

IN &
OUT®

*The Good,
The Bad
and
The Ugly*

IN & OUT[®]
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 10
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY
2 KINGS 21–25/2 CHRONICLES 33–36 AND ZEPHANIAH

ISBN 978-1-62119-884-0

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1st edition
Printed in the United States of America

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

We are so thrilled that you have chosen to study *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, the last in our ten-course series of the Kings and Prophets. It will be such a blessing to your life because the Old Testament places a tremendous emphasis on the holy character and works of God that anticipate fulfillment in the person of Christ in the New Testament. In essence, it lays the groundwork for the only salvation possible—the salvation God provides in His Son “by which we must be saved.” The Bible is a progressive revelation—all sixty-six parts are essential to understanding the whole counsel of God.

As you begin this series, it’s vital to understand the importance of a study like this and some of the differences between studying (primarily historical) Old Testament books and (primarily doctrinal) New Testament epistles.

- In the Old Testament we come to know God—who He is and how He works in the affairs of mankind—and we develop a godly fear of His awesome majesty, holy character, and works.
- The nation that is in the front and center of all God’s dealings is Israel. So as you study Kings and Chronicles, you find yourself immersed in Israel’s history, studying events surrounding the reigns of her kings in an effort to get the *big* picture—to understand how these events affect her relationship to God and how God responds to His covenant people. It’s much like looking at the history of your country through the lives of its leaders, what the times were like under each, the direction each led the country, and how each impacted its future.
- As you observe the texts of Kings and Chronicles, remember observing history is different from observing doctrine. If you’ve done New Testament Precept courses, you’ll find doing Observation Worksheets of historical books is much different from doing one on a doctrinal epistle. You don’t want to get bogged down with details; rather, you want to get a general understanding of the times and God’s dealings. Also, your focus on key words will not be as strong as when you’re observing doctrine.
- It’s not important to remember every detail of a king’s life as long as you understand the essence of it—how lessons from his life and leadership can apply to your life and walk with the Lord.
- If you study the entire series (we pray that you will), you will also hear and understand God’s message to His people through the voices of His prophets during those times.
- According to 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4, what God chose to preserve in the Old Testament is for our example and instruction, “upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The application, the encouragement, and the hope from these historical studies are distinctive.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO IN & OUT LEADERS

We have included “The Who’s Who Optional Review” after the last lesson for you and your students to help review the kings studied in this course.

Here are some suggestions of how this optional assignment can be used:

- In scheduling this course, plan an extra week at the end and have your students complete the optional assignment for that week. You can encourage them to be creative by preparing a song, poem, skit, etc. and/or sharing some of their completed sketches. This is a great way to review the kings of Israel and Judah and some of the main events of their reign. Allow time for students to tell how God spoke to them through His Word in this course. You may also have a time of fellowship with snacks or a luncheon.
- If you’re completing this course and then breaking for the summer, you can assign students to complete the optional assignment during the break. Use letters, phone calls, or emails to remind them to review what they’ve done before your first meeting in the fall. At your first meeting, briefly review the kings to help new students understand the context. Let students show some of their sketches. Then help all students get started on their first lesson, making sure the new ones know how to do the assignments.

The Kindness and Severity of God

Sometimes we miss God in the events of life because we do not understand His full counsel. We want to know and be assured of His love, experience His kindness—to present Him to the world as merciful and compassionate, which He truly is.

Yet because He is holy, righteous, and just, He deals severely with His chosen people, Israel, and the nations of this world when they spurn Him.

We pray, Beloved, that God will use this seven-week study to help you understand more clearly God’s kindness and severity—kindness to those who continue in His kindness, severity to those who do not believe and obey.

TAKING IT IN

We have come to the last of the Kings and Prophets Series. If you have been with us all the way, you know what a great accomplishment this is. We are so very proud of you in the Lord for your diligence and discipline.

1. After prayer, read 2 Kings 21.
 - a. Note who is sitting on the throne of Judah as the chapter begins and the name of his father.

 - b. By way of review, take a few minutes and read 2 Kings 18:1-12.
 - 1) Note what kind of king Manasseh’s father was.

 - 2) What happened to the Northern Kingdom during Hezekiah’s reign?

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Lesson 1, 2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33

- c. It will also help to read 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, which will give you insight into Hezekiah's character and reign. Record what you learn.

2. Observe 2 Kings 21 and mark the following words and phrases. including and geographical location.*

Before you begin observing, cut out the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of your workbook. On the blank side, list the words below and mark them the way you will throughout this study. An asterisk [*] denotes words with suggested markings on the bookmark.

- a. references to time*
 - b. geographical locations*
 - c. *doing evil in the sight of the Lord*
 - d. *sin**
 - e. *house*—see *tabernacle** (the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem)
3. When you finish, reflect on Manasseh's reign. Look at the words you marked and see what you learn. List the evil Manasseh did and how God defines it.

4. Now let's observe a parallel account of Manasseh in 2 Chronicles 33.
 - a. Use the bookmark of key words. Add the following:
 - 1) *prayer, prayed**
 - 2) *Babylon*
 - b. Now, what did you learn about Manasseh that wasn't recorded in 2 Kings?
 - c. What do you learn from Manasseh's life about judgment—the severity of a sovereign God? What about the kindness of the Lord?
5. Record the themes of 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33 on the appropriate **At a Glance** charts.
6. Then turn to "The Kings of Israel and Judah" in the Appendix.
 - a. Record what you learned about Manasseh and Amon on the chart.
 - b. Find the column "Prophets to Judah." To the left of Manasseh's name, you'll see "The prophets." Record a brief summary of their messages given in 2 Kings 21:10-15.
 - c. Now move to the left one more column and record Manasseh's enemy from 2 Chronicles 33:11. From his name draw an arrow pointing toward Manasseh.

2 KINGS 21

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

MANASSEH was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hephzibah.

- 2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.
- 3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.
- 4 He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name."
- 5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.
- 6 He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking *Him to anger*.
- 7 Then he set the carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.
- 8 "And I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers, if only they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them."
- 9 But they did not listen, and Manasseh seduced them to do evil more than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.
- 10 Now the LORD spoke through His servants the prophets, saying,
- 11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, having done wickedly more than all the Amorites did who *were* before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols;
- 12 therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am bringing *such* calamity on Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.

- 13 'I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.
- 14 'I will abandon the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies, and they will become as plunder and spoil to all their enemies;
- 15 because they have done evil in My sight, and have been provoking Me to anger since the day their fathers came from Egypt, even to this day.' "
- 16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.
- 17 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and all that he did and his sin which he committed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
- 18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza, and Amon his son became king in his place.
- 19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.
- 20 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done.
- 21 For he walked in all the way that his father had walked, and served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them.
- 22 So he forsook the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.
- 23 The servants of Amon conspired against him and killed the king in his own house.
- 24 Then the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.
- 25 Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
- 26 He was buried in his grave in the garden of Uzza, and Josiah his son became king in his place.

2 CHRONICLES 33

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

MANASSEH was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

- 2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.
- 3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.
- 4 He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever."
- 5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.
- 6 He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him *to anger*.
- 7 Then he put the carved image of the idol which he had made in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;
- 8 and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will observe to do all that I have commanded them according to all the law, the statutes and the ordinances *given* through Moses."
- 9 Thus Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.
- 10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.
- 11 Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze *chains* and took him to Babylon.

- 12 When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.
- 13 When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD *was* God.
- 14 Now after this he built the outer wall of the city of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entrance of the Fish Gate; and he encircled the Ophel *with it* and made it very high. Then he put army commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah.
- 15 He also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw *them* outside the city.
- 16 He set up the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.
- 17 Nevertheless the people still sacrificed in the high places, *although* only to the LORD their God.
- 18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh even his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they are among the records of the kings of Israel.
- 19 His prayer also and *how God* was entreated by him, and all his sin, his unfaithfulness, and the sites on which he built high places and erected the Asherim and the carved images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the records of the Hozai.
- 20 So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. And Amon his son became king in his place.
- 21 Amon *was* twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.
- 22 He did evil in the sight of the LORD as Manasseh his father had done, and Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and he served them.
- 23 Moreover, he did not humble himself before the LORD as his father Manasseh had done, but Amon multiplied guilt.
- 24 Finally his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house.
- 25 But the people of the land killed all the conspirators against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.

2 KINGS 21–25 AT A GLANCE

Chapter Themes

21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

2 CHRONICLES 33–36 AT A GLANCE

Chapter Themes

33	
34	
35	
36	

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
The Kings of Israel and Judah

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
980					<p>David 1011-971 Son of: Jesse Man after God's own heart. Lord appointed as king & made covenant— D. Will not lack a man on Israel's throne. Repentant when sinned. God gave him pattern for Temple.</p> <p>Solomon 971-931 Son of:</p>	980
970						970
960						960
950						950

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
The Kings of Israel and Judah

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
940						940
930	<p>♥ Jeroboam 931-910 Son of:</p>	<p>Ahijah 931-906</p> <p>Man of God from Judah</p>	<p>Egypt →</p>	<p>Shemaiah 931-901</p>	<p>♥ Rehoboam 931-913 Son of:</p>	930
920		<p>Iddo 921-902</p>			<p>♥ Abijam or Abijah 913-911 Son of:</p>	920

