



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

*God
Searches
for A Heart
Fully His*

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
English Standard Version
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 2
GOD SEARCHES FOR A HEART FULLY HIS

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 4

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

SMITH, JAMES E.

Old Testament Survey Series, The Books of History

Joplin, Missouri: College Press Publishing Company, 1995

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW. . .

We are so thrilled that you have chosen to study *God Searches for a Heart Fully His*, the second of our ten courses in the Kings and Prophets Series. 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, “on whom the end of the ages has come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The application, the encouragement, and the hope from these historical studies are distinctive.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We're excited that you'll be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God through His Word so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that will transform your life. Studying this way is summed up in the words of the psalmist: “for You Yourself have taught me” (Psalm 119:102). May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

OBSERVING THE TEXT

In the lessons that follow, you'll be asked to mark key words or phrases on a particular passage using Observation Worksheets.

- Key words or phrases unlock your understanding of the text. Marking them distinctively with colors or symbols helps you quickly locate the word or phrase, see how it's used and how often.
- It's advantageous to keep markings simple; colors and color combinations are easiest least cluttering.
- You'll find suggestions on the back cover of your Precept book; however, colors and symbols are your choice.
- When you have several words or phrases to mark, it's helpful to read the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- It's also helpful to make a bookmark (e.g., an index card) and list all the key words, marking them the way you want to mark them in the text.

FILLING IN THE AT A GLANCE CHART

As you finish observing a chapter, you'll be asked to record its theme (main subject) on an **At a Glance** chart specifically designed for the book you're studying. This chart provides space to list each chapter's theme and places for recording other pertinent information on the book. When completed, this chart provides a synopsis of the book at a glance.

We have three sources that will show you how to do the above and more (all available at www.precept.org or by calling 800-763-8280):

How to Study Your Bible: Chapter 2, “Getting the Big Picture.”

The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB). See “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” and “A System for Marking Key Words . . . Throughout Your Bible.”

Discover the Bible for Yourself by Kay Arthur, “Observation.”



WORD STUDIES

You'll find out how to do word studies by reading the chapter, "It's All Greek to Me," in *How to Study Your Bible*.

There are many helpful computer programs. We highly recommend Logos Bible Software's wide range of products.

We're so thankful you've joined us. You're about to join hundreds of thousands in an exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself in a way you've never done before. Your life will be transformed and strengthened through the Word of God.

However, we want you to remember that it takes time and practice to make these study skills "second nature." And it does not come without spiritual warfare. The only offensive weapon the child of God has is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. You need to sharpen this sword and not let anyone or anything discourage you. Precept is not difficult; it simply takes time and discipline, but that's what discipleship is about!

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We are sure he/she will help you or connect you with another student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops. They will teach you basic inductive study skills and give you an opportunity to practice them. There are also workshops to help prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.

Remember, you too can say with the psalmist, "I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me."



IMPORTANT NOTE TO PRECEPT LEADERS

We have included “The Who’s Who Optional Review” after the last lesson for you and your students to aid in reviewing the kings and prophets 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.



LESSON ONE

I Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 14–16

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix
Observation Worksheet of 1 Kings 15
Israel in the Days of Elijah
Observation Worksheets of 2 Chronicles 14–16
“2 Chronicles 14–20 at a Glance”
“The Kings of Israel and Judah”
Cross-references

God found David, a man after His heart, but His search was not over. One is not enough. The kingdom of God marches on—advances—on the strength of men and women whose hearts are blameless toward Him. A careful study of church history affirms over and over the power of individuals fully committed to serving God’s purpose in their generations. How they are needed in our generation!

This is why, Beloved, each of us needs to come to the point where we consciously choose to serve the Lord.

To whom will you give your heart? Whose purpose will you serve?

It is our prayer that what you learn over the next five weeks will so capture your heart that it will impact the course of the kingdom of God in ways beyond what you can imagine.

DAY ONE

If this is your first course with us in this Kings and Prophets series, you can get an overview of where we are historically by looking at the chart, “Israel’s Division and Captivity” at the end of this lesson. At this point in Israel’s history the twelve tribes of Israel have divided into two kingdoms (ten tribes in the North and two tribes in the South) that conflict not only with their enemies but also unfortunately with each other.

The war between the first kings of the divided kingdom, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, didn’t end with Rehoboam’s death. When his son Abijam (or Abijah, as he is called in Chronicles) took the throne of Rehoboam, it was “like father, like



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Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

son.” Abijam followed his father’s footsteps in the path of evil, in the course of his war with Jeroboam. Fortunately he reigned only three years. Asa his son succeeded him. This is where our study begins—a study, once again, that will especially benefit you if you long to be a man or woman of God.

1. Observe 1 Kings 15:1-24, which you will find in the Appendix of this workbook. You’ll want to read these verses at least twice as you do your observations. Since you are studying the very words of God preserved for your spiritual understanding and godliness, you’ll want to begin with prayer, asking for the assistance of the blessed Holy Spirit. Remember, if you are a child of God, the Spirit of God lives in you as your resident tutor! Take full advantage of His presence.

If you are a first-timer with Precept, we want to welcome you. For a special message and for help in completing your assignments, read the section for First-timers at the front of this book.

As you observe this chapter:

- a. Develop a system for marking the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah so they are easily distinguished. Use either colors and/or symbols. The simpler the symbols the easier it will be unless you have a lot of time to devote to this. Some of you may choose to mark your Bibles instead of the Observation Worksheets.
- b. It will help you to make a Key Word Bookmark. You can cut out the one on the back cover of your workbook. On the blank side, write key words you are going to mark and color-code and/or put symbols over the words.

The other side gives suggested markings for words used frequently in the Bible. In this study, those words are indicated with an asterisk [*].

- c. You will notice a key (repeated) phrase as you study the reigns of the kings—either they *did right in the sight of the Lord* or *did what was evil*. Mark these in a distinguishable way.
- d. **People** are key players in historical accounts so give them careful attention. Note *who* they are and *what* the text tells you about them. Their behavior and speech will reflect their character. (*This says a lot, doesn’t it! And what do our character and speech reflect?*)
- e. Mark references to **time***—which are most important. (Many of us use a green clock.) Time answers one of those 5 Ws and H questions that are



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Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

key to observing the text: who, what, when, where, why and how. Note when a king began his reign and how long he reigned.

- f. **Geographical locations*** are important because they tell us the all-important “where.”

If you are not familiar with the geography of a region, see if you can find places you mark on the map “Israel in the Days of Elijah” located in the Appendix.

- g. The **heart** is very important. It’s the control (command) center of our lives. It’s the seat of our thinking and our driving passions. Therefore mark references to the *heart*. Note what you learn.

- h. Also mark three other things in this chapter: *sin*,* *death* or *dying* (see *die**), and *the house of the Lord* (see *tabernacle**). The house of the Lord was central to all life. It was the place of worship, sacrifice, and celebration. You’ll want to observe what’s happening in and around the house of the Lord.

- i. When you finish observing the chapter, it will help to summarize the central event of the chapter in as few words as possible. Write it down on the **At a Glance** charts in the Appendix under the heading **Chapter Theme**. There is a chart for 1 Kings and another for 2 Chronicles. Because there is more to observe in 1 Kings 15, we won’t give this chapter a theme until next week.

2. When you observed the text, you saw references to **Jeroboam**, such as in verse 6: “Now there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.” As you proceed through Kings, you will see many references to Jeroboam, the first king of the Northern Kingdom. The ten northern tribes of Israel came under his leadership after Solomon died and his son Rehoboam became king. If you are not familiar with this, you need to go back and read 1 Kings 11:26–12:33. This will help you see why God uses Jeroboam as an example.



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Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

3. Now go back and walk through 1 Kings 15:1-24 again. Look at the key words and phrases you marked and think about what you learn from marking those words. As you move through the text, looking at every occurrence of *sin* for example, see if it answers any of the 5 Ws and H. This will help you understand the content of the chapter better and learn what you can about God, kings, prophets (if they're mentioned), people, and events.
4. Finally, list kings that are mentioned in this chapter. Put down whom they rule over, how long they rule, and what you learn from the text about each one.

Good start. Aren't you awed at what you saw all by yourself just by observing the text? This, fellow student, is the joy and reward of inductive study.

DAY
TWO

Yesterday you met Asa, one of several kings mentioned in 1 Kings 15. By verse 24 Asa was buried with his fathers in the city of David (Jerusalem). Is this all the Word of God tells us of a man whose heart was wholly true to the Lord? No! Second Chronicles has much to say about Asa, and you are going to be so thankful because there is much more to be learned from his life for our own.

1. As you begin your study in prayer, ask God to use Asa's example to correct and encourage you according to where you *are* in your life and where you *want* to be! Although *you* may not know, rest assured our omniscient God knows, because there is nothing hidden from His sight. Ask Him to reveal things that hinder or distract you from being a man or woman after God's own heart.



Your assignment for today is to observe 2 Chronicles 14. Again, read the verses at least twice when you do your observations. Mark the text using your key word bookmark after you add the following words and phrases to it:

- a. *seeking the Lord*
 - b. the *LORD**—Because the *Lord God* is mentioned quite often in the text, we don't usually recommend that you always mark Lord or God as it can clutter the text too much. However, if there is something new you discover about God or His ways, then it is good to mark that reference and make a note of what you learn in the margin of your Bible or worksheet. This is the way you develop a biblical systematic theology on the person and ways of God.
 - c. geographical locations (look them up on the map "Israel in the Days of Elijah").
2. Now before you go any further, list the main characters and events of this chapter. What's happening and who's involved?
3. What do you learn from this chapter about Asa's relationship with God?



4. Did you notice the “so” of verse 12? Where do you run in the time of need, Beloved? On what or whom do you depend? Is the Lord your very present help in the time of trouble? Do you give Him an opportunity or are you afraid to trust Him? Be honest in your answers. It’s always good to ask God to search your heart as the psalmist does in Psalm 139.

DAY THREE

There are still two chapters in Chronicles that deal with Asa. The Chronicler wanted to preserve some important truths for the struggling remnant that returned to rebuild the temple and reestablish the nation of Israel. Obviously these chapters were important not only for them in their period of history but also for succeeding generations as well. They contain precepts of life vital for every generation that awaits the kingdom of God on earth.

1. Observe 2 Chronicles 15. As you mark the text:
 - a. Mark *courage*. You will see this term intermittently in the Old Testament so it’s always good to mark. Make it stand out and begin here if you have not marked it previously. If you studied Joshua with us, you marked it in the very first chapter. We suggest you do it throughout your Bible.
 - b. Mark *covenant** and its synonym *oath*. This is another word you always want to mark. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement. Because it is an oath, the parties are obligated to carry out the terms. God, the sovereign administrator of all covenants, judges those who break these covenants.
 - c. Watch and mark references to time since they are important and will help keep you in context.

By the way, do you know how much we appreciate you? Thank you for determining to discipline yourself in the study of God’s Word so that you can be all God would have you be!



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Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

Well, Beloved, you are off to a good start. It's awesome, isn't it, to study the Old Testament! There is so much to learn from the lives of these kings and the people they ruled over. So much to learn about God. Daniel 11:32b tells us that the people who know their God stand firm and are able to take action. That is going to be you, Beloved, if it's not already! Press on, faithful one. God has a very significant purpose for your life.

DAY
FOUR

1. Today we move into the final chapter on Asa, 2 Chronicles 16. Observe the text. Don't forget to mark references to time. It will help you follow what happens during his reign of forty-one years—a reign covered in four chapters in the Bible, one in Kings and three in Chronicles.
2. Now let's analyze Asa's reign according to the events recorded by the Spirit of God in the Bible. Review what 1 Kings 15 tells you about Asa, and then sort out the events in light of 2 Chronicles 14–16. Using a separate sheet of paper, list the events of these four chapters chronologically. If the text tells you when the event happened with respect to the year of Asa's reign, record it next to the event. Leave extra space between the events as you list them, because in Lesson 2 we will ask you to merge events from other passages where they fit chronologically. If you prefer, you may do this assignment in the form of a time line.
3. How did this chapter hit you, Beloved? Did it evoke any emotions? How did you feel when you read 2 Chronicles 16 and why?
4. God does nothing, says nothing, records nothing in His Book without a purpose. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4. What do you think God's purpose is for including this account of Asa in His holy Book? Think about it and then thoughtfully write your answer. You don't want to miss the lesson(s) God preserves for our generation.



God Searches For a Heart Fully His

Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

- c. There is also a column on the chart for nations who were enemies of Israel and/or Judah. Review 2 Chronicles 14:9-15 and also 2 Chronicles 16:1-4 along with its parallel passage 1 Kings 15:16-20. In the middle column of the chart, fill in each name of a nation who was an enemy and draw an arrow toward the king or kings the nation came against. The first one is done for you.
2. Now let's go to David, where the phrase "a man after God's own heart" finds its conception. Read 1 Samuel 13:14. If you didn't study 1 Samuel with us, then mark the reference to the *heart* in this verse. You might want to do it with a red heart shaded yellow. That's the way some of us do it when it's a reference to God's heart! If you are unfamiliar with the setting of this verse, then read the first thirteen verses of this chapter. Saul is king. In 1 Samuel 10 Samuel anoints Saul to be king and then tells him in verse 8 to wait seven days for him to come, offer burnt offerings, and tell Saul what to do. Now with that in mind, what do you learn about the kind of "heart" God is looking for?
3. Now let's jump to 1 Samuel 16 where we find God finding "His" man. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Mark *heart* and record what you learn from the text about God and a person's heart.
4. What was said about David's heart after he died? Look up the following verses, note what is said, and when.
 - a. 1 Kings 9:1-5



b. 1 Kings 14:7-8

c. 1 Kings 15:1-5

d. Acts 13:22

5. What does the Word of God teach us about the heart? Although the Word of God does not define “heart” like a dictionary, its meaning can be discovered inductively by the way it’s used in texts of Scripture. Look up the following passages in your Bible, watching for and marking *heart*. See if the text gives you clues to the meaning of heart. Record your insights of what happens in a heart next to the verse.

a. Genesis 6:5-6; 8:21

b. Deuteronomy 10:10-16



c. Deuteronomy 30:1-20

d. Proverbs 4:20-23

e. Matthew 12:33-37

f. Matthew 15:18-19

g. 1 Kings 11:2-4, 9

h. 1 Chronicles 28:9

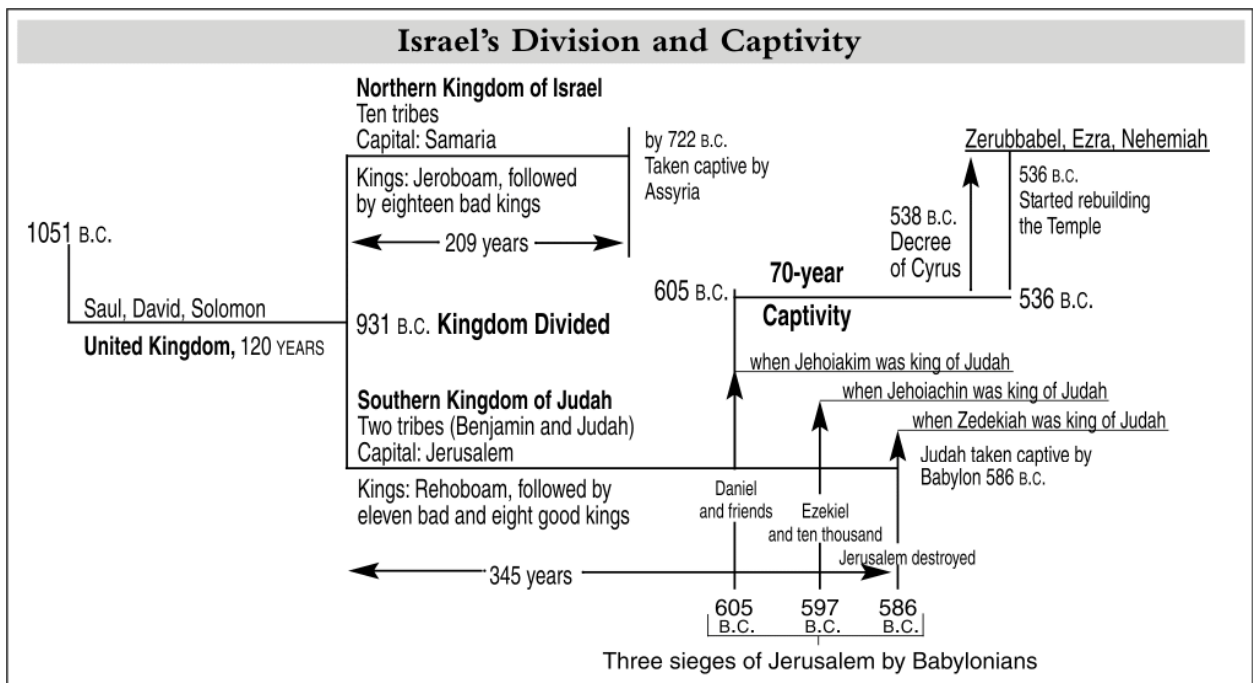


God Searches For a Heart Fully His

Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

- b. What set David apart from Saul and from Asa? Answer that and we believe you'll see what it means to have a heart that is completely God's.

Now, Beloved, what about your heart? What's the control center of your life like? What do you need to remember and do? And if you stumble or fall, what will put you back in right standing with God so that He will give strong support to you?





1 KINGS 15

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam began to reign over Judah.
- 2 He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.
 - 3 And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.
 - 4 Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem,
 - 5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.
 - 6 Now there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.
 - 7 The rest of the acts of Abijam and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.
 - 8 And Abijam slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place.
 - 9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah,
 - 10 and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.
 - 11 And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as David his father had done.
 - 12 He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.



- 13 He also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother because she had made an abominable image for Asherah. And Asa cut down her image and burned it at the brook Kidron.
- 14 But the high places were not taken away. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true to the LORD all his days.
- 15 And he brought into the house of the LORD the sacred gifts of his father and his own sacred gifts, silver, and gold, and vessels.
- 16 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.
- 17 Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.
- 18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house and gave them into the hands of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying,
- 19 "Let there be a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you a present of silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me."
- 20 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel and conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.
- 21 And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah, and he lived in Tirzah.
- 22 Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah, none was exempt, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah.



- 23 Now the rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, and all that he did, and the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? But in his old age he was diseased in his feet.
- 24 And Asa slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.
- 25 Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.
- 26 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.
- 27 Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon.
- 28 So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place.
- 29 And as soon as he was king, he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He left to the house of Jeroboam not one that breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite.
- 30 It was for the sins of Jeroboam that he sinned and that he made Israel to sin, and because of the anger to which he provoked the LORD, the God of Israel.
- 31 Now the rest of the acts of Nadab and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
- 32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.
- 33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah began to reign over all Israel at Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four years.
- 34 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.



2 CHRONICLES 14

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

ABIJAH slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David.

And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years.

2 And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.

3 He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim

4 and commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment.

5 He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him.

6 He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace.

7 And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So they built and prospered.

8 And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor.

9 Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.

10 And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

11 And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you."



- 12 So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
- 13 Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none remained alive, for they were broken before the LORD and his army. The men of Judah carried away very much spoil.
- 14 And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them. They plundered all the cities, for there was much plunder in them.
- 15 And they struck down the tents of those who had livestock and carried away sheep in abundance and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.



2 CHRONICLES 15

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded,

- 2 and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.
- 3 “For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law,
- 4 but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.
- 5 “In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.
- 6 “They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress.
- 7 “But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”
- 8 As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD.
- 9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.
- 10 They were gathered at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.



- 11 They sacrificed to the LORD on that day from the spoil that they had brought 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep.
- 12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul,
- 13 but that whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman.
- 14 They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns.
- 15 And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.
- 16 Even Maacah, his mother, King Asa removed from being queen mother because she had made a detestable image for Asherah. Asa cut down her image, crushed it, and burned it at the brook Kidron.
- 17 But the high places were not taken out of Israel. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true all his days.
- 18 And he brought into the house of God the sacred gifts of his father and his own sacred gifts, silver, and gold, and vessels.
- 19 And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa.



2 CHRONICLES 16

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- I**N the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.
- 2 Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying,
- 3 "There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me."
- 4 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.
- 5 And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah and let his work cease.
- 6 Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them he built Geba and Mizpah.
- 7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you.
- 8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand.
- 9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."



- 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.
- 11 The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.
- 12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians.
- 13 And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign.
- 14 They buried him in the tomb that he had cut for himself in the city of David. They laid him on a bier that had been filled with various kinds of spices prepared by the perfumer's art, and they made a very great fire in his honor.



2 CHRONICLES 14–20 AT A GLANCE

Chapter Themes

14
15
16
17
18
19
20



God Searches For a Heart Fully His

Israel in the Days of Elijah








God Searches For a Heart Fully His
The Kings of Israel and Judah

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
980					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.	980
970					Solomon 971-931 Son of:	970
960						960
950						950




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	 Jeroboam 931-910 Son of:	Ahijah 931-906 Man of God from Judah Iddo 921-902	Egypt 	Shemaiah 931-901	 Rehoboam 931-913 Son of:	930
920					 Abijah or Abijah 913-911 Son of:	920



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
910	 Nadab 910-909 Son of:				 Asa 911-870 Son of:	910
900	 Baasha 909-886 Son of:			Azariah 900-875		900
890	 Elah 886 Son of:	Jehu 891-865		Hanani 895-870		890
880	 Omri 885-874 Son of:  Tibni 885-880 Son of:					880

