

One Year through the Old Testament

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II Kings, con't

July 1: II Kings 18:13 – 19:37

1. The Assyrian King invades Judah once more. □ Hezekiah is weak and gives Sennacharib all kinds of gold that was in the temple. □ How do we show similar weakness?
2. In what three ways did the address of the field commander show arrogance and disrespect for the Lord?
3. The field commander made a pretty good case for surrender humanly speaking. □ How did the people show their loyalty toward the Lord and his chosen servant, Hezekiah?
4. Isaiah was advising Hezekiah. □ What, in essence, did he say to Hezekiah?
5. Hezekiah went to the temple to pray. □ What blessings will we find when there is a godly leader leading our land?
6. What is the essence of Isaiah's prophecy against Sennacharib?
7. How long would Hezekiah have to wait before total deliverance from Assyria?
8. What was the immediate deliverance God had in store for Judah? □
9. We are half way through the Old Testament. □ We are going to be excluding Psalms and Proverbs at this time.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious Father, we call on you in the name of our Savior, Jesus, without whom we would have forever remained your enemies. You have turned aside your just wrath over our rebellions toward your own Son, in order that we might be your children. We must confess, however, that our own love and patience have not lived up to the boundless grace that brought us to you. Forgive us our merciless cries for justice when what we really seek is revenge. Send the warm, piercing light of your pardoning love coursing through the hardened recesses of our hearts, that we may love our enemies with new hearts that you alone can give. Amen.

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July 2: II Kings 20:1 – 22:2

1. Take note of Hezekiah as he faces death. □ Why was he weeping bitterly when God told him he was going to die? □
2. Did God change his mind or change his course of action? □ Is there a difference?
3. What purpose did God have for Hezekiah yet?
4. How did God show to Hezekiah that he would have another fifteen years?
5. Why was this a mistake to show Merodach – Baladan the treasury of the Israel?
6. Why was that wrong? What was the judgment?
7. Manasseh followed Hezekiah. □ What was he like?
8. 21:10 is quite an indictment against Manasseh. □ Why?
9. Who succeeded Manasseh? □ What was he like?
10. He didn't last long? □ How did his life end?
11. Josiah comes along and is a breath of fresh air. □ How so?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, gracious Father, the times, we know, are bad for many. □ Work in our hearts, dear Lord, the calming peace of your gospel and the assurance that you are with us now. In your heavenly mercy, lift the burdens that weigh us down. Give us brighter days ahead. In everything, keep us mindful that you will work everything for our good, and keep us focused on the joys that come from knowing that Jesus lives and has a place in heaven for us. Our comfort lies with him, in whose name we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 3: II Kings 22:3 – 23:30

- 1) Josiah was a godly king. □What was going on in Jerusalem at the time that really makes sense?
- 2) In finding the book of the Law that caused people to mourn and despair, what kind of religion was being practiced? □
- 3) What was the good news/bad news from the prophetess?
- 4) Chapter 23 gives a little bit of an answer as to the kind of religion that was being practiced. □What did it include?
- 5) In the 18th year the Passover was celebrated. □How does the patience of God show forth?
- 6) How did Josiah die?

Important thoughts from the reading:

God of mercy and God of might, our country has long enjoyed peace within our borders. We praise you for watching over and protecting our undeserving nation. In these uncertain days, stretch forth your mighty hand and restrain those who would bring disaster and destruction into our land. Keep our citizenry and our armed forces vigilant, so our borders may remain secure. Invigorate all those who—by land, sea, and air—maintain a constant guard on the many miles of our borders. Preserve peace in our country that many more people may use their time of grace to find spiritual peace in Jesus Christ. Be our sure defense that your people may continue to live their lives in peace and quietness. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, the world's only Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 4: II Kings 23:31 – 25:30

- 1) Who succeeded Josiah?
- 2) He reigned very briefly. □ Why?
- 3) Who was Jehoiakim?
- 4) Who comes onto the scene as chapter twenty-four begins?
- 5) What was Jehoiakim's son?
- 6) Who was the world power?
- 7) What was happening to the people of Jerusalem?
- 8) What happened to Jehoachin? Who succeeded him?
- 9) How long was the siege of Jerusalem?
- 10) How bad was the siege?
- 11) Who was Nebuzaradan?
- 12) What things happened to the city of Jerusalem when the Babylonians finally took it over?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Holy One of Israel makes us painfully aware of our sin. Show us that our hearts—apart from you—are dead as stone. Throw away our excuses—our attempts to duck responsibility. Wash us squeaky clean deep inside with Jesus' innocent blood. Give us new hearts, with new attitudes and priorities. Engrave on our hearts the prayer Jesus spoke the night he was betrayed—I pray that all those who believe in me may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be brought to complete unity. Unite us with our Savior, that through him we may be united with all believers. And, by your grace alone, bring unity to our nation. Take people of countless sizes, shapes, colors, languages, and customs—and make them one. Hold us safe and close in Jesus' nail-pierced hands. Amen.

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One Year through the Old Testament

I Chronicles

July 5: I Chronicles 1:1 - 2:17

The next 15 chapters are a hard read. They will go through the family of the Messiah and the tribes of Israel. Chronicles was written by Ezra (probably at the time when the Children of Israel were coming back from exile after 539 BC). They were an encouragement to be faithful and remember their roots as the people God had chosen to bear the Messiah to the world.

- 1) What is the purpose of a genealogy?
- 2) Verses 1-3 cover what period of history? Why were these men named?
- 3) Who were Japheth (vs. 5), Ham (vs. 8), and Shem (vs. 17)?
- 4) Which son of Abraham was the son of the promise?
- 5) How was the nation of Israel and Edom related? 1: 38-54 are all about Edom's descendants.
- 6) As chapter 2 begins Judah's family is mentioned. Why is that important?
- 7) Who is Jesse? Notice the sons of Jesse.

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Holy One of Israel, make us painfully aware of our sin. Show us that our hearts—apart from you—are dead as stone. Throw away our excuses—our attempts to duck responsibility. Wash us squeaky clean deep inside with Jesus' innocent blood. Give us new hearts, with new attitudes and priorities. Engrave on our hearts the prayer Jesus spoke the night he was betrayed—I pray that all those who believe in me may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be brought to complete unity. Unite us with our Savior, that through him we may be united with all believers. And, by your grace alone, bring unity to our nation. Take people of countless sizes, shapes, colors, languages, and customs—and make them one. Hold us safe and close in Jesus' nail-pierced hands. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 6: I Chronicles 2:18 – I Chronicles 4:4

- 1) Who is Caleb? Why was he important?
- 2) Who is Bezalel (verse 20)?
- 3) Make sure you read about Caleb's descendants. They make wonderful material for trivial pursuit questions.
- 4) David's sons are listed. Do you remember the fate of Absalom and Adonijah?
- 5) You can see where Solomon fits in, how about Tamar?
- 6) What is listed from 3: 10-16?
- 7) Judah's descendants are listed. What is important about that?
- 8) Why is all this important to you?

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Important thoughts from the reading:

Father, you know that the world is in constant turmoil like an angry sea. We are helpless against the storms that rage around us. We have no answer for the tumult of trouble. We can't stop the churning. The waves of fury threaten to sweep us away until we are no more. But you have promised to be our rock of refuge. You have promised to be our safe haven from the storm, our shelter from the wind and strife. You have said, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations." You have told us that our strength lies in quietness and trust in you. No matter how many troubles and dangers swirl around us, help us to trust your promise that you are still in control and that you will help and protect us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 7: I Chronicles 4:5 – 5:17

- 1) From chapters 4-7 the families of the twelve tribes of Israel are mentioned.
- 2) Remember that Ezra probably wrote Chronicles. □ That puts this after the Children of Israel were living in the Babylonian Captivity for seventy years and then were able to return to Jerusalem. □ What do you think the value of such a genealogy would be?
- 3) Jabez was a pain when he was born. □ How did he become quite the opposite?
- 4) Why did the house of Judah need to be returned from exile?
- 5) Simeon's history is relatively easy to follow
 - a. Verses 24-27 describe his clans
 - b. Verses 28-33 describe his settlements
 - c. Verses 38-43 describe his history
- 6) Reuben's family is described in verses 1-10
- 7) Reuben was the firstborn of Jacob's sons. □ He lost his rank to Judah and his inheritance to Joseph. □ Why? □
- 8) Gad's family is listed next. □ Why?
- 9) Keep reading. □ We only have to go to Chapter fifteen and be done with the genealogy.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord and Maker of all people, impress on people of every nation that they are the children of your creation. Lord and Ruler of nations, bless all efforts to promote peace and understanding among the nations of the world. Lord and Savior of the world, remove hatred and enmity from the hearts of people. Enable people everywhere to live at peace with one another. Direct all leaders of government to strive for peace and to conduct international relations so that more people may live in quietness and peace. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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July 8: I Chronicles 5:18 – 6:81

- 1) The Chronicler records a battle that was fought during the time of Saul centuries before. □ Why?
- 2) He also pointed out how these same people changed over time. □ Why would he speak to people who were returning from the Babylonian Captivity about that?
- 3) Chapter six begins with the listing of Levi's sons. □ Who were Gershon, Kohath and Merari? □ Why were they important?
- 4) Why was Amran (verse 4) so important?
- 5) What was the difference between a priest and a Levite?
- 6) Verse 31 begins the temple workers. □ As you read the psalms you will find some of the people listed here, listed there.
- 7) Verse 54 shows us where these people lived.
- 8) Keep slugging away at it. □

Important thoughts from the reading:

Father, set my heart free from evil desire. Break my will, send it to the cross with Jesus, and let it die there. Such a prayer is beyond my soul's power to produce on its own. Yet through the power of baptism, by the power of your promises, by the power of the love I see revealed in the suffering face of Christ, I know you give me the victory in him. In him you set my heart free. Amen.

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July 9: I Chronicles 7:1 – 8:40

- 1) The tribe of Issachar is listed. □ The writer numbers the number of soldiers that were available during the time of David. □ Why is that important?
- 2) The writer speaks of Benjamin's tribe in chapters 8 and 9 as well as here. □ According to the Scriptures Benjamin is the one that remains very loyal to David. □ Along with Judah and Levi, they would make up the bulk of people who would come back from exile. □ Why was that important?
- 3) The sons of Naphtali and Manasseh are mentioned. □ Look at verse 15. □ Do you remember Zelophehad?
- 4) In 7: 28 the lands which they occupied are mentioned. □
- 5) Can you pick out names that are mentioned in other places in the Bible and are particularly significant?
- 6) Keep plugging along.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Savior, help us to pray. Give us confidence in the Father's good will toward us. Make us sure that, for your sake, he delights in our prayers, answers them wisely, and uses them to accomplish his will. Support the praying church by your presence among us and by the petitions you offer on our behalf at the throne of mercy. Breathe into us the Holy Spirit to lead our thoughts along the pathways of your will, and let him pray inside us with deep, un-searchable sighs when we do not know what to pray. Amen.

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One Year through the Old Testament

July 10: I Chronicles 9:1 – 10:14

- 1) Why were the people of Judah led off into captivity?
- 2) There were twelve tribes of Israel. □ When were the tribes excluding Judah and Benjamin and the Levites lost? □ To whom?
- 3) When were Benjamin and Judah led off into Captivity? □ To whom?
- 4) Manasseh and Ephraim were also mentioned but not in the detail of the others. □ Why?
- 5) Why was so much time spent on the Levites?
- 6) Verses 35 – 44 are really a genealogy of Saul. □ The rest of the chapter tells us about Saul and how he and his family lost the rule of the kingdom. □ Why was that such a big deal?
- 7) What was Saul guilty of?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sleep. It's a great blessing to clear our minds with you, praise you for the blessings of the day, ask for forgiveness, and bask in the glow of your power and saving grace. Thank you for the time for our bodies and minds to rest, heal, and grow. Thank you for the love you show us in Jesus, who humbled himself to be born as a frail human--someone who needed to sleep just as we do. Jesus, you died a bitter, painful, lonely death for us. Help us remember this limitless love you lavished on us. Help us grow up in our faith and our understanding of your will for us as Christians. Send the Holy Spirit to remind us of everything you have commanded us, and show us how to best apply your principles to our lives as Christians in a hostile, unchristian world. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 11: I Chronicles 11:1 – 12:18

- 1) We hear the record repeated from Samuel of the way that David became king. □ Who preceded him?
- 2) Where was David at the time when the people came to him to become king?
- 3) What kind of attributes did David have that made him the one they wanted?
- 4) Who are the Elite Thirty?
- 5) What does this say about good leaders anywhere including the church? □□

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, it grieves me that anger, strife, and bitterness have become a part of my life. Forgive my sins and renew my spirit so that I will pardon others, correct the mistakes I have made, and be more cheerful toward those around me. Remind me through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 12: I Chronicles 12:19 – 14:17

- 1) Where did the men from Manasseh defect ?
- 2) In 12: 38-40 what indicates that support for David went well beyond a few soldiers who wanted to be on the side of a winner?□
- 3) What great change did David propose for Israel that didn't take place under King Saul?
- 4) As we can see this is naturally going to repeat some of the stories of Samuel and Kings.□When the ark was being moved, why did Uzzah lose his life?
- 5) What is the lesson about when to truly be afraid of God?
- 6) How can we explain David taking more wives and raising more children? (14: 3,4)
- 7) Why was David the apple of God's eye?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared. For daily bread. For the gift of your Son. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 13: I Chronicles 15:1 – 16:36

- 1) What did David make very clear to the Israelites in 15:1-10?
- 2) How does this chapter explain the death of Uzzah and the anger of the Lord?
- 3) The musical instruments were a little hard to understand and how they were put together. □The words alamoth and sheminith seem to be words where musical directions were given.
- 4) This section does say a lot to us when the king wanted to get this aspect of Israel's worship life in order. □What ramification does this have for us?
- 5) How did David express his joy before the Lord as the ark was being transported into the city of Jerusalem? □Who didn't like the way David was worshipping? □What really mattered?
- 6) The psalm sung on the occasion contained portions of Psalms 105, 96, 106. □Why would this psalm be so good for the readers of this Chronicle, who were returning from exile, to hear? □
- 7) How would the following key phrases be so good for people coming back from exile to hear?
 - a) Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
 - b) Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.
 - c) He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations,
 - d) "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."
 - e) For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Holy Spirit, Comforter sent from Jesus, work in us by the Word that we may know the truth in Christ. Guard and keep us in the faith that saves. Fill us with power so that we delight in doing good works to the glory of God the Father. Move us to be active in spreading the good news of Jesus to people everywhere so that you may work saving faith in their hearts also. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 14: I Chronicles 16:37 – 18:17

- 1) In the closing words of chapter 16 what did David see that was done?□
- 2) Chapter 17 is a familiar chapter.□Why would returning exiles be inspired by this story?
- 3) God makes David some incredible promises here.□What are they?
- 4) In 17:17 ff. David talks to the Lord.□What is the main point of the conversation?
- 5) How were the people of Israel totally unique?
- 6) How would David's name be great forever?
- 7) Chapter eighteen details David's victories.□How would that affect the people returning from exile when they were thoroughly defeated?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, we have friends who face many troubles, including ill health. Heal them in keeping with your love and compassion, guide them to wise decisions and straighten out bad decisions that might have been made in their lives. Restore things to normal in their lives. Turn their hearts always to you and guide them in your ways. Forgive them and us for the sins that also cloud our lives and warm us in the sunshine of your grace. Let us know the peace and contentment that comes alone through Christ and his saving Word. Amen.□

One Year through the Old Testament

July 15: I Chronicles 19:1 – 21:30

- 1) In dealing with the Nahash and the Ammonites, how did David show that he was a compassionate leader? How did he show he was a tough leader?
- 2) Behind every leader are good people. We heard about Joab before. Eventually he would turn against David but he had some good points too. What were they?
- 3) What does that say about people?
- 4) In the taking of the census what are lessons we can learn from David?
- 5) Which of the three options that God was going to send would you have taken?
- 6) When were other times in David's life when he said one way or another, "Let me fall into the hands of the Lord?"
- 7) How does this text show why godly leaders for every country are needed?
- 8) What is significant about the threshing floor?
- 9) Why would David insist on paying for it?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord of the Church, we bow before you in humble thanksgiving for the blessings you have bestowed on our congregations. Bless the work of those servants whom you have called to lead us into a deeper understanding of your Word. Preserve the spirit of unity and peace among us. Stir up our hearts and the hearts of our fellow believers to give eager and generous support to the spreading of your Word. Prosper the work that is being carried out in our missions, at home and abroad. Send laborers into your harvest in the power of your Spirit. Let your kingdom come, and let your will be done among us and among all people; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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July 16: I Chronicles 22:1 – 23:32

- 1) Where was the place that the temple was to be built? □ See yesterday's reading.
- 2) What do you think about the statement that David made that the house of God should be of "great magnificence?"
- 3) Why was the fact that David was a war king a detraction to him being a war king?
- 4) What does the expression "a house for my Name" mean?
- 5) What kind of preparations did David do in getting all things ready for building the temple? □
- 6) Why again are the Levites and their family tree mentioned?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Holy, holy, holy, blessed triune God! Each day keep me mindful of your great grace and glory. As I look about at the wonders of creation, let me see behind them the wondrous creator. As I think on the Word of your Son, let me realize your boundless love as Father who sent him to be my Savior. As I live my life by the gospel of Jesus, let your Holy Spirit live in me and guide me to confess your name. Bless me and mine for Jesus' sake. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 17: I Chronicles 24:1 – 26:11

- 1) Why are these records significant?□
- 2) Notice the name of Abihu and Nadab.□Do you remember their fate and why?
- 3) Look at verse 6.□What is a scribe?
- 4) What important job did Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun have?□
- 5) How did they determine their time of service?
- 6) What did the gatekeepers do?
- 7) What lessons are there for us as we look at the activity that took place around the temple?

Important thoughts from the reading:

We have friends, dear God, who are suffering mentally and physically and look to you for peace and comfort. When the medical tests come back that will show the extent of their physical problems and whether they are life threatening, prepare them for whatever will come. If you have a favorable medical report for them, move them to thankfulness and praise and a long life as your servants. If the news is not so favorable, work in them a thankful spirit still that they may grow in faith and strength through your Son, Jesus Christ, and see blessings in the path ahead. Show them your love and make them witnesses to others of that love. Fill them with the peace that Jesus brings that the world cannot bring and with the firm hope that eternal life is theirs in Jesus. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 18: I Chronicles 26:12 – 27:34

- 1) How were all the positions filled?□
- 2) What does that mean?
- 3) What does it mean that the descendants of Ladan were in charge of the treasuries of the temple?
- 4) Why is chapter 27 important to the returning people from exile?□
- 5) How do you explain 27: 23,24?
- 6) Why is it good to be organized when it comes to the church?□Why not let God let do His thing?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, through whom all healing happens, hear the prayers for our friends who are suffering with cancer and other maladies. Be with those who are ailing and give strength and healing to their bodies. Turn them, O Lord, to you in their troubles and work in them the faith and confidence that you are with them and will not abandon them. Strengthen them in the faith that saves through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen. III

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July 19: I Chronicles 28:1 – 29:30

- 1) High profile people can do great things for the Lord. Why is that true?
- 2) What was the strategy that David used in getting people to support and do the work?
- 3) How did he prepare people to support his son who would build the temple?
- 4) Where did the blueprint really come from?
- 5) When one considers the temple and the greatness of it all, David said to his son not to get discouraged. Why?
- 6) How did David step up to the plate and serve as a model for giving?
- 7) David thanked the Lord. In what two ways?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, you commanded us to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Bless our every effort to proclaim the message of salvation to the multitudes of people who have never heard of Jesus, the Savior of nations. Help us to send out more missionaries to tell more people the good news of deliverance from sin, death, and Satan--of forgiveness, peace, and salvation through you. We pray this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

II Chronicles

July 20: II Chronicles 1:1 – 3:17

- 1) The Tent of Meeting (the Tabernacle) was at Gibeon. □ How long had the tabernacle served as Israel's place of worship?
- 2) This is the very familiar story of Solomon asking for wisdom that was also recorded in I Kings. □ What is wisdom?
- 3) Again, what is "the Name of the LORD?"
- 4) How would the cedars of Lebanon get to Jerusalem?
- 5) So where was the temple located? □ Notice all the elaborate design. □ Why was it done the way it was?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, gracious Father, the times, we know, are bad for many, and they are especially bad these days for some of our friends. One setback follows another, and they are feeling desperate. Work in their hearts, dear Lord, the calming peace of your gospel and the assurance that you are with them also now. In your heavenly mercy, lift the burdens that weigh them down. Give them brighter days ahead. In everything, keep them mindful that you will work everything for their good, and keep them focused on the joys that come from knowing that Jesus lives and has a place in heaven for them. Their comfort lies with him, in whose name we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 21: II Chronicles 4:1 – 6:11

- 1) 1) Can you picture all that Hiram made? Some Bibles or Bible dictionaries have pictures of these items that you might want to look up and see.
- 2) Who was Hiram's equivalent when the tabernacle was being built?
- 3) A dedication was going to take place that was going to correspond to what great event on the Jewish calendar?
- 4) Who was in the choir? Obviously what was a great part of the service?
- 5) Who was present in a big way at the dedication?
- 6) What promise was God keeping here?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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July 22: II Chronicles 6:12 – 8:10

- 1) What altar did Solomon stand before?
- 2) Much of the rest of the reading is the prayer of dedication that Solomon spoke.□
How does he address God?
- 3) What promise did God keep?□
- 4) As beautiful as the temple was, what does he say about it and God to whom it is dedicated?□
- 5) What does he say is the cause of much trouble that people encounter in life?□ Cf 6:32
- 6) How is God characterized in the prayer?□
- 7) About whom is Solomon speaking in 6:41,42?
- 8) How would you have reacted to fire that came down from heaven?
- 9) What was the motive behind all the sacrifices?□
- 10) How long did the celebration last?
- 11) God appeared to Solomon.□What was the content?□Why was this particularly meaningful for Solomon?□□For all of us?
- 12) What seems to be the theme of Solomon's reign?□

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, heavenly Father, We know that you watch over us and care for us in all we do. We are especially thankful that you have won the forgiveness of sins for us through your Son's death and resurrection. There are those who need your help now also for their physical needs. Many are out of work and have been unable to find a job. It is becoming very hard for some to meet their family's needs. Help them, O Lord, in your loving providence, to find work. Keep them in your care. Help all of us to see the wisdom of your ways and to live content in you, even though the times are hard. Lord, hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 23: II Chronicles 8:11 – 10:19

- 1) Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter. □ Why is that a red flag?

- 2) There are a couple of things to note about Chronicles. □ The Chronicler (probably Ezra) didn't include anything of the northern kingdom. □ He also doesn't include as much evil as reported in Samuel and Kings. □ Why would he do that to the people returning from exile?

- 3) Was he living a life of excess? □

- 4) The story of Rehoboam is familiar. □ What does this tell us about his father and the influence he had on Rehoboam?

- 5) What was the nature of the complaint that the northern tribes had? □

- 6) What did that lead to? □

- 7) How should Rehoboam do things differently? □

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, it grieves us that anger, strife, and bitterness have become a part of our lives. Forgive our sins and renew our spirit so that we will pardon others, correct the mistakes we have made, and be more cheerful toward those around us. Remind us through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 24: II Chronicles 11:1 – 13:22

- 1) Notice again the emphasis on David's house. □ While not ignoring the northern kingdom completely, the Chronicler speaks of Rehoboam in Judah a whole lot more. □ Again, why might this be the case especially in view of the fact that the people of Judah were returning from exile?
- 2) Because Jeroboam was establishing a religion that did away with temple worship, what people migrated to Jerusalem? □
- 3) Who was Shishak? □
- 4) What happens when people abandon God?
- 5) In 12:13 Rehoboam's mother was mentioned. □ Anything you see significant about her? □
- 6) Notice the mention of prophets and seers among the people. □ What does that indicate?
- 7) What covenant is Abijah referring to in 13:5?
- 8) How did Abijah show himself to be a faithful king? □

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me. From your hand I am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep me from sin, gracious Father, and comfort me with your kind Word. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 25: II Chronicles 14:1 – 16:14

- 1) Why could King Asa be called “Good King Asa?”
- 2) Who was Azariah? What did he say to encourage Asa?
- 3) How did Asa do mission work among the heathen of the northern kingdom?
- 4) How was the look back on the reign of Asa an inspiration for the people who were returning in exile?
- 5) How did Asa even show tough love?
- 6) Yet how did Asa show that he was very human?
- 7) Hanani was a prophet of the Lord. What would he say to America similar to what he told Asa?
- 8) How did Asa show pride, which is said to be the “great sin?”

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, you are Savior.

O God, you are Lord.

O God, we are your servants.

We want only to do your will and tell your gospel to all people. In thankfulness and praise and in the peace that surpasses understanding, we are meeting as a synod in convention this week, Lord, to plan how we can best serve together. Be with us by your Spirit and grant us wisdom and strength of faith to seize the day.

O God, we confess that we have not always served as we ought. We have fallen short in bringing offerings, in the wisest use of offerings, in watchfulness, and in prayer. Forgive us our many weaknesses and shortcomings, for Jesus' sake.

Also for the sake of your Son our Savior, O God, bless the work we do to the glory of your name. Use our feeble efforts to expand your kingdom and nourish your children. Continue to open doors for gospel witness to the lost both at home and abroad. Show us the way, Lord, and move us to follow it. Kindle a fire in our hearts to be about your business.

Forgiven and forgiving, we are bold to pray in Jesus' name, at peace in his promises.

Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 26: II Chronicles 17:1 – 18:34

- 1) Jehoshaphat is a good king. □ What makes him that?
- 2) What was his Reformation plan?
- 3) Jehoshaphat stood up well against Ahab. □ How?
- 4) How can that be practical in your life?
- 5) What is admirable about Micaiah?
- 6) How does one explain the use of the lying spirit?
- 7) How do we do challenge God as Ahab did? □

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, you are my harbor of safety in the storms of life, my rock to which I cling for salvation, and my Redeemer who alone can save me from destruction. Take notice of my need, and reach forth your hand to deliver me from that which hurts and afflicts. Do not let my trouble overwhelm me or cast a shadow on my faith. Strengthen and encourage me, save and deliver me, and cleanse me from sin. Amen.

□

One Year through the Old Testament

July 27: II Chronicles 19:1 – 20:37

- 1) What had Jehoshaphat done wrong?
- 2) How did he not let pride get in the way?
- 3) Notice again the use God made of prophets that aren't quite as familiar to us?□
- 4) As chapter 20 begins why was Jehoshaphat afraid?
- 5) In his prayer, what promise made Jehoshaphat certain that God would grant a victory?
- 6) What would be so unusual about the victory?□
- 7) How do you think we can recapture what 20:29 says?□
- 8) What was the lingering problem in Israel?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, I am unsure what to do. I ask for your wisdom and guidance. Lead me in the way I should go. With you the darkness is as light. Direct my footsteps so that I walk in paths that are pleasing to you. Help me to do the right thing. Help me to do what is kind and loving. And most of all, help me to trust in your providence for you rule all things in heaven and on earth. I confess my own limitations and appeal to your infinite wisdom and love. Thank you, Jesus, for being my crucified and risen Savior whose ears are always open to my prayers. Amen.

□

One Year through the Old Testament

July 28: II Chronicles 21:1 – 23:21

- 1) Who succeeded Jehoshaphat?
- 2) How did Dad show his concern for his sons?□
- 3) What things did Jehoram do that were especially evil?
- 4) Who was the great prophet at his time?
- 5) What kind of legacy did Jehoram leave behind?□Cf. 21:20
- 6) Who succeeded Jehoram?□
- 7) How would his mother (Athaliah) encourage him to do evil? Cf. 22:3
- 8) What kind of woman was she?
- 9) Who is Jehoiada?
- 10) Why was Jehoiada so committed to having the proper heir on the throne of Israel?
- 11) How did he pull off a coup?□
- 12) How difficult can it be to respect leaders who are not committed to God and practice their faith in the way they rule?□What are we to do?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Merciful God, as you have said "let the one who has my word speak it faithfully," so lead all of our pastors, teachers, and professors to speak your Word faithfully in their ministries. Furthermore, lead all of our members to hear your Word regularly, to believe it wholeheartedly, to cling to it steadfastly, and to live by it daily. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 29: II Chronicles 24:1 –25:28

- 1) Why was Joash given the responsibility of rule at the age of seven?
- 2) Obviously who was the power behind the throne?
- 3) What had happened to the funds that were supposed to repair the temple?□
- 4) Why was Jehoiada loved?
- 5) Is there a certain church worker who means a lot to you?□Why?
- 6) How was Jehoiada's influence lost so quickly?
- 7) Obviously Joash didn't have a sincere heart to follow his mentor.□What happened to him?□
- 8) Amaziah followed Joash and it is said about him "he did what was right but not wholeheartedly."□What does that mean?□
- 9) What warning did Amaziah receive from a prophet of the Lord?
- 10) When he came back from Edom, what stupid stunt did Amaziah do?
- 11) How do we test God in a bad way?□How can we test God in a good way?
- 12) What led Amaziah to be so foolish?□

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you created our world and society to be orderly and to have authority figures. You created our world and society in this way to bring your blessings to us. We give you thanks for the order and the authority that our parents brought to our growing up, for those blessings have served us well. Bless our parents during these times of their lives and give us a respect and love that lasts beyond the years of childhood. Teach us to imitate the love your Son felt for his mother even when that love was inconvenient. Bless our loving, just as the love of our parents blessed our living. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

July 30: II Chronicles 26:1 – 28:27

- 1) Uzziah had a good start. □ Why? □
- 2) What does it appear Israel expected their king to do?
- 3) What do we expect our government to do?
- 4) What sin does Uzziah demonstrate, as well as many others, leads to their spiritual downfall? □
- 5) What did Uzziah think he had a right to do?
- 6) Jotham succeeded Uzziah. □ What kind of king was he?
- 7) What would be fitting as an epitaph on his tombstone? □ What would you want on yours?
- 8) Ahaz became king in Judah after Jotham. □ Where would he have been a better fit?
- 9) Who was Oded?
- 10) Why was Judah completely ruined?
- 11) What was Ahaz's religion? □

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, hear the prayer for those who suffer from poor health or worries caused by the lack of finances. Give healing and comfort all in their distress. Calm anxious hearts with the assurance that in your Son, Jesus Christ, they have been made your children and are under your loving care. If it be your will, help to find health and freedom from financial insecurity all who are under financial strain. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

□

One Year through the Old Testament

July 31: II Chronicles 29: 1-36

- 1) Hezekiah was the next king. □ How much clean up did he have to do from the evil leadership of Ahaz?
- 2) How did every king we have heard about explain the decline in his nation?
- 3) Which tribe did he really get busy? □ Why them?
- 4) What was purification?
- 5) At the end of purification a worship service was held. □ Music was a big part of the service. □ Why?
- 6) How was such a religious reformation able to take place so quickly? Cf. verse 36

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, my Father in heaven, bless every effort to establish peace among the nations of the world. Give wisdom and strength to those who lead, guide those who make decisions, and transform the hearts of people everywhere to exalt peace above war, justice above gain, and honor above glory, for Jesus' sake. Amen.