseh's reign and his eventual repentance. It offers valuable lessons on the consequences of sin, the power of God's mercy, and the potential for transformation through genuine repentance.](#)

[Manasseh's reign is marked by idolatry, pagan worship, and the shedding of innocent blood. He leads the people of Judah astray, causing them to engage in detestable practices. However, in the midst of his wickedness, God sends prophets to warn him and the people of the impending judgment.](#)

[This chapter teaches us about the consequences of sin and the importance of turning back to God. Manasseh's actions bring disaster upon himself and the nation. He experiences personal affliction, defeat, and captivity. Yet, even in his lowest point, Manasseh humbles himself before God, repents, and seeks His forgiveness.](#)

Furthermore, the chapter emphasizes the power of God's mercy and grace. Despite Manasseh's wickedness, God hears his prayer, forgives him, and restores him to the throne. It illustrates the depth of God's love and His willingness to extend mercy to those who genuinely repent and turn back to Him.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the potential for transformation through genuine repentance. Manasseh undergoes a remarkable change of heart and works to undo the evil he had perpetrated. He removes the idols, restores the altar of the Lord, and encourages the people to worship the true God. It serves as a reminder that no matter how far we have strayed or how grievous our sins may be, genuine repentance can lead to transformation and restoration in our relationship with God.

In conclusion, Chapter 33 of 2 Chronicles presents a poignant account of King Manasseh's reign, his consequences for sin, and his eventual repentance. It teaches us about the consequences of sin, the power of God's mercy, and the potential for transformation through genuine repentance. May we be reminded of the seriousness of sin, the availability of God's forgiveness, and the transformative power of repentance in our own lives. Let us humbly turn to God, seek His forgiveness, and experience the restoration and transformation that only He can bring.

CHAPTER 34

2Ch. 34:1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-one years.

2Ch. 34:2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

2Ch. 34:3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

2Ch. 34:4 Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

2Ch. 34:5 He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem.

2Ch. 34:6 In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them,

2Ch. 34:7 he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

2Ch. 34:8 In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to

repair the temple of the LORD his God.

2Ch. 34:9 They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the doorkeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

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2Ch. 34:10 Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the LORD's temple. These men paid the workers who repaired and restored the temple.

2Ch. 34:11 They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin.

2Ch. 34:12 The men did the work faithfully. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites — all who were skilled in playing musical instruments —

2Ch. 34:13 had charge of the labourers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and doorkeepers.

2Ch. 34:14 While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses.

2Ch. 34:15 Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan.

2Ch. 34:16 Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him: "Your officials are doing everything that has been committed to them.

2Ch. 34:17 They have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the supervisors and workers."

2Ch. 34:18 Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

2Ch. 34:19 When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.
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2Ch. 34:20 He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, [Also called Acbor son of Micaiah] Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant:

2Ch. 34:21 "Go and enquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that is poured out on

us because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.”

2Ch. 34:22 Hilkiah and those the king had sent with him [One Hebrew manuscript, Vulgate and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts do not have had sent with him.] went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, [Also called Tikvah] the son of Hasrah, [Also called Harhas] keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.

2Ch. 34:23 She said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me,

2Ch. 34:24 `This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people — all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah.

2Ch. 34:25 Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all that their hands have made, [Or by everything they have done] my anger will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.’

2Ch. 34:26 Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, `This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard:

2Ch. 34:27 Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD.

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2Ch. 34:28 Now I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.”“ So they took her answer back to the king.

2Ch. 34:29 Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

2Ch. 34:30 He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites — all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD.

2Ch. 34:31 The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD — to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

2Ch. 34:32 Then he made everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in

accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

2Ch. 34:33 Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he made all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Chapter 34 of 2 Chronicles begins with the story of Josiah, who became king of Judah at the young age of eight. Josiah was known for his faithfulness to God and his efforts to restore the worship of God in Judah. In the eighth year of his reign, when Josiah was sixteen years old, he began to seek the God of his father David.

Josiah ordered the restoration of the Temple of the Lord, which had fallen into disrepair due to the neglect of his predecessors. He instructed the priests to collect money from the people in order to fund the repairs, and they carried out the work faithfully.

During the restoration of the temple, the Book of the Law was discovered, which was likely the book of Deuteronomy. When Josiah heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes in repentance and called for the priests and the people to turn back to the Lord. Josiah then went on a mission to cleanse the land of all the idols and false gods that had been introduced by previous kings. He destroyed altars, idols, and high places throughout the land of Judah and even in the northern kingdom of Israel.

Josiah also reinstated the celebration of the Passover, which had not been observed in Judah for many years. He gathered the priests and Levites, as well as the people of Judah and Israel who were living in Judah, and celebrated the Passover according to the Law of Moses.

The chapter concludes with a summary of Josiah's reign and his legacy of faithfulness to the Lord. Despite the fact that the people of Judah would eventually fall away from God once again, Josiah's reign was remembered as a time of great spiritual renewal and devotion to God.

That concludes the description of 2 Chronicles chapter 34.

2 Chronicles chapter 34 describes the reign of King Josiah of Judah. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years." (2 Chronicles 34:1) - This verse gives us the age and length of reign of King Josiah, who was one of the most righteous kings of Judah.
2. "In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David." (2 Chronicles 34:3a) - This verse tells us that Josiah turned to God at a young age, and highlights his commitment to seeking God.
3. "He ordered the altars of the Baals to be torn down and the incense altars that were above them to be smashed. He also made sure that the Asherah poles, the idols and the images were broken to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them." (2 Chronicles 34:4) - Josiah took a strong stand against idol worship and worked to remove all traces of it from Judah.
4. "He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord." (2 Chronicles 34:30) - This verse describes

- how Josiah had the lost book of the law discovered in the temple and then read it to the people, renewing their commitment to following God's commands.
5. "The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book." (2 Chronicles 34:31) - This verse shows Josiah's personal commitment to following God and encouraging the people of Judah to do the same.

Chapter 34 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the reign of King Josiah and his efforts to bring about religious reforms in Judah. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 34 of 2 Chronicles presents an inspiring account of King Josiah's commitment to God and his efforts to bring about religious reforms in Judah. It offers valuable lessons on the importance of rediscovering God's Word, seeking spiritual renewal, and the impact of individual leadership on a nation.

Josiah becomes king at a young age and determines to follow the ways of the Lord. He initiates a comprehensive reform campaign to rid the land of idolatry, restore the Temple, and reinstate the proper worship of God. In the process, the Book of the Law is discovered, leading to a renewed commitment to God's Word and a national revival.

This chapter teaches us about the power of rediscovering and heeding God's Word. The discovery of the Book of the Law in the Temple leads to a deep spiritual awakening among the people. Josiah and the nation realize how far they have strayed from God's commands and make a collective decision to turn back to Him. It serves as a reminder of the transformative impact of God's Word when we humble ourselves, listen to His voice, and align our lives with His truth.

Furthermore, the chapter emphasizes the importance of seeking spiritual renewal. Josiah recognizes the need for genuine repentance and seeks God's guidance. He takes active steps to remove idolatry, repair the Temple, and reinstate proper worship. His example inspires the people to follow suit, resulting in a period of spiritual restoration and revival. It highlights the power of individual leadership in setting the tone for spiritual renewal within a nation.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the potential for national transformation through individual obedience. Despite the prevailing idolatry and apostasy in Judah, Josiah's unwavering commitment to God's commands and his pursuit of righteousness have a profound impact. His actions inspire the people to follow his lead, leading to widespread reforms and the reestablishment of a faithful worship of God. It serves as a reminder that individual obedience and leadership can influence the spiritual trajectory of an entire nation.

In conclusion, Chapter 34 of 2 Chronicles offers an inspiring account of King Josiah's commitment to God, his efforts to bring about religious reforms, and the resulting

spiritual renewal in Judah. It teaches us about the power of rediscovering God's Word, seeking spiritual renewal, and the impact of individual leadership on a nation. May we be inspired by Josiah's example, prioritize the study and obedience of God's Word, seek spiritual renewal in our lives and communities, and understand the potential for our individual obedience to bring about positive transformation in the world around us.

CHAPTER 35

2Ch. 35:1 Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month.

2Ch. 35:2 He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the LORD's temple.

2Ch. 35:3 He said to the Levites, who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the LORD: "Put the sacred ark in the

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temple that Solomon son of David king of Israel built. It is not to be carried about on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

2Ch. 35:4 Prepare yourselves by families in your divisions, according to the directions written by David king of Israel and by his son Solomon.

2Ch. 35:5 "Stand in the holy place with a group of Levites for each sub-division of the families of your fellow countrymen, the lay people.

2Ch. 35:6 Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate yourselves and prepare the lambs for your fellow countrymen, doing what the LORD commanded through Moses."

2Ch. 35:7 Josiah provided for all the lay people who were there a total of thirty thousand sheep and goats for the Passover offerings, and also three thousand cattle — all from the king's own possessions.

2Ch. 35:8 His officials also contributed voluntarily to the people and the priests and Levites. Hilkiyah, Zechariah and Jehiel, the administrators of God's temple, gave the priests two thousand six hundred Passover offerings and three hundred cattle.

2Ch. 35:9 Also Conaniah along with Shemaiah and Nethanel, his brothers, and Hashabiah, Jeiel and Jozabad, the leaders of the Levites, provided five thousand Passover offerings and five hundred head of cattle for the Levites.

2Ch. 35:10 The service was arranged and the priests stood in their places with the Levites in their divisions as the king had ordered.

2Ch. 35:11 The Passover lambs were slaughtered, and the priests sprinkled the blood handed to them, while the Levites skinned the animals.

2Ch. 35:12 They set aside the burnt offerings to give them to the subdivisions of the families of the people to offer to the LORD, as is written in the Book of Moses. They did the same with the cattle.

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2Ch. 35:13 They roasted the Passover animals over the fire as prescribed, and boiled the holy offerings in pots, cauldrons and pans and served them quickly to all the people.

2Ch. 35:14 After this, they made preparations for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were sacrificing the burnt offerings and the fat portions until nightfall. So the Levites made preparations for themselves and for the Aaronic priests.

2Ch. 35:15 The musicians, the descendants of Asaph, were in the places prescribed by David, Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun the king's seer. The gatekeepers at each gate did not need to leave their posts, because their fellow Levites made the preparations for them.

2Ch. 35:16 So at that time the entire service of the LORD was carried out for the celebration of the Passover and the offering of burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, as King Josiah had ordered.

2Ch. 35:17 The Israelites who were present celebrated the Passover at that time and observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

2Ch. 35:18 The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel; and none of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah, with the priests, the Levites and all Judah and Israel who were there with the people of Jerusalem.

2Ch. 35:19 This Passover was celebrated in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign.

2Ch. 35:20 After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah marched out to meet him in battle.

2Ch. 35:21 But Neco sent messengers to him saying, "What quarrel is there between you and me, O king of Judah? It is not you I am attacking at this time, but the house with which I am at

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war. God has told me to hurry; so stop opposing God, who is with me, or he will destroy you."

2Ch. 35:22 Josiah, however, would not turn away from him, but disguised himself to engage him in battle. He would not listen to what Neco had said at God's command but went to fight him on the plain of Megiddo.

2Ch. 35:23 Archers shot King Josiah, and he told his officers, "Take me

away; I am badly wounded.”

2Ch. 35:24 So they took him out of his chariot, put him in the other chariot he had and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died.

He was buried in the tombs of his fathers, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him.

2Ch. 35:25 Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah, and to this day all the men and women singers commemorate Josiah in the laments.

These became a tradition in Israel and are written in the Laments.

2Ch. 35:26 The other events of Josiah’s reign and his acts of devotion, according to what is written in the Law of the LORD —

2Ch. 35:27 all the events, from beginning to end, are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

Chapter 35 describes the great Passover celebration that King Josiah held in Jerusalem. He ordered the Levites to cleanse and repair the temple and to prepare it for the Passover sacrifice. Josiah also provided many animals for the sacrifice, and the people of Israel came to the temple from all over the country to celebrate the Passover.

The Levites and priests carried out the Passover sacrifice, and they also offered burnt offerings and other sacrifices. The people of Israel celebrated the Passover with great joy, and they also observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

The chapter mentions that this Passover celebration was particularly noteworthy because it was the first time since the days of Samuel the prophet that a Passover had been celebrated with such grandeur and devotion. Josiah's commitment to God and his people, and his efforts to restore proper worship in Judah, earned him high praise in the eyes of the chronicler.

The chapter concludes with a brief account of Josiah's death in battle against the forces of Pharaoh Neco of Egypt. The people of Judah mourned Josiah's passing and lamented the loss of such a righteous and faithful king.

2 Chronicles chapter 35 describes the Passover celebration that King Josiah of Judah organized. The Passover was an important religious festival in Judaism that commemorated the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. Some important verses from this chapter include:

- "Then Josiah celebrated the Passover to the Lord in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month" (2 Chronicles 35:1). This verse sets the scene for the Passover celebration that Josiah organizes.
- "He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the Lord's temple" (2 Chronicles 35:2). Josiah takes an active role in organizing the Passover, appointing priests to their duties and encouraging them in their service.
- "He said to the Levites, who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the Lord: 'Put the sacred ark in the temple that Solomon son of David king of Israel built. It is not to be carried about on your shoulders. Now serve the Lord your God and his people Israel'" (2 Chronicles 35:3). Josiah instructs the Levites to put the sacred ark in the temple and to serve the Lord and the people of Israel.

- "Josiah provided for all the laypeople who were there a total of thirty thousand lambs and goats for the Passover offerings, and also three thousand cattle—all from the king's own possessions" (2 Chronicles 35:7). Josiah is generous in providing for the people who come to celebrate the Passover, offering them a large number of lambs, goats, and cattle.
- "The service of the priests and Levites was exemplary. They carried out the service of the Lord exactly as prescribed by King David" (2 Chronicles 35:16). The priests and Levites carry out their duties in an exemplary manner, following the example set by King David.
- "The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel; and none of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah, with the priests, the Levites and all Judah and Israel who were there with the people of Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 35:18). This verse highlights the significance of Josiah's Passover celebration, which was unprecedented in its scope and scale.

Chapter 35 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the observance of the Passover under the reign of King Josiah. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 35 of 2 Chronicles presents a significant event in the reign of King Josiah—the observance of the Passover. It offers valuable lessons on the importance of remembering God's deliverance, renewing our commitment to Him, and the blessings that come from obedience.

Josiah takes great care to organize and prepare for the Passover, following the instructions given in the Book of the Law. He gathers the people, encourages them to recommit themselves to the Lord, and ensures that the Passover is celebrated with great joy and reverence. The chapter highlights the significance of this holy feast in commemorating God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

This chapter teaches us about the importance of remembering God's faithfulness and deliverance in our lives. The observance of the Passover serves as a reminder of God's mighty acts and His redemption of His people. It provides an opportunity for reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to serving Him. It serves as a reminder for us to regularly remember and celebrate God's faithfulness in our lives, recognizing His hand at work and giving thanks for His deliverance.

Furthermore, the chapter emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands. Josiah ensures that the Passover is observed according to the prescribed guidelines, demonstrating his commitment to honoring God's Word. As a result, the celebration is marked by joy, unity, and the blessings of God. It illustrates the principle that obedience to God's instructions brings forth His favor and blessings in our lives.

Moreover, this chapter reveals the importance of spiritual leadership. Josiah's role as king involves organizing and leading the observance of the Passover. His example inspires the

people to follow suit and recommit themselves to the Lord. It underscores the influential role leaders can play in facilitating spiritual renewal and guiding others in the ways of God.

In conclusion, Chapter 35 of 2 Chronicles presents a significant event in the reign of King Josiah—the observance of the Passover. It teaches us about the importance of remembering God's deliverance, renewing our commitment to Him, and the blessings that come from obedience. May we be inspired by Josiah's example, regularly remember and celebrate God's faithfulness in our lives, and commit ourselves to obedience to His Word. Let us strive for spiritual renewal and the blessings that flow from a devoted and obedient relationship with our faithful God.

CHAPTER 36

2Ch. 36:1 And the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in place of his father.

2Ch. 36:2 Jehoahaz [Hebrew Joahaz, a variant of Jehoahaz; also in verse 4] was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months.

2Ch. 36:3 The king of Egypt dethroned him in Jerusalem and imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents [That is, about 3 1/3 tons (about 3.4 metric tons)] of silver and a talent [That is, about 75 pounds (about 34 kilograms)] of gold.

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2Ch. 36:4 The king of Egypt made Eliakim, a brother of Jehoahaz, king over Judah and Jerusalem and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Eliakim's brother Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt.

2Ch. 36:5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God.

2Ch. 36:6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.

2Ch. 36:7 Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon articles from the temple of the LORD and put them in his temple [Or palace] there.

2Ch. 36:8 The other events of Jehoiakim's reign, the detestable things he did and all that was found against him, are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king.

2Ch. 36:9 Jehoiachin was eighteen [One Hebrew manuscript, some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 24:8); most Hebrew manuscripts eight] years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months and ten days. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

2Ch. 36:10 In the spring, King Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon, together with articles of value from the temple of the LORD, and he made Jehoiachin's uncle, [Hebrew brother, that is, relative (see 2 Kings 24:17)] Zedekiah, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

2Ch. 36:11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years.

2Ch. 36:12 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the LORD.

2Ch. 36:13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him take an oath in God's name. He became stiff-
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necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the LORD, the God of Israel.

2Ch. 36:14 Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the LORD, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

2Ch. 36:15 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling-place.

2Ch. 36:16 But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

2Ch. 36:17 He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, [Or Chaldeans] who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.

2Ch. 36:18 He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials.

2Ch. 36:19 They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

2Ch. 36:20 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

2Ch. 36:21 The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfilment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

2Ch. 36:22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

2Ch. 36:23 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you — may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.”“

Chapter 36 concludes the Book of Chronicles with a recounting of the Babylonian captivity of Judah and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The chapter begins by describing the reign of King Jehoahaz, who was taken into captivity by the Egyptian Pharaoh Neco after only three months on the throne. Neco then appointed Jehoahaz's brother, Eliakim, as king and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim was a wicked king who led Judah into further disobedience to God.

After Jehoiakim's reign, his son Jehoiachin became king, but he too was taken into captivity by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, along with many other prominent people in Judah. The chapter describes how Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah, another son of Josiah, as king, but he too rebelled against Babylon and led Judah further into sin.

Despite God's warnings through the prophets, the people of Judah continued to ignore His commands, and as a result, the Babylonians came and destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, taking many of the people captive. The chapter ends with a glimmer of hope as it notes that after 70 years of captivity, God stirred up the heart of Cyrus, the king of Persia, to allow the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.

2 Chronicles chapter 36 is the final chapter of the book and it provides a summary of the events leading up to the Babylonian captivity of Judah. Here are some of the important verses in this chapter:

1. "Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 36:1) - This verse introduces the final kings of Judah and sets the stage for the events that will unfold.
2. "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done." (2 Chronicles 36:2) - This verse describes the reign of Jehoahaz, who continued the pattern of idolatry and disobedience that characterized the kings of Judah.
3. "And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place." (2 Chronicles 36:15) - This verse highlights the mercy and patience of God, who repeatedly sent prophets to warn the people of Judah to turn away from their sins.
4. "And they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy." (2 Chronicles 36:16) - This verse describes how the people of Judah ignored the warnings of the prophets and persisted in their rebellion, leading to the judgment of God.

5. "Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand." (2 Chronicles 36:17) - This verse describes the Babylonian captivity, which was a devastating judgment on the people of Judah.
6. "And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia." (2 Chronicles 36:20) - This verse concludes the chapter and the book of 2 Chronicles, describing the exile of the people of Judah to Babylon, where they remained for 70 years until the Persians conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem.

Chapter 36 of 2 Chronicles marks the final chapter of the book and recounts the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile. Here is a reflection on this chapter:

Chapter 36 of 2 Chronicles concludes the book with a somber account of the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile. It serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences of disobedience, the faithfulness of God's warnings, and the hope of restoration.

The chapter describes how the people of Judah persistently disobey God and reject His prophets, leading to the Lord's judgment upon them. Despite numerous warnings and calls to repentance, the people continue to worship idols, engage in wickedness, and neglect the commands of God. As a result, Jerusalem is besieged, the temple is destroyed, and the people are taken captive by the Babylonians.

This chapter teaches us about the seriousness of disobedience and the consequences it can bring. The people of Judah's persistent refusal to follow God's ways ultimately leads to their downfall. It serves as a warning for us to take seriously the commands and warnings of God, to heed His instructions, and to avoid the path of disobedience that can lead to destruction.

Furthermore, the chapter highlights the faithfulness of God in His warnings and judgments. Throughout the history of Judah, God sends prophets to call the people to repentance and warn of the impending judgment. His desire is for them to turn back to Him and experience His mercy and forgiveness. Even in the midst of judgment and exile, God's faithfulness endures, and there is a glimmer of hope for restoration in the future.

Moreover, this chapter points to the hope of restoration and the faithfulness of God's promises. At the end of the chapter, it is mentioned that Cyrus, the king of Persia, is moved by God to issue a decree allowing the Israelites to return to their land and rebuild the temple. This sets the stage for the eventual return from exile and the restoration of Jerusalem.

In conclusion, Chapter 36 of 2 Chronicles serves as a sobering conclusion to the book, recounting the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile. It teaches us about the consequences of disobedience, the faithfulness of God's warnings, and the hope of

restoration. May we learn from the mistakes of the people of Judah, take heed of God's commands, and remain faithful to Him. Let us remember that even in times of judgment and exile, God is faithful to His promises and offers hope for restoration and redemption to those who turn back to Him.

Notes:

2 Chronicles is a part of the Christian Bible, and is a continuation of the history of Judah and Israel from 1 Chronicles. While it is a relatively straightforward historical account, there are still some difficult questions and uncertainties surrounding its interpretation.

Here are some examples:

1. Why is there relatively little recorded history about Israel in 2 Chronicles? Some scholars suggest this may be because the rulers of Israel were not as strong in politics and religion as those of Judah, and therefore were more overlooked in the writing of historical records.
2. Why do the historical accounts of Hezekiah and Josiah in 2 Chronicles seem to differ from other Old Testament books? Some scholars suggest this may be because 2 Chronicles portrays these kings in a more idealized and deified manner, while other books focus more on their human flaws and political mistakes.
3. How does the description of the Temple in 2 Chronicles differ from other Old Testament books? Some scholars suggest this may be because the authors of 2 Chronicles had a different perspective and purpose, and wanted to emphasize the holiness and importance of the Temple.
4. Why are there elements of myth and legend in 2 Chronicles, such as stories of mythological heroes and descriptions of witchcraft? Some scholars suggest these elements reflect the authors' understanding and borrowing from previous cultures and beliefs.
5. Why are there many condemnations of idolatry and worship of other gods in 2 Chronicles, and does this reflect the author's narrow-mindedness and exclusivity? Some scholars suggest this may be for the purpose of unifying and solidifying the religious identity of the Jews at the time, while also reflecting the historical and political context.

While there may not be definitive answers, exploring these questions can deepen our understanding of the historical and theological significance of 2 Chronicles within the broader narrative of the Christian Bible.