

This week we will study about more kings of Judah and a young boy whom God used mightily to bring about a great reformation in Judah.



Torchlight

“Born of a wicked king, beset with temptations to follow in his father’s steps, and with few counselors to encourage him in the right way, Josiah nevertheless was true to the God of Israel. Warned by the errors of past generations, he chose to do right, instead of descending to the low level of sin and degradation to which his father and his grandfather had fallen.”

– Prophets & Kings p. 384



Josiah the Boy King



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for the roof over my head, food to eat and clothes to wear. Help me to be more grateful and thankful for what I have and for what my parents provide for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 14:1-14 &
2 Chronicles 26:1-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

In Devotional 50, we learned that Priest Jehoiada helped King Joash rule because of his young age. Joash was a good king but in his later years, after Jehoiada died, he allowed the spirituality of Judah to slip. Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, stood up against the apostasy and King Joash organized to have him murdered. Later on, when Joash was wounded in battle he was killed by his own servants. When his son Amaziah, who we read about in our reading today, came to the throne he put to death those who had murdered his father. Amaziah ruled during the time before Israel went into captivity. Amaziah had a great victory over the Edomites, but after a dispute with the northern kingdom of Israel, King Jehoahaz came and ransacked the temple of God. After twenty-nine years of rule, Amaziah, who was also declared a good king, turned from God and, like his father, was murdered by his people. Our reading in 2 Chronicles tells us about his son Uzziah, who was also known as Azariah. Uzziah was a good king



and reigned for fifty-two years. God blessed him. Uzziah had many victories over his enemies and the land of Judah was enlarged. The land of Judah prospered under his reign and his fame spread to other lands. Uzziah's downfall came again in his later years. Uzziah went into the Holy Place of the temple to offer incense and God struck him down with leprosy, which remained with him for the rest of his life. Uzziah knew he was not supposed to go into the temple to offer incense. God only allowed the priests to do this job. King Uzziah became proud and did not display humility before God. Have a look at *Proverbs 16:18-19*.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today, in 2 Chronicles, how many times did the word 'incense' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for the blessing of education so I am able to read Your Words in the Bible today. Help me to understand what I read and to apply it to my life. Help me to be humble and listen to what You are telling me through the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Chronicles 27:1-9
& 2 Kings 16:1-20



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

When King Uzziah became leprous he had to be isolated, so his son Jotham took on the responsibility of ruling the kingdom and he ruled for sixteen years. The Bible tells us that he 'did what was right in the sight of the LORD'. Verse 6 tells us he became mighty and was successful in war and in strengthening the kingdom. When Jotham died his son, Ahaz came to the throne. Ahaz did not follow in the footsteps of the previous four kings. Verse 2 tells us that 'he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD'. Ahaz did not worship God but chose to worship the idols of the northern tribe of Israel. Syria came to make war with Judah and Ahaz refused to listen to the advice of the prophets Micah and Isaiah. He refused to surrender his heart to God, but instead, asked the Assyrian king, Tiglath-Pileser, to help him, which cost Ahaz a fortune. When Ahaz visited Tiglath-Pileser in Assyria and saw the idols they worshipped there, he brought the ideas back to Judah and built replicas. Ahaz shut up the doors of the temple and set up his own idol images in the temple court. Four good kings had ruled Judah for one hundred years. But King Ahaz, in just sixteen years, brought Judah to its lowest point spiritually. At the end of Ahaz's reign and the beginning of his son Hezekiah's reign the northern kingdom of Israel went into captivity, which we discussed in Devotional 51.

The prophets Micah and Isaiah were sent by God to warn Ahaz of his unfaithfulness. Have a look at *Isaiah 7* and *Micah 1:1*.



FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, in 2 Kings, how many times did the name 'Damascus' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for taking such good care of me and for providing all of my needs. Help me to be a joyful, happy Christian so people see Jesus in me. Help me to surrender all my worries and concerns to You, as I want You to fight my battles for me.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Chronicles 29:1-11
& 32:1-23



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After King Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah came to the throne and he chose to do 'what was right in the sight of the LORD'. Our reading tells us that Hezekiah organized to have the temple cleaned up and re-opened. Hezekiah realized that if he did not get Judah back to worshipping God again, they would be the next kingdom to go into captivity. The rest of chapter 29 and chapters 30 and 31 tell us that the Temple worship was restored. Hezekiah gathered the leaders, Levites and priests and offered sacrifices to God to seek forgiveness as a nation. King Hezekiah also brought back the Passover service and all the people came and celebrated the event. The Passover was a great blessing and joy to the people and they went home and destroyed all their idols. God blessed Hezekiah because he did what was right and worshipped God with all of his heart. Look at *2 Chronicles 31:20-21*. After taking the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity, Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, also wanted to take Judah. Verses 7 and 8 of chapter 32 tell us Hezekiah encouraged his people. King Sennacherib mocked God to the people of Judah and told them that he was more powerful than God. Verse 20 informs us that King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah came together and prayed. In answer to their faithful prayers God delivered Judah and fought their battle for them. The King of Assyria returned to his country a defeated man and was killed by his own people. This story is also recorded in *Isaiah chapters 36-37* and *2 Kings chapters 18-19*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading, of chapter 32, how many times does the name 'Sennacherib' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for keeping me healthy. Help me to be thankful to You for everything You provide for me. Do not allow the things of this world to get in the way of staying close to You. I love You Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 20:1-21



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Hezekiah became ill and was near to death, so he cried out to God in tears and prayer. God had compassion on his faithful servant, and He sent Isaiah to tell him that He would heal him and give him an extra fifteen years of life. Hezekiah asked Isaiah for a sign to confirm that this would indeed happen. Isaiah prayed to God for the sun dial to go back ten degrees as a sign for Hezekiah. This did happen because the wise men in Babylon, who studied astronomy, saw it and they informed their king. The king of Babylon sent ambassadors to Hezekiah to inquire about this miracle. Hezekiah had an opportunity to witness to the ambassadors about the goodness and greatness of God but sadly he showed them all his riches instead. Pride rose in Hezekiah's heart and instead of attributing all blessings as coming from God, he exalted himself instead. When Isaiah found out about this



he prophesied that the nation of Babylon would come and take his riches away and take the people into captivity. *2 Chronicles 32:26* tells us that Hezekiah repented. God relented in taking Judah away during Hezekiah's reign, but would in after generations. After twenty-nine years of reign, Hezekiah died and his son Manasseh came to the throne.

The experience of Hezekiah shows us that it is not a good idea to brag about our 'stuff'! All our wealth and things are a blessing from God and we need to thank God, every day for allowing us to have the possessions we have.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the name 'Hezekiah' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for the sunshine, rain and the air that I breathe. Help me to surrender my heart to You and to be faithful. Please use me today to share Jesus with someone who does not know You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Chronicles 33:1-25



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

When King Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh came to the throne. Manasseh did not follow in his father's footsteps but chose to follow the path of his grandfather, King Ahaz. The Bible tells us he 'did evil in the sight of the LORD'. *2 Kings 21:16* tells us that Manasseh was so wicked, and killed so many innocent people, that the streets of Jerusalem ran with blood. Hezekiah had taken all the idols out of God's temple but Manasseh put them all back. Verse 9 tells us that he led most of the people in Judah into idol worship. God sent prophets to Manasseh to warn him, but he refused to listen. A turn of events happened in verses 11-16. Manasseh was captured by some Assyrian soldiers and taken back to their land. In his affliction Manasseh turned his heart to God and repented of all his wickedness. God forgave him and returned him to his throne in Jerusalem. Manasseh tore down all the idols, restored the temple and told Judah that they must worship the true God. After fifty-five years of reign, Manasseh died and his son Amon came to the throne. Amon was a wicked king and only ruled for two years. Verse 23 tells us that he did not humble his heart like his father Manasseh. Amon was murdered by his own servants. Even though Manasseh repented and God forgave him, the consequences of his great wickedness continued to affect the people of Judah. Many continued in their idol worship, even though he tore down the idols and told the people to worship God alone. It's a warning to us not to let our behaviour cause other people to stumble.



FIND A WORD

How many times was the name 'Jerusalem' mentioned in our Bible reading today? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for Jesus and His death on the cross for me. Please forgive me for my sins and help me to learn from my mistakes. Help me to be faithful and keep Your commandments. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 22:1-20



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

King Amon's son, Josiah, was only eight years old when he became king. Josiah, at his young age, took a stand and decided he was going to worship God alone. Our torchlight for this week tells us that Josiah was a remarkable young man. In the process of getting rid of the idols and altars, when repairing the temple, the book of the law written by Moses was discovered by Hilkiah the high priest. The book had gone missing during the previous monarchs' reign. When Josiah heard the words read to him by the scribe, Shaphan, he ripped his clothes in grief. Josiah asked if they could inquire of the LORD to see if they could somehow stop the disaster that was going to fall on Judah. King Josiah's men went to the prophetess Huldah and she gave them a message from God. God was going to end the kingdom of Judah because of the evil that had been committed in the past by Judah and Israel. However, there was a special message from God for King Josiah. Because of his faithfulness in serving the LORD, God was not going to take the kingdom away during Josiah's reign. Josiah chose to worship God and follow His commandments. Read *Deuteronomy 30:11-20*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading, how many times did the word 'book' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, I praise and thank You for the Sabbath day and the blessings it brings. Thank You for the promise that Jesus will be coming soon to take us home to live with You in heaven. Help me to share the good news of the Second Coming with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PSALM 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Kings 23:1-30



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our reading today tells us that King Josiah himself read the book of the law before the people. The people took a stand to worship God alone and there was a great reformation in Judah. All the idols and altars were destroyed throughout the land. Verse 25 tells us how faithful Josiah was. By his example the whole nation was faithful to God. There is power in the Word! That's why it's important to read our Bibles everyday as it has the power to change our lives. Josiah reigned for thirty-one years. He died in a battle against the Egyptians. After Josiah died, four more kings came to the throne and they all 'did evil in the sight of the LORD'. Twenty-two years after Josiah died, the people of Judah were taken into captivity by the Babylonians, just as Isaiah had prophesied. Even though God used Josiah to bring an amazing reformation throughout Judah, the evil nature of the kings before him sealed Judah's doom. God had warned the Israelites, when they came into the land of Canaan, that they were to remain faithful and keep His commandments or He would dispossess them from their land. That's exactly what happened. God is also a compassionate God filled with mercy and love. Read *2 Chronicles* 36:22-23. God is also a God of hope!



SABBATH QUIZ

1. What happened to Azariah/Uzziah, when he went into the temple to offer incense? _____
2. To which Assyrian king did King Ahaz unwisely ask for help?

3. Who was the prophet who prayed with King Hezekiah?

4. How many extra years of life did God grant Hezekiah? _____
5. How old was Josiah when he became king? _____