



# GOOD KING, BAD KING

STUDIES IN 2 CHRONICLES 26-32

## introduction

These studies investigate the religious and political state of Judah during the time of Isaiah's ministry as described in the book of 2 Chronicles (ie during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah cf Is 1:1). This will be helpful in terms of understanding Isaiah at our Sunday meetings. Isaiah's ministry occurred during turbulent times. Battles were won and lost, kingdoms rose and fell, the world was an unstable and dangerous place in which people struggled to survive and make sense of their lives. Isaiah spoke very specifically into this historical context even though many of his lessons are timeless.

Studying the book of 2 Chronicles is also useful in its own right. 1-2 Chronicles record the history of Israel with a particular focus on the Davidic kings and the Jerusalem Temple. In so doing, 1-2 Chronicles provide vibrant and dramatic insights into the character of God. Insights which anticipate Jesus Christ.

These studies make use of the COMA method of Bible study. COMA stands for Context, Observation, Meaning & Application and each study will move systematically through these four categories (indeed sometimes identical questions will occur from study to study). It can be very useful to follow the COMA process because it encourages us to ask good questions of the text and to understand it clearly and thoroughly. COMA can bring a helpful clarity to our Bible reading, whether its for personal study, or one to one reading of the Bible with another person, or in a small group context,. You can read more about COMA in the very helpful book, *One-to-One Bible Reading* by David Helm (Matthias Media)



# STUDY 1 2 CHRONICLES 26

## Context

- Read 2 Chron 25:21-24 (remember that at this time of history, the northern tribes of Israel had broken away from Judah after a civil war). What was the state of Judah prior to the reign king Uzziah? In particular, in what condition is the Jerusalem Temple?

*Read 2 Chronicles 26*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the chapter?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?
- Does anything surprise you in the chapter?

## Message

- Are there any “editorial” comments from the author about the events in this chapter?
- What things do we discover about God in this chapter? How do these things anticipate or find fulfillment in Jesus Christ?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- How does this passage challenge your understanding about who God is and what he is like?
- Does the passage suggest any attitudes or behavior that we need to avoid or change?

# STUDY 2 2 CHRONICLES 27

## Context

- Review the previous study. How would you describe life in Judah prior to the reign of Jotham?
- What effect do you think the events of the previous chapter would have had on Jotham? (note esp 26:21)

*Read 2 Chronicles 27*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?
- Does anything surprise you in the chapter?

## Message

- Are there any “editorial” comments from the author about the events in this chapter?
- Despite Jotham’s best efforts, what do we discover about “the people” of Judah? (v2) In what ways does this anticipate the need for the coming of Jesus Christ?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- How does this passage help us better value and understand Jesus?
- Does the passage suggest any attitudes or behavior that we need to avoid or change?

# STUDY 3 2 CHRONICLES 28

## Context

- Review the previous study. How would describe you life in Judah prior to the reign of Ahaz?

*Read 2 Chronicles 28*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them?
- How is Ahaz's attitude to God reflected in his treatment of the Temple?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?
- Does anything surprise you in the chapter?

## Message

- Are there any "editorial" comments from the author about the events in this chapter?
- What things do we discover about God in this chapter? How do these things anticipate or find fulfillment in Jesus Christ?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- The New Testament describes both Jesus Christ (Jn 2:18-22) and the church (1 Cor 3:16-17) as God's Temple. Does a chapter like this suggest anything about how we should be treating both Jesus Christ and our church family?

# STUDY 4 2 CHRONICLES 29

## Context

- Review the previous study. How would you describe life in Judah prior to the reign of Hezekiah?

*Read 2 Chronicles 29*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the chapter?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?
- Does anything surprise you in the chapter?

## Message

- Are there any “editorial” comments from the author about the events in this chapter?
- Why do you think there is so much detail about the consecration of the Temple? What relevance, if any, do you think it has with us? (think about the last studies application)
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- Read Hebrews 10:1-25. How do these verses help us understand how to apply a passage like 2 Chronicles 29.

# STUDY 5 2 CHRONICLES 30

## Context

- What has happened so far in the reign of King Hezekiah? Have there been any major events, characters or themes?

*Read 2 Chronicles 30*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the chapter?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?
- Does anything surprise you in the chapter?

## Message

- Are there any “editorial” comments from the author about the events in this chapter?
- Why do you think there is so much detail about the celebration of the Passover? What relevance, if any, do you think it has with us?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- Read Luke 22:14-16 . How do these verses help us understand how to apply a passage like 2 Chronicles 30.
- Does the passage suggest any attitudes or behavior that we need to avoid or change?

# STUDY 6 2 CHRONICLES 31

## Context

- What has happened so far in the reign of King Hezekiah? Have there been any major events, characters or themes?

*Read 2 Chronicles 31*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the chapter?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?

## Message

- Why do you think there is so much detail about giving to the Temple? Why was it so important in the OT? What does it suggest about God?
- What relevance, if any, do you think this chapter has for us?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- *“The last part of a person to be converted is usually their wallet.”* What do you think about that comment?
- Read 2 Corinthians 9. What important lessons do we learn about God, Jesus and our giving?

# STUDY 7 2 CHRONICLES 32

## Context

- What has happened so far in the reign of King Hezekiah? Have there been any major events, characters or themes?

*Read 2 Chronicles 32*

## Observation

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? (Isaiah even makes an appearance!) How does the author describe them?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the chapter?
- Does the chapter have a climatic moment? What is it?
- Do you think there is a main point of theme in this chapter?

## Message

- Are there any “editorial” comments from the author about the events in this chapter?
- What things do we discover about God in this chapter? How do these things anticipate or find fulfillment in Jesus Christ?
- Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

## Application

- How does this passage challenge your understanding about who God is and what he is like?
- Does the passage suggest any attitudes or behavior that we need to avoid or change?