

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 21—23:30

Discussion Dates: 5 December 2013 (in house)
and 6 December 2013 (online)

DAY ONE: Overview

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 2 Kings 21—23:30.

If possible, read all five chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

DAY TWO: King Manasseh of Judah

READ 2 Kings 21:1—18 and 2 Chronicles 33:1—20.

Who was Manasseh?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

Contrast his reign with that of his father. What could have provoked such a difference in governing tactics and styles?

The Lord sent messages to the king through prophets (probably Jeremiah and friends). What was that message?

The account in 2 Kings offers a very unemotional, impersonal account of the events. 2 Chronicles, however, reveals more about what happened to Manasseh and how he responded.

What was his response?

What does this tell us about his faith?

What was the end result for this king and his nation?

DAY THREE: King Amon of Judah

READ 2 Kings 21:19—26 and 2 Chronicles 33:21—25.

Who was Amon?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

Do you notice anything else of significance about his life, relationships or governance?

The Law as stated in Deuteronomy 13 requires idolaters to be slain, but who within the nation had the power to convict the king? What actions can people take when their leaders persist against God's laws?

DAY FOUR: Josiah becomes King

READ 2 Kings 22:1—7 and 2 Chronicles 34:1—13.

Who was Josiah?

How old was he when he became king?

Do you think this impacted his approach to the kingdom at all? How?

How long did he reign?

What were the first acts of Josiah upon assuming the throne?

Compare and contrast Josiah to his father. How were they alike or not?

What might have contributed to these distinctions?

DAY FIVE: The Lost Book

READ 2 Kings 22:8—23:3 and 2 Chronicles 34:14—33.

What did Hilkiah find in the Temple?

How long had they been cleaning the Temple before this was found?

How do you think it got lost? What contributed to it being forgotten for so long?

What was the priest's response?

What was the king's response?

Huldah, the prophetess, gave two messages, one for the nation and one for King Josiah. What did she say God would do?

How did Josiah respond to this?

What does all this tell us about the spiritual condition of this king and the nation during his reign?

DAY SIX: Josiah's Covenant & Reforms

READ 2 Kings 23:4—27 and 2 Chronicles 35:1—19.

The Book found dusty and hidden in the Temple most likely contained all five books of Moses. The priests, however, would have likely focused on Deuteronomy since it was the most recent account of the Law and the one that contained specific instructions for kings.

How long did Josiah wait to institute reform?

What changes did he make within the kingdom? What was impacted by his reforms?

How did the people respond?

What did Josiah use as the basis or guide for all of his policy changes?

READ 1 Chronicles 7:14. How do you reconcile this promise with God's unrelenting judgment stated in 2 Kings 23:26—27?

What more could Josiah have done? Was it too late for Israel? If so, when did they cross the line?

What from this story may we apply to our lives today?

DAY SEVEN: Josiah's Death

READ 2 Kings 23:28—30 and 2 Chronicles 35:20—27.

What led to Josiah's death?

Why do you think he interfered in the war between Egypt and Babylon?

According to 2 Chronicles 35:24—25, all of Judah mourned Josiah. Songs and laments were written about him and taught to the generations. What does this tell you about the spirit of the nation at the time of Josiah's death?

Consider the full life of Josiah. He lived in distinction, a life set apart from his father and most of the kings who came before him. What attributes must this have required in him?

How can we foster similar traits in ourselves and those around us?