



SMALL GROUP STUDY

From Quality to Captivity; From Excellence to Exile

2 Chronicles shows God's continuing faithfulness to the house of David. It is also God's editorial on why the nation fell and why he preserved the Southern Kingdom of Judah for so long. It begins with Solomon's reign, followed by many different kings--a period of rebellion and judgment. Through everything we see God's faithfulness to Judah and the covenant He made with that tribe.

The Distinction of Solomon's Reign (2 Chronicles 1-9)

The time of King Solomon was a golden age of peace and prosperity. The kingdom was united and the borders were extended and secure--life was good! The temple for the Lord was built. In fact the unifying theme of the book is the temple--a center of worship, the center of life.

Discussion Questions:

- What two things did the king make as common as stones in Jerusalem?
- How many years did King Solomon reign?
- How many years did it take to build the temple?
- On what mount was the temple built?

The Division of the South & North (2 Chronicles 10-12)

However, these glory days are short-lived. Soon after Solomon's death the kingdom divides. Solomon's son Rehoboam followed bad advice and oppressed the people. Jeroboam and 10 tribes broke away. Many priests, Levites and others defected to Rehoboam. He forsook the Lord and suffered invasion by Egypt as a result.

Discussion Questions:

- Why are the Northern kings not listed in chapters 10-36?
- Why did God grant deliverance to Judah under the reign of Rehoboam? And, through which prophet did He communicate?
- Examine your heart: Are there areas of your life where you have forsaken the Lord?

The Declension of the Southern Kingdom (2 Chronicles 13-36)

There were 19 more Judean Kings mentioned after Rehoboam. Some were good and some were bad. Despite the reformation efforts of the few good kings, it did not stop the downward spiral of the nation into captivity.

Discussion Questions:

- Which king encouraged revival by destroying the pagan altars?
- Jehoshaphat continued the revival by sending priests throughout the land to do what?
- In what way did Jehoshaphat walk in the counsel of the ungodly?
- How did Jehoshaphat win a victory over the armies of Moab and Ammon?
- Which king was only 8 years old when he became king and was the best of all the kings?
- Examine your heart: What is your position in Christ? How can you make sure you have a Godly perspective of faith?