

Through the Bible

2 CHRONICLES

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2 CHRONICLES



FIRST NINE CHAPTERS OF 2 CHRONICLES DEAL WITH THE RULE OF **SOLOMON**, MUCH OF WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN WHEN STUDYING 1 KINGS.

IN CHAPTERS 10--36, WE READ OF THE REIGNS OF 20 KINGS OF JUDAH -- REHOBAM, ABIJAH, ASA, JEHOASHAPATH, JEHOAM, AHAZIAH, ATHALIAH (QUEEN), JOASH, AMAZIAH, UZZIAH, JOTHAM, AHAZ, HEZEKIAH, MANASSEH, AMON, JOSIAH, JEHOAHAS, JEHOIAKIM, JEHOIACHIN AND ZEDEKIAH. THESE CHAPTERS DESCRIBE **FIVE PERIODS OF BACKSLIDING** IN JUDAH AND **FOUR TIMES OF RETURNING** TO GOD. FINALLY IT ENDED IN JUDAH BEING TAKEN **CAPTIVE** TO **BABYLON**.

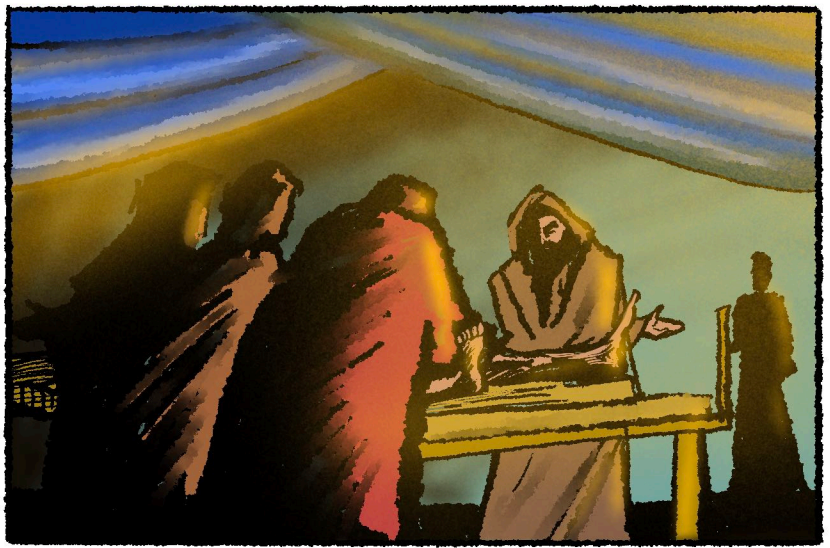


IN CHAPTERS 14 TO 16 WE READ OF KING ASA WHO STARTED OUT AS AN **EXCELLENT KING** (14:2--6). WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY A MILLION-MAN ETHIOPIAN ARMY, HE CALLED ON THE LORD WITH ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL PRAYERS FOR **HELP** (14:11). THAT PRAYER OF **HELPLESS** DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD IS A GOOD PRAYER TO PRAY WHEN **WE** FACE SOME **TRIAL** TOO. BUT **AFTER** THE VICTORY, A PROPHET CAME AND WARNED ASA. GOD KNEW THE DANGER OF **ASA** BECOMING MORE **SELF-CONFIDENT** AFTER HIS VICTORY AND OF CEASING TO BE **CONSTANTLY** DEPENDENT ON THE LORD FOR HELP. SURE ENOUGH THIS WAS **EXACTLY** WHAT HAPPENED. FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS THINGS WENT WELL WITH ASA. BUT THEN HE FACED ISRAEL. HE DECIDED TO SEEK FOR **HELP** FROM A **HEATHEN KING**..



GOD SENT THE PROPHET **HANANI** TO POINT THIS OUT TO ASA. IN HANANI'S WORDS TO ASA, (16 :9) WE HAVE ONE OF THE MOST **WONDERFUL** PROMISES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - **GOD'S EYES** ARE MOVING AROUND LOOKING FOR **WAYS** IN WHICH HE CAN **SUPPORT** THESE **WHOLEHEARTED** ONES. IF OUR HEART IS **COMPLETELY** THE LORD'S, AND IF OUR **ONLY AMBITION** IS TO **GLORIFY** GOD AND DO **HIS WILL**, THEN THE LORD WILL LEAD US TO **BLESS** OTHERS AND BE **BLESSED**. THAT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE **CORRECT** IN THE **DOCTRINES**, BUT THEIR **HEARTS** ARE **NOT COMPLETELY** THE LORD'S. THEY HAVE **OTHER AMBITIONS**. THEY SEEK FOR **HONOUR, MONEY AND COMFORT**. THEREFORE THEY **NEVER** EXPERIENCE THE FULFILMENT OF THIS PROMISE. GIVE UP **EVERY CARNAL** AMBITION THEN AND GIVE YOUR **WHOLE HEART** TO THE LORD TO FULFIL HIS PURPOSE ALONE, AND HE WILL WORK ON YOUR BEHALF **MIRACULOUSLY**

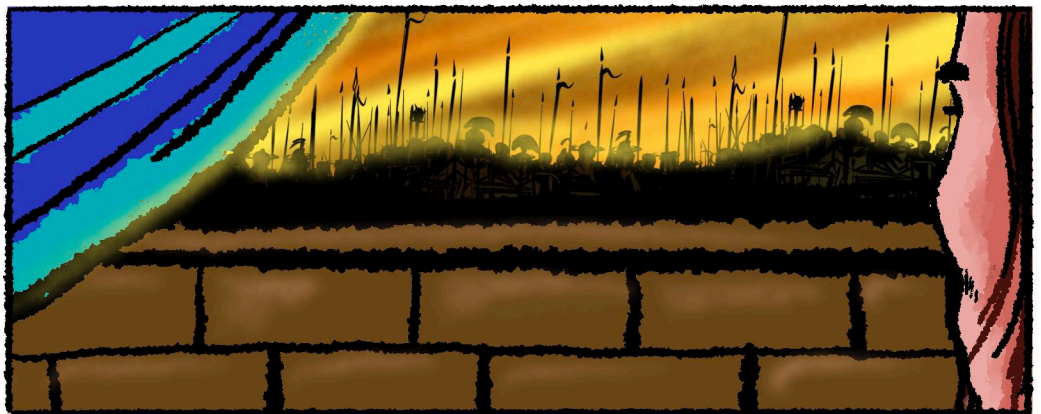
BUT KING ASA DID NOT RESPOND IN **REPENTANCE** TO HANANI'S MESSAGE. INSTEAD, HE WAS SO **ANGRY** THAT HE **IMPRISONED** THE PROPHET. THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE.



ASA THEN BEGAN TO **OPPRESS** THE POOR ISRAELITES (16:10). THREE YEARS LATER ASA FACED ANOTHER CRISIS -- THIS TIME IN HIS OWN **BODY**. HE HAD A **SICKNESS** THAT AFFECTED HIS **FEET** SEVERELY -- PERHAPS DIABETIC GANGRENE. BEING THE KING HE HAD ENOUGH **MONEY** TO CALL FOR THE BEST **DOCTORS** IN LAND TO ATTEND ON HIM. BUT HE **NEVER** DID WHAT HE **SHOULD** HAVE DONE FIRST, **BEFORE** CALLING THE **DOCTORS** IN: **JUDGE** HIMSELF AND SEEK THE **LORD**. AND SO **DESPITE** THE **BEST** MEDICAL ATTENTION, HE **DIED**



CHAPTER 18: HERE WE READ OF JEHOSHAPHAT JOINING **AHAB** IN GOING TO WAR. THEY ASKED FOR A PROPHECY FROM **MICAIAH** WHO WAS A **TRUE** PROPHET OF GOD. SOMEONE TOLD MICAIAH TO PROPHECY LIKE THE **OTHER** PROPHETS. BUT THE OTHER "PROPHETS" WERE ALL **FALSE** PROPHETS. BUT MICAIAH SAID, "WHAT THE **LORD** TELLS ME TO SPEAK, I WILL **SPEAK**." WE MUST **NOT** BE INFLUENCED IN OUR PREACHING BY WHAT **OTHERS** TELL US TO SAY. IF YOU LISTEN TO **GOD**, HE WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO



WE READ OF A GREAT MULTITUDE OF **ENEMIES** HAD GATHERED TOGETHER TO MAKE **WAR** AGAINST KING JEHOSHAPHAT. JEHOSHAPHAT, HAVING LEARNT A **LESSON** FROM HIS PREVIOUS **COMPROMISE** WITH AHAB, **NOW** DECIDED TO **SEEK** THE **LORD**. HE PRAYS ONE OF THE **FINEST** PRAYERS . NOTICE SEVEN THINGS ABOUT THE PRAYER 1. THE ABSOLUTE **SOVEREIGNTY** OF GOD(VERSE 6).2. WHAT GOD HAD DONE FOR ISRAEL IN THE **PAST** (VERSE 7). 3. THE **PROMISES** OF GOD (VERSE 8, 9).4. THAT ISRAEL WAS GOD'S **INHERITANCE** (VERSE 11).5. THEIR **WEAKNESS** (VERSE 12).6. THEIR LACK OF **WISDOM** (VERSE 12).7. THEIR **DEPENDENCE** ON GOD (VERSE 12)



GOD RESPONDED TO THAT PRAYER IMMEDIATELY BY SENDING A MESSAGE THROUGH A PROPHET SAYING, "**DON'T** BE **AFRAID**. THE BATTLE IS **NOT** YOURS BUT **GOD'S**. GO AND FACE YOUR ENEMIES. THE LORD IS **WITH** YOU" (VERSES 15--17). SO JEHOSHAPHAT SENT THE **SINGERS** INTO **BATTLE** IN **FRONT** OF THE **SOLDIERS**! AND AS THESE SINGERS BEGAN **PRaising** THE LORD, THE LORD DEFEATED ALL. OUR **FAITH** IS EXPRESSED IN **PRaise**. "THEY **BELIEVED** HIS **WORDS** -- THEY SANG HIS **PRaise**" (PSALMS 106:12). THE **REVERSE** IS ALSO TRUE: WHEN WE **DON'T** SING GOD'S **PRaise**, IT PROVES THAT WE **DON'T** **BELIEVE** HIS WORDS!



IN CHAPTER 26 WE READ OF KING **UZZIAH** WHO STARTED OUT WELL. **UZZIAH** BECAME **PROUD** BECAUSE OF HIS SUCCESSES AND DECIDED TO MINISTER AS A **PRIEST** TOO. **AZARIAH**, A **FEARLESS** PRIEST, ALONG WITH EIGHTY OTHER PRIESTS, **OPPOSED** **UZZIAH** (26:17, 18) THANK GOD FOR SUCH MEN WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO REBUKE KINGS. WE NEED A FEW MEN LIKE THAT IN CHRISTENDOM TODAY. **UZZIAH** BECAME **ANGRY** WITH THE PRIESTS. BUT EVEN WHILE HE WAS **ANGRY**, THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD FELL ON HIM AND **LEPROSY** BROKE OUT ON HIS FOREHEAD. HE RAN OUT OF THE TEMPLE (26:20), WAS CUT OFF FROM THE PEOPLE. IT'S A VERY **DANGEROUS** THING WHEN YOU TRY TO MOVE INTO A MINISTRY WHICH GOD HAS **NOT** GIVEN YOU.



IN CHAPTER 32, WE READ OF A **MIRACULOUS** HEALING THAT **HEZEKIAH** EXPERIENCED. THE LORD GAVE HIM A **SIGN** TOO (32:24) -- THE SUN WENT **BACKWARDS** IN THE SKY (2 KINGS 20:1-11). IN **JOSHUA'S** TIME THE SUN HAD ONLY STOOD **STILL**.



SO PEOPLE IN **BABYLON** CAME TO MEET HIM. **HEZEKIAH** FELT VERY **PROUD** OF HIMSELF, AND SHOWED OFF ALL HIS **WEALTH** TO THE **BABYLONIANS**. IT SAYS "**GOD** LEFT **HEZEKIAH** ALONE TO TEST HIM", TO SEE WHETHER HE WOULD BE **HUMBLE** AND GIVE GOD THE **GLORY**.



TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE, THE **EVIL** KING **MANASSEH** **REPENTED** AFTER HE HAD BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE. GOD WAS MOVED BY HIS **PRAYER** AND BROUGHT HIM **BACK** TO JERUSALEM. THEN **MANASSEH** KNEW THAT THE LORD WAS GOD (33:13). IF **SOLOMON** HAD REPENTED LIKE THAT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE. NO SUCH RECORD HOWEVER IS FOUND IN **SOLOMON'S** CASE. IT IS HOW A MAN **ENDS** HIS LIFE THAT MATTERS MORE THAN HOW HE **BEGINS** IT. IN CHAPTER 36:21, WE ARE GIVEN THE **REASON** WHY THE ISRAELITES WERE SENT TO **BABYLON** AS CAPTIVES FOR **70** YEARS.. THE LAW HAD COMMANDED THAT THEY WERE TO GIVE A **SABBATH-REST** TO THE LAND EVERY **SEVENTH** YEAR AND SOW NOTHING THAT YEAR (EXODUS 23:10, 11). BUT THEY **DISOBEYED** GOD FOR **490** YEARS NOT GIVING THE LAND ITS **SABBATH-REST**. SO THEY WERE **PUNISHED**. GOD'S **JUDGEMENTS** ARE **EXACT** AND CATCH UP WITH US SOONER OR LATER.