

14. The Second Book of Chronicles

1. Writer: Unknown. The use of the expression “unto this day” suggests that portions of II Chronicles were written at least two different periods of time. In Chapter 5:9, we find the same description mentioned in I Kings 8:8 about the staves/sticks used to carry the Ark being removed after Solomon had completed the Temple and that they remained in the most holy place with the Ark... *And there it is unto this day*. Since the Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians, a portion of the book must have been written prior to the destruction of the Temple. Other portions were written as least as late as the events described, which includes King of Persia’s (Cyrus) proclamation to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, which is 70 years after Judah went into Babylonian Captivity (II Chronicles 36:22-23).
2. Time Period: Covering around 500 total years, the second book of Chronicles picks up the narrative where I Chronicles ended with Solomon reigning after David’s death. The first 9 chapters focus on Solomon’s 40-year reign. The remaining 27 chapters track through all 20 of the Kings of Judah until Judah goes into the Captivity in Babylon with just the last few verses jumping forward 70 years to briefly mention the Persian King Cyrus’s proclamation/order to rebuild the Temple, which marked the beginning of the end of the Captivity for the children of Israel.
3. Chapter by Chapter:

Solomon’s 40 Year Reign over Israel: Ch. 1-9

Chapter 1: **God appears to Solomon at Gibeon.** (Parallel Verses I Kings Ch. 3)

Solomon (which means “peaceful”) gathers an assembly of all the leaders, officers, judges, and governors and they travel to Gibeon, the current location of both the Tabernacle/tent of the Lord and the original bronze altar that were built in Moses’s day, and there Solomon offers 1,000 sacrifices. God appears to Solomon in a dream and says “*Ask what I shall give thee.*” Solomon asks for wisdom and knowledge that he may judge God’s people. God graciously grants his request for wisdom, plus also gives him the things for which he didn’t ask: riches and honor. Solomon returns to Jerusalem and begins to amass great riches.

Chapter 2: **Solomon determines to build a house for the Lord and a house himself.** Solomon takes a census of all the strangers in the land (Non-Israelites) and there were found 153,600 men. He divided them into groups to perform tasks to further his purpose to build the house for the Lord (later referred to as the Temple). 70,000 were assigned to carry burdens, 80,000 to cut down timber (cedar, fir, and algum trees), and 3,600 to be overseers. Solomon made an agreement with the King of Tyre (Hiram aka Hiram). Hiram would send building materials and a cunning craftsman; in exchange, Solomon would send a huge labor force to help with the work and great amount of food provisions to Hiram as payment.

Chapter 3: **Yr. 4 Solomon Begins to Build.** On the 2nd day of the 2nd month of the 4th year of Solomon’s reign, Solomon starts building the Temple on threshing floor of Ornan, the same spot where David had seen the destroying angel of the Lord. The dimensions of the temple are set forth in cubits: a porch that was 10x20, then the main building (aka Greater Building) that was 60x20; and inside the greater building was an inner room called the most holy place, or the Most Holy House, that was 20x20, which is where the ark would be placed. Additional details are given on the building materials, design, and decorations.

Notable: Inside the Most Holy House, there were two massive golden “cherubims” and each had two large outstretched wings. Combined the four wings, stretched from one side of the room to the other and under them is where Ark would be placed. On the top of the ark were two small cherubims who each had out-stretched wings. This was being referenced in the expression used in Psalms and Isaiah: “God who dwelleth between the cherubims.” Ezekiel is the only book to mention/describe a real cherubims, which are celestial/heavenly beings.

Chapter 4: **Solomon Commissions Great Works for the Temple.** (See Parallel passages in I Kings 7) Solomon builds a new bronze altar, which will replace the one made in the wilderness. Notably this one is much larger at 20x20 and 10 cubits tall and it would be placed outside the temple building in the

inner court yard. (Exodus 27:1- The original bronze altar was portable at only 5x5 and 3 cubits tall) Additional descriptions giant bronze sea (for the priest to wash), the candles, tables, the two pillars (named Boaz and Jachin), the 10 Lavers, and other instruments of the temple.

New Detail: (Verse 6) We learn the purpose of the 10 lavers, which each held 40 baths of water. They were for washing the animals that were being prepared to be sacrificed.

Chapter 5: **Yr. 11 Temple is Completed and Dedicated.** (This chapter tracks closely to I Kings 8:1-11) Seven years later, the construction is completed of all the parts of the Temple: Main Building, Porch, the Court of the Priests/Inner Court, the Great/Outer Court, Doors overlaid with brass at each Gate, which would be guarded by the porters. Solomon installs all the items that had been made and dedicated for the Temple.

After calling a great assembly of the leaders of Israel, the Ark is brought up out of the tent that David had set up and they also brought up the Tabernacle of the Lord from Gibeon along with all the vessels that were inside the Tabernacle. (There are no details on what happens to the Tabernacle after this point) The Priests placed the Ark in the Most Holy House (aka the Oracle) and drew out the staves that were used to carry the Ark. While all 24 of the orders singers of **Asaph, Heman, and Ethan aka Jeduthun** were singing and playing their instruments along with the 120 Priests blowing trumpets, when the Priest came out of the Most Holy Place and the spirit of God filled the room in the form of a cloud. (Though the term doesn't appear in the bible, this cloud is often referred to as the Shechinah Glory of God- Shechinah is Chaldee word meaning "resting-place")

New Details: Verse 11- We learn that the 24 courses of Priests established by David to divide up the labor had not yet been implemented.

Chapter 6: **Yr. 11 Solomon blesses the People and Praises God** (Tracks closely to I Kings 8:12-52)

Solomon blesses the people and then gives a lengthy prayer to the Lord.

New Details: Verse 13- Solomon built a bronze scaffold or platform that is 5x5 and 3 cubits tall and placed it in front of the bronze alter in the courtyard. It is from this platform that he kneels before God with his hand lifted in the air and prays in the presence of the people.

Verses 41-42 (which aren't mentioned in I Kings 8) *Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.*

Chapter 7: **Yr. 11 God Shows his approval.** (See Parallel verses in I Kings 8:62-66)

Verses 1-10 In response to Solomon's prayer, God sends down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifices and the offerings and he also send down his "glory" to fill the house, both of which were visible to all the people, who appropriately bowed themselves to the ground and worshiped God. Solomon offers huge number of sacrifices: 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So much so that even the new large bronze alter wasn't able to handle them all so the middle of the inner court was hallowed and sacrifices were offered directly on it. The whole congregation of Israel kept a feast for seven days for both the Feast of Tabernacles and the dedication of the Alter and after the solemn assembly on the 8th day, the people were dismissed to return home.

Yr. 17 (+) God Appears to Solomon a 2nd Time. (Closely tracks I Kings 9:1-9)

Verses 11-22. At least six years later, God appears to Solomon in a dream a 2nd time and confirms that God has heard Solomon's prayer back at the dedication of the Temple.

New Details: Verses 13-15 *If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.*

Chapter 8: **Yr. 20 Solomon Expands the Kingdom.** (See parallel verses I Kings 9:10-28) The King of Tyre (Hiram) returned certain cities to Solomon (presumably in the north near Tyre), which he promptly rebuilt and repopulated with Israelites. **Solomon** conquers the northern city of **Hammath** in Syria and builds several storage cities near Hammath. All the remaining descendants of the original seven nations (only five are specifically mentioned the **Hittites, Amorites, Perizites, Hivites, and Jebusites**) were made to pay tribute, which included being servants for Solomon's work. The children of Israel were not required to be servants of work except for serving in the military. Solomon

implemented the divisions of labor among the priests and porters. Solomon, with King Hiram's assistance, launches a navy from **Ezon Geber** (a port city on a gulf of the Red Sea- See Map of Distances).

Chapter 9: **The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon and Solomon's death.** (This account tracks almost word for word with I Kings Chapter 10.) Solomon receives a visit from the Queen of Sheba, who has come to test him with hard questions and she is forced to admit that the half of Solomon's wisdom and greatness was not told to her.

Yr. 40. Solomon dies. Solomon's son, Rehoboam reigns in his place.

New Detail: Verse 26: A description of Solomon's territory: *And he reigned over all the kings from the river* (the River Euphrates to the far northeast – approximately 330 miles from Jerusalem) *even unto the land of the Philistines* (Gaza to the west), *and to the border of Egypt* (To the southwest). See **Map of Distances**.

New Detail Verses 29: Additional details of Solomon's reign were recorded the book of **Nathan** the prophet, in the prophecy of **Ahijah**, and in the visions of **Iddo** the seer.

Rehoboam's 17 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 10-12 (J1)

Chapter 10: **The Nation Divides in Two.** (See I Kings 12:1-19) **Rehoboam** (which means "a people enlarged") gathers all of Israel together at Shechem to confirm that he is the King. The people of Israel, along with **Jeroboam** (which means "people will contend"), requested that Rehoboam lighten the (tax) burdens that Solomon had placed upon them. **Rehoboam** ignores the good counsel of his father's advisors and speaks roughly to the people, assuring them that he will be a much more severe task master than **Solomon**. Ten of the tribes of Israel revolt against **Rehoboam** and refused to recognize him (and the descendants of David) as their king unto this day. **Rehoboam** attempts to send around a tax collector, but the people stone the tax man to death, which prompts **Rehoboam** to flee to Jerusalem.

Chapter 11: **God Prevents a Civil War and Rehoboam's Reign.** (See I Kings 12:21-24) In Jerusalem, **Rehoboam** gathers a fighting force of 185,000 men from Judah and Benjamin with the intent of marching against the other 10 tribes to force them to recognize him as their King. God stops this course of action by send a prophet unto **Rehoboam** and all the people saying, **Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return everyman to his house; for this thing is done of me.** The people obeyed and went home.

Rehoboam began building military fortifications in 15 cities in Judah and stocked them with leaders, weapons and provisions. He serves the Lord for the first 3 years of his reign. **Rehoboam** taps his favorite son, **Abijah** to be the next king. (**Abijah** is the grandson of the **Absalom**, the treacherous son of **David**. **Abijah's** mother is **Maachah, Absalom's daughter**.)

Noteworthy: All the Levites and Priest voluntarily left their homes in Israel and traveled to Judah because **Jeroboam (I1)** had kicked them out of their jobs as Priests. (Jeroboam had set up the two golden calves for the people to worship and he also established his own priests to serve the calves, high places and devils) After the Priests, all the people in Israel who had set their heart of serving the Lord left their homes and came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the Lord.

Chapter 12: **Rehoboam forsakes God and is delivered to Egypt.** After three years of serving God, **Rehoboam** and the nation of Judah forsake the law of God. (I Kings 14:23 *They also built high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree*) The Lord sends up the King of Egypt (Shishak) to invade Judah and he conquers all the cities that **Rehoboam** had tried to fortify and then marches to Jerusalem. **Rehoboam** and all the princes are visited by the prophet, **Shemaiah** who declares they have been delivered into the hand of Shishak by God because they had forsaken him. **Rehoboam** and the princes all humble themselves before the Lord and he granted them a measure of deliverance and spared Jerusalem/Judah from having God's full wrath poured out upon it. Judah becomes a tributary of Egypt and Shishak takes away all the treasures from the Temple and the King's house. **Rehoboam (J1)** dies after his 17-year reign at the age of 58, and his favorite son, **Abijah(J2)** becomes the second king of Judah.

Abijah's Brief 3 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 13 (J2)

Chapter 13: We learned very little about **Abijah (J2)**- "Worshipper of Jehovah") in I Kings 15 (he is only mentioned in 8 verses) other than he walked in all the sins of **Rehoboam** and *his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God*. This scene in Chapter 13 is a bit surprising in that **Abijah(J2)** is boldly declaring to **Jeroboam (I1)** that the Lord gave the kingdom to the house of David forever and that God will deliver the battle into Judah's hand because Judah has not forsaken God and God is their captain. His bold words are even more surprising given that Israel has an army of 800,000 men, which is twice as large as Judah's army of only 400,000. **Jeroboam (I1)** shrewdly laid an ambush against Judah, but God still caused Judah to prevail over Israel. In the process 500,000 of Israel's men were killed because Judah *relied upon the LORD God of their fathers*. **Abijah** invades Israel and conquers Beth-el (where one of the two golden calves had been setup by **Jeroboam**), Jesh-a-nah and Ephraim. **Jeroboam** did not recover from this massive defeat during Abijah reign. After only three years, **Abijah** dies.

Asa's 41 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 14-16 (J3)

Chapter 14: **Asa's 1st Reformation and 1st Test Against the Ethiopians.**

Abijah's son, **Asa (J3)** becomes the third king of Judah and he enjoys a ten-year period of peace. During this first period of prolonged peace since Solomon's days, **Asa** reforms Judah by taking away the altars of the strange gods and removing the high places in the cities of Judah, cutting down the idol groves and commanding the people of Judah to seek the LORD God and to do God's law. **Asa** sets about fortifying the defenses of multiple cities in preparation against future attacks.

Yr. 10 The period of peace comes to an end when the forces of the **Ethiopian King** (Zerah) invade Judah with over 1 Million men (Ethiopian and Lubim (Libyan) men -See II Chronicles 16:8). Outnumbered 2 to 1, **Asa** and his ½ Million men looked to the Lord for deliverance: 14:11 *LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, an in they name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee*. God delivered the Ethiopians into Judah's hands and they were soundly defeated and fled. Judah's army chased the Ethiopians from **Mareshan** all the way to **Gerar**, which are about 30 miles apart, and then they returned to Jerusalem with great spoils.

Chapter 15: **A message from God, the 2nd Reformation and the Renewal of the Covenant.**

The Spirit of the Lord came upon a prophet named **Azariah**, who came to meet **Asa** as he returned to Jerusalem, and **Azariah** declared that the LORD is with Judah while Judah remains with and seeks the Lord, but if they forsake the Lord, then they will be forsaken. **Azariah** notes the plight of the nation of Israel (the northern kingdom) and their troubles, which have come because they stopped serving God. Taking courage after hearing the prophet, **Asa** commences a 2nd reformation by removing the idols from all of Judah, Benjamin, and even the cities in Ephraim that had been captured from Israel. **Asa** then rebuilt/repared the 20x20 bronze altar that Solomon had made outside the Temple.

Yr 15. Asa renews the covenant with the Lord. **Asa** gathered a vast assembly of the people of the nation of Judah including many people from the Northern Kingdom (from the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon) who came to join Judah when they saw that the Lord was with **Asa**. Together they entered into a covenant (i.e. a promise, compact or league) to *Seek the LORD GOD of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul*. The punishment for breaching this covenant would be death. Not allowing family ties to override his covenant, **Asa** removed his grandmother **Maachah**, wife of **Rehoboam** and daughter of **Absolom** from being queen for she had set up an idol in Jerusalem. **Asa** and Judah enjoyed another period of peace that lasts for 20 years.

Chapter 16: **Asa fails his 2nd Test against Israel; Asa's Rage, and Foot Disease.**

Yr. 36 Asa fails his 2nd Test against Israel. Israel's king (**Baasha I3**) starts to build the city of Raham, which was to serve as a block-aid against Judah's supply lines. This time **Asa** does not seek to the Lord for deliverance; instead, he takes the treasures from the House of the Lord (the Temple) and the King's Palace and sends them up to the King of Syria (Benhadad) as a present with a request that Syria break its league with Israel and attack **Baasha**. (Backstory: Syria has had a peace treaty

in place with Israel for nearly 100 years since King **David** defeated them during the Ammonite War and it has continued even after the nation of Israel divided into two: Israel and Judah. See I Chronicles 19). King of Syria (Benhadad) invades Israel and **Baasha (I3)** has to leave the construction of Raham to go defend his cities from the Syrians. Asa and his men go gather up all the building materials left at the partially completed Raham and then use them to fortify Judah's cities of Mispah and Geba.

Asa's Rage. **Hanani** the seer (or a prophet) comes to **Asa** and declares that because **Asa** didn't trust God this time, he will not be able to conquer the Syrians and that going **Asa** would have to deal with wars going forward. Not pleased to hear that he had acted foolishly, **Asa** flies into a rage and has **Hanani** thrown in prison and begins to oppress some of the people.

Yr. 39 Foot Disease. **Asa** gets a terrible foot disease, but rather than seeking to God, he seeks to the physicians and two years later **Asa (J3)** dies.

Jehoshaphat's 25 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 17-20 (J4)

Chapter 17: **Jehoshaphat walks right.**

Asa's son, **Jehoshaphat** (J4 "God Judged") reigns in Judah and he strengthens his position against Israel by placing troops in the fenced cities of Judah and the cities that Asa had taken from in Ephraim. The Lord is with **Jehoshaphat** because he walks in the footsteps of David and did not seek unto Baalim (plural of Baal) like Israel and its King **Ahab (I6)**. (For Context See: I Kings chapters 16-18) For his faithfulness, God establishes **Jehoshaphat's** kingdom.

Yr 3. Jehoshaphat dispatches teachers, Levites, and Priests unto his princes and all the cities in Judah to teach the people out of the book of the Law. The fear of the LORD fell upon all the neighboring nations and they did not make war with Judah; instead, many brought presents unto **Jehoshaphat**. **Jehoshaphat's** army, besides those he garrisoned in the cities of Judah, consisted of 1,160,000 men.

Chapter 18: **Jehoshaphat's Foolish Alliance with Ahab** (See I Kings 22- Almost Word for Word) Once **Jehoshaphat** has plenty of riches, honor and power, he decides to make a league/alliance with the idolatrous King of Israel, **Ahab (I6)**.

Yr. 18. King **Ahab** wines and dines **Jehoshaphat** before asking if he will aid Ahab in his invasion of the Syrian city of Ramoth-Gilead. They inquire of 400 prophets and all they prophets encourage them to go saying the Lord will bless their efforts- all except **Micaiah**, who reveals that God had sent a lying spirit to those prophets and declares that Ahab shall die in battle. **Ahab** is so angry he has **Micaiah** put into prison. **Ahab** decides not to take any chances so he disguises himself, while **Jehoshaphat** (J4) wears his kingly clothing into the battle at **Ramoth-Gilead**, but **Ahab** is still killed by an arrow shot at random.

Chapter 19: **Jehoshaphat Chastened and appoints Judges in Judah.** (No parallel verses in I Kings)

Yr. 18. Upon returning home to Judah after the battle with **Ahab** at Ramoth-Gilead, **Jehoshaphat** is met by a prophet, **Jehu**, who chastises **Jehoshaphat** for helping the ungodly, Ahab: *Should thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord?* **Jehu** declares that the wrath of God is upon him.

Jehoshaphat proceeds to set faithful judges and priests in all the cities of Judah to judge the people faithfully.

Chapter 20: **Moab and Ammon Invade Judah.** (See I Kings 22:44-50)

Verses 1-4 Moab, Ammon and those of mount Seir (Edom) join forces to invade Judah. Hearing this troubling news, **Jehoshaphat** declares a nationwide fast and all of Judah comes to Jerusalem to Seek the Lord.

Verses 5-12 **Jehoshaphat** prays before the congregation for God's deliverance.

Verses 13-19 The **Spirit** of the **Lord** came upon a singer of the house of **Asaph**, named **Jahaziel**, who declares to Judah that the battle is God's and he will fight it for them.

Verses 20-29 God delivers Judah by causing the armies of Ammon, Moab and Edom to turn on each other and kill each other off, while Judah stands there and watched.

Verses 30-37 **Jehoshaphat's** remaining years as King are peaceful, but his attempt to build a navy like Solomon is defeated by God because **Jehoshaphat** made peace with **Ahab's** son, **Ahaziah (I7)**. **Jehoshaphat** dies after walking in the ways of his father **Asa** and doing right in the sight of the Lord.

Jehoram's 8 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 21 (J5)

Chapter 21: **Jehoram's Idolatry; God afflicts Judah: Plague and War.** (See II Kings 8:16-24)

Jehoshaphat's firstborn son, **Jehoram (J5 aka Jo'ram)** reigns over Judah, but he is wicked like the King of Israel. First, **Jehoram** murders all his brothers and along with various princes and then he marries a daughter of **King Ahab (I6)**. He sets up high places and compels the people of Judah to commit spiritual adultery (serving any "god" other than the God) like the *whoredoms of the house of Ahab* (serving Baal).

God begins to cause **Jehoram's** kingdom to shrink. First, the people of Edom (who had been tributaries to Judah) revolt against **Jehoram** and make themselves a king. Judah will not regain the dominion over Edom again. (This is the fulfillment of **Isaac's** blessing to **Esau** that he would indeed serve his younger brother **Jacob**, but one day Edom would break the yoke of Israel. See Genesis 27:40) Later, the people of Lib-nah also revolt against Judah.

Through the prophet **Elijah**, God informs **Jehoram** that for all his wickedness God will strike Judah with a terrible plague that will cause their very bowels (intestines) to fall out. Additionally, God sends an army of Philistines (Gaza Region) and Arabians (from near Ethiopia) against Jerusalem and Judah. Jerusalem is over run, and they steal everything of value including **Jehoram's** wives and all his sons, except for his youngest **Ahaziah aka Jehoahaz**. Then for two years, **Jehoram** suffers from the promised plague before his bowels fall out and he dies.

Ahaziah's Brief 1 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 22 Verses 1-9 (J6)

Chapter 22: **Ahaziah's Brief 1 Year Reign before being Slain by Jehu (I9)**

Verses (1-9) **Jehoram's** youngest, and here we learn his only surviving son, **Ahaziah (J6)**, is made King by the citizens of Jerusalem. **Ahaziah's** mother **Athaliah**, is daughter of **Ahab (I6)** and granddaughter of **Omir (I5)**. **Athaliah** advises **Ahaziah** as a counselor to do wickedly. So **Ahaziah** pursues all the idolatry of **Ahab's** house and makes an alliance with the king of Israel, **Jehoram (I8)**, (**Ahab's** Son) and goes to war against the Syrians with **Jehoram**, where **Jehoram** is wounded.

Ahaziah is at Jezreel visiting the injured **Jehoram**, when **Jehu (I9)** comes to Jezreel fulfilling the commandment of the Lord to destroy the house of **Ahab**. **Jehu** kills both **Jehoram (I8)** and **Ahaziah (J6)**.

Queen Athaliah's 6 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 22 - 23 (J7)

Chapter 22: **The wicked Queen Athaliah**

Verses 10-12. When **Ahaziah's** mother, **Athaliah (J7)**, hears that her son is dead, she quickly moves to secure the control of the kingdom of Judah for herself by killing all her grandchildren, except for one infant, **Joash**, who is secretly saved by his aunt. **Athaliah** reigns over Judah for six years during which **Joash** remains hidden in his aunt and uncle's house.

Joash's 40 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 23-24 (J8)

Chapter 23: **Joash anointed King; Athaliah is slain; and the Priest Jehoiada quickly reforms Judah**

Verses 1-11 **Joash's** uncle **Jehoiada**, who is a priest, arranges for young **Joash** to be anointed as King of Judah at the age of 7. Relying on the word of God, which has promised that sons of David should be king, **Jehoiada** convinces five captains over hundreds (middle grade officers) to join in league with him and together they persuade the chief men of Judah to come to Jerusalem. Then with all the Levites in attendance, heavily armed, and closely guarding the little future king, they held a ceremony in the temple to anoint **Joash (J8)** King of Judah. Once the ceremony is completed, the people begin to rejoice with a great noise of shouting and musical instrument.

Verses 12-15 **Athaliah** hears the commotion and discovers what has been done, but she can only shout in protest before she is carried outside and killed.

Verses 16-21 **Jehoiada** immediately sets about reforming the kingdom by making a covenant between himself, all the people and the king that they should all be the LORD's people. In response, the people jump into action and destroy Baal's temple along with all its altars and images and then

kill the priest of Baal. **Jehoiada** promptly appoints Priests and Levites to fulfill the service to the LORD in the Temple.

Chapter 24: **Joash does right while Jehoiada lives, but then he falls into Idolatry and murders a Priest/Prophet. Syrians invade Judah.**

Verses 1-16 **Joash (J8)** serves the Lord well, while his uncle **Jehoiada** the priest is still alive to guide him. During this period, **Joash** arranges for the Temple to be repaired from all the damage caused by **Athaliah's** followers. When **Jehoiada** dies at 130 years old.

Verses 17-22 The Princes of Judah come before Joash and convince him to forsake serving God and go after idols. God sends multiple prophets to cry against their conduct, but they are ignored. Then the Spirit of God comes upon **Jehoiada's son, Zechariah**, who boldly declared to all the people that the Lord has forsaken them because they have forsaken the Lord. At the King's Command, **Zechariah** is murdered by the people who stoned him in the court outside the Temple. (This likely the same **Zechariah** who Jesus references in Matthew 23:35: . . . *from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.* Barachias means "Bless the Lord" and Jehoiada means "Praise the Lord").

Verses 23-27 God delivers Judah, Jerusalem, and specifically, all the princes of Judah, into the hands of a small band of Syrians even though Judah greatly outnumbered them because they had forsaken the LORD. Afterwards, **Joash's** servants conspire against him to avenge **Zechariah** and slay **Joash** in his bed.

Amaziah's 29 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 25 (J9)

Chapter 25: **Amaziah defeats Edom, but then Amaziah worships their idols.**

Verses 1-13 **Joash's son, Amaziah (J9 "Strength of God")** becomes King and quickly has his father's conspirators executed. **Amaziah** raises an army of 300,000 men of Judah plus he hires 100,000 Israelites as mercenaries to fight against Edom. God sends an unnamed prophet to **Amaziah**, who declares that **Amaziah** should not take the men of Israel with him to the battle and that God is able to provide victory without them. **Amaziah** sends the Israelites home, who in their anger attack several cities in Judah. **Amaziah** enjoys a significant, but grisly, victory over the Edomites.

Verses 14-28 **Amaziah** foolishly returns home and sets up the idols of Edom and worships them. God sends a prophet to rebuke **Amaziah**, but **Amaziah** shuts the prophet down by telling him to be quiet before he gets himself killed. The prophet notes that God had determined to destroy **Amaziah**. God uses Israel to punish **Amaziah**. Israel conquers Jerusalem and they break down large portions of Jerusalem's walls. A conspiracy is plotted against **Amaziah**, who attempts to flee, but the conspirators pursue him and kill him in the city of Lachish.

Azariah aka Uzziah's 52 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 26 (J10)

Chapter 26: **Uzziah's Rise in Strength and Fall to pride.**

Verses 1-15 **Azariah aka Uzziah (J10 "Strength of God")** begins to reign at only 16 years old and he starts off by serving God like his father initially did. He enjoys victories over the Philistines, Arabians, Mehunims, and the Ammonites, and his kingdom and fame spreads down as far as the border of Egypt. He amasses an impressive army with cunning war machines including an arrow launcher (like a ballista) and great stone throwers (like catapults).

Verses 16-23 **Uzziah** became strong and in his pride, he decides that he should burn incense to the LORD (a task specifically reserved for the Priests). As **Uzziah** is arguing with the priests, who are trying to prevent him from burning the incense, God sends a leprosy into **Uzziah's** forehead. Now **Uzziah** is unclean, the priests immediately thrust him out of the Temple. He spends the rest of his days separated from the people because of the leprosy. Meanwhile his son, **Jotham** served as **Uzziah's** agent judging the people on his behalf until **Uzziah's** death, when **Jotham (J11)** became King.

Jotham's 16 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 27 (J11)

Chapter 27: **God blesses Judah to Prosper during Jotham's days.**

Jotham (J11- "God is perfect") reigns well for 16 years serving the Lord like his father **Uzziah**, excluding the incident with the incense. **Jotham** puts a lot of emphasis on construction and building, including, a great gate for the Temple, extending the walls around Jerusalem, various cities in the mountains of Judah, along with towers and castles. **Jotham** defeats the Ammonites and they became tributaries to Judah. *Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.* Upon **Jotham's** death, his wicked son **Ahaz (12)** becomes King of Judah.

Ahaz's Wicked 16 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 28 (J12)

Chapter 28: **Ahaz's Terrible Sins for which God brings Judah very low.**

Verses 1-15 **Ahaz (J12)** walks after the idolatry of Kings of Israel and serves the idol Baal (Baalim is the plural), and even worse, he sacrifices his own children as burnt offerings. For **Ahaz's** sins, God brings Judah very low and causes them to suffer many defeats. First, the King of Syrian defeats Judah in a battle and carries off many people captive to the Syrian city of Damascus. Next, Judah loses 120,000 men in a single day against the King of Israel (**Pekah I17**), who attempts to take many captives back to Samaria. God sends the prophet, **Oded**, to command Israel to release their captives from Judah for the fierce wrath is upon them for this trespass. The leaders of Israel heed the warning and return the captives to Jericho in good condition.

Verse 16-27 **Ahaz** seeing his weakness attempts to hire the Assyrians to help him fight against the Edomites and Philistines, who have been attacking Judah to the south and west carrying away captives. A King of the Assyrians (Tilgathpilneser) accepts the gifts sent by **Ahaz**, but he does not actually come to help **Ahaz**. In **Ahaz's** distress rather than repenting and serving the Lord, he doubles down and serves the idols of the Syrians thinking that since those "gods" are helping the Syrians defeat him, then "logically" they should help **Ahaz**, too, if he sacrifices to them. **Ahaz** takes everything valuable out of the house of the Lord and cuts it all up, and then finally closes the Temple of God. After 16 years, **Ahaz** dies and his son, **Hezekiah (J13)** becomes King.

Hezekiah's Good 29 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 29-32 (J13)

Chapter 29: **The Closed Temple is cleaned and Reopened.**

Yr. 1 Hezekiah (J13 – "Strengthened of God") walks in right in the sight of the LORD and did according the ways of King **David**. In the first month of the year, during his first year as King, **Hezekiah** reopens the Temple and causes it to be repaired and cleaned by the Levites, which they do in just 16 days. The day after it is cleaned, **Hezekiah** arises early and gathers the rulers of Jerusalem to make an atonement for all the sins of all Israel (not just those of Judah). **Hezekiah** reinstates all the practices that David had set forth for worshiping the Lord in the Temple, as well setting in order all the services to the Lord, as written in the Law. That day, the Levites have to help the priests perform the priests' role with the many sacrifices, because too few of the priests had sanctified themselves.

Chapter 30: **A Great Passover is Held.**

Yr. 1 Hezekiah sent letters to all the cities of Judah, as far south as Beersheba, and Israel, as far north as Dan, announcing that everyone should come to Jerusalem to observe the Passover the following month and that they should repent and seek the Lord. Many in Israel who receive the letters, laugh with scorn at the prospect. (Israel had been worshipping Idol for nearly 300 years and a Passover hadn't been observed like this since the days of Solomon when the kingdom was still united.) Still many from Israel do come and Judah is united in one mind and heart to serve the LORD. A very great congregation assembles and first thing they go through Jerusalem to clean out all the idols and altars from the city. Though their efforts to keep the Passover were not perfect, many who had come are unclean, **Hezekiah** prays that the Lord would still pardon them because they have prepared their hearts to seek the Lord even though their bodies are still unclean. After keeping a joyous Passover for the appointed seven days, the assembly decides to extend the time for an additional week.

Chapter 31: **Idols removed and Service to The Lord Restored**

Yr. 1 When the congregation finally disperses, they go through all of Judah and many parts of Israel removing of the idols, groves and altars. **Hezekiah** reinstates the orders/courses of Priests and Levites to serve in the Temple. He also commands that the people give what the law required to support the Levites and Priest. The people respond by cheerfully giving in such quantities that they have to prepare chambers to hold all the goods. Verses 20-21 *And thus did Hezekiah throughout all of Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. And in every work that he [Hezekiah] began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.*

Chapter 32: **Yr. 14 Syrian Invasion, Miraculous Deliverance, Miraculous Extension of Life, Hezekiah's Pride.** (It is not mentioned here, but Israel has already fallen completely in Assyrian Captivity during the 6th year of Hezekiah.)

Verses 1-9 The King of Assyria (**Sennacherib**) invades Judah and encamps against Judah's fenced cities. **Hezekiah**, seeing a battle/siege is imminent, prepares Jerusalem by building up the walls, stock piling weapons, and stopping up the water access points outside of the city. After gathering all the people into the city, **Hezekiah** encourages the people by reminding them that *there be more with us than with him [Sennacherib]: with him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.*

Verses 10-19 The King of Assyria (**Sennacherib**), through his messengers, taunts **Hezekiah** and **God** basically saying that Assyrian empire has grown dramatically and the "gods" of all the people they've conquered haven't stopped them so your God won't be able to stop us either.

Verses 20-23 After **Hezekiah** and **Isaiah** cry unto the Lord, God delivers Jerusalem by sending a destroying angel, who in a single night kills all the leaders and best men in the in the Assyrian army (185,000 men), which prompts the King of Assyria (**Sennacherib**) to return home where is he is murdered by his own sons. Thereafter, Judah prospers and **Hezekiah** become strong.

Verses 24-33 **Yr. 14 Hezekiah** is near death but God miraculously extends Hezekiah's life for another 15 years, but **Hezekiah** gets lifted up with pride and shows off his riches to the Babylon ambassadors. *Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.* When called out, he humbles himself so God delays the punishment until after his death.

Manasseh's 55 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 33:1-22 (J14)

Chapter 33: **Hezekiah's** twelve-year-old son, **Manasseh (J14- "Causing to Forget")** became King and he sins after the abominations of the seven-nations, who were cast of Canaan, including, idolatry, witchcraft, and offering human sacrifices of his own children. **Manasseh** sets up a carved idol inside the Temple of the LORD. God sends prophets unto **Manasseh** and the people of Judah, but they are all ignored. So, God sends the Assyrians to capture **Manasseh** and carry him off to Babylon. There in his affliction, **Manasseh** humbles himself before the Lord. He is eventually permitted to return to Jerusalem and he reforms Judah by removing the idols, repairing the Temple, and serving the Lord only. Upon **Manasseh's** death, **Amon (J15)** his son becomes King.

Amon's Brief 2 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 33:21-25 (J15)

Amon (J15- "Skilled") follows **Manasseh's** original wicked path in serving idols; however, he does not humble himself before the Lord. Instead, Amon just trespasses more and more against God. **Amon's** servants join in a conspiracy to kill him and they are successful. The people of Judah take vengeance upon the conspirators and install Amon's son, **Josiah (J16)** as their King.

Josiah's 31 Year Reign over Judah: Chapters 34-35 (J16)

Chapter 34: **Josiah's** grow in seeking the LORD.

Verses 1-7 **Yrs. 1-12. Josiah (J16 - "Founded of God")** is only 8 years old when he becomes King. At 16, he begins to seek after God, and at 20 years old, he begins to reform Judah by removing the high places, idols, and groves. He defiles the idol altars by burning the idolatrous priests upon them. After cleaning up Judah, he goes through the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon and even as far north as Naphtali, removing the idols and altars-purging the land. (These cities were no longer

inhabited by Israelites, but instead they contained all people who the Assyrian Kings had moved there, which would be later known as the Samaritans).

Verses 8-28 **Yr. 18. Josiah** causes the Temple to be repaired. During the repairs, a copy of the book of the Law is discovered, which is read to **Josiah**. **Josiah** mourns upon hearing the great wrath that is due to be poured out upon the children of Israel for their sin. He sends men to inquire of the prophetess, Huldah, and she confirms that the wrath is coming, but it will be delayed until after **Josiah's** days because his heart was tender, and he humbled himself before the Lord.

Verses 29-33 **Yr. 18. Josiah** gathers all the elders of Judah and together they go to the House of the LORD with all the people of Judah and Israel, and they listen to the all the words of the Law. Then **Josiah** makes a covenant to seek the Lord only, and he causes all the people to commit to it as well.

Chapter 35: **Josiah keeps the Passover.**

Verses 1-19 **Yr 18. Josiah** sets the service of Lord back in order, including putting the Ark back into the Temple. Josiah keeps a solemn Passover doing every step just right, which had not been done since the days of **Samuel** the prophet.

Verses 20-27 **Yr. 31 Josiah** is slain in a battle with the Egyptians when **Josiah** interjects himself against Egypt as they are marching north to fight the Assyrian King (Charchemish) at the Euphrates River.

Jehoahaz's Brief 3 Month Reign over Judah: Chapter 36:1-4 (J17)

Chapter 36:

Verses 1-4 The people of Judah make Josiah's son, **Jehoahaz (J17)**, King, but after only three months, the King of Egypt (Necho) comes and quickly conquers Jerusalem, which become Egypt's tributary. (This is likely upon their return trip from fighting the Assyrians.) **Jehoahaz (J17)** is deposed by the King of Egypt, and **Jehoahaz** is carried away to Egypt as a prisoner until his death.

Eliakim aka Jehoiakim 11 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 36:4-8 (J18)

Chapter 36

Verses 4-8 King of Egypt (Necho) appoints **Eliakim (J18-"God of Raising")**, the brother of **Jehoahaz (J17)**, to be the king of Judah and then changes his name to **Jehoiakim** – "God will Raise". **Jehoiakim** does that which was evil in the sight of the Lord and he conquered and captured by King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar). Nebuchadnezzar also carried away all the vessels of the temple to Babylon.

Jehoiachin Brief 3 Month Reign over Judah: Chapter 36:9-10 (J19)

Chapter 36

Verses 9-10 The people of Judah make **Jehoiakim's** son, **Jehoiachin (J19)**, the King of Judah. **Jehoiachin** is only 18 years old (See II Kings 24:8) when he begins to reign and he does evil, but only for 3 months until the **King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar)** returns to Jerusalem and carries **Jehoiachin** away too.

The Last King of Judah

Zedekiah 11 Year Reign over Judah: Chapter 36:11-21 (J20)

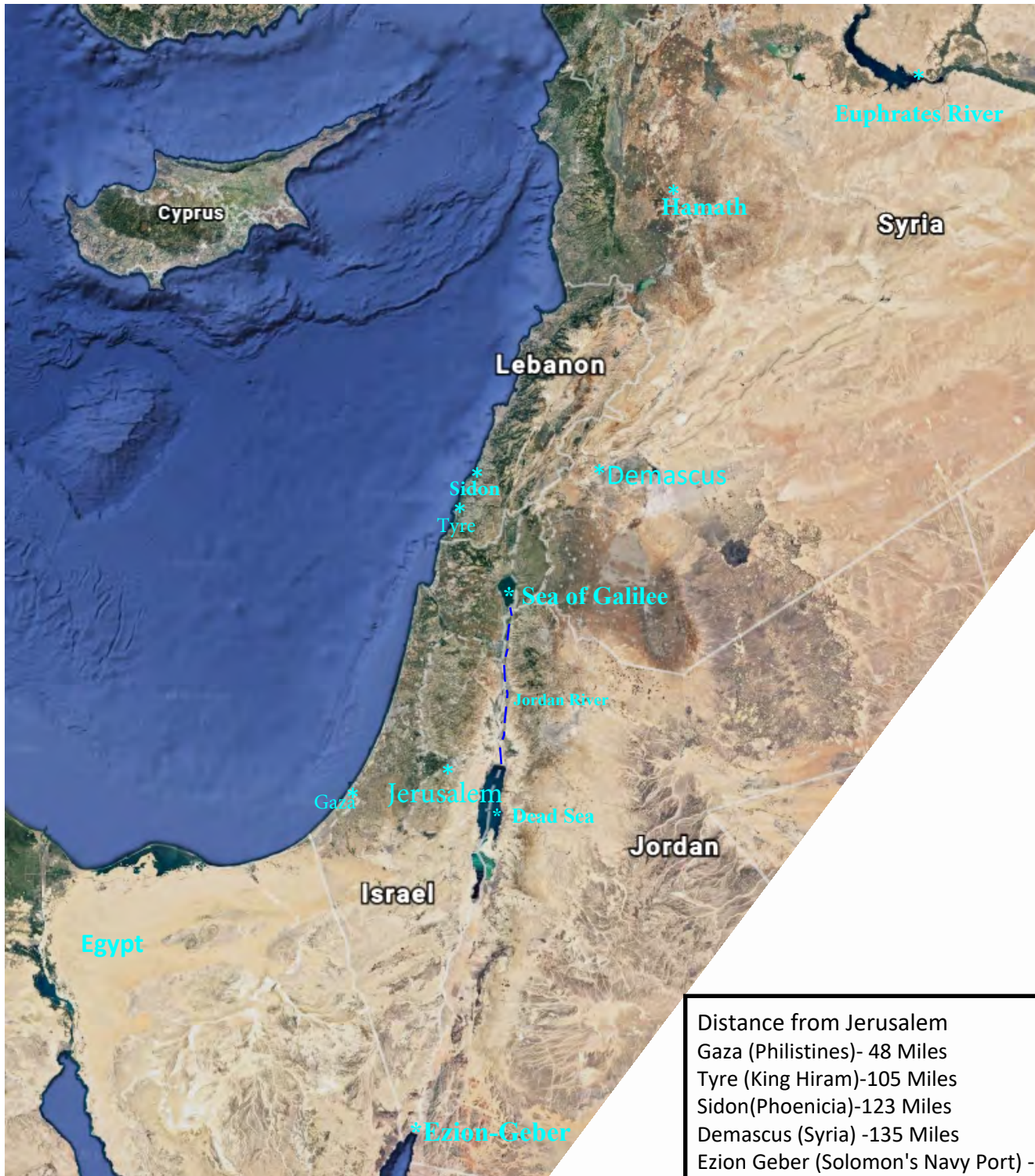
Chapter 36 (See Also II Kings 24:17-20 & Chapter 25)

Verses 11-19 The **King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar)** appoints **Jehoiachin's (J19)** uncle, **Zedekiah(J20)** to be King. (In II Kings, we learned that **Nebuchadnezzar** changed his name from **Mattaniah** "gift of God" to **Zedekiah** "the right of God") **Zedekiah** does wickedly. When rebuked by the prophet, **Jeremiah**, **Zedekiah** does not humble himself; instead, he and all the people of Judah continued to transgress against the Lord, even defiling the Temple. God sends many prophets unto to them, but they refuse to harken to them and even kill some of them. God, in his wrath, finally turns the whole nation of Judah over to the Babylonians and allows them to capture and destroy most of Jerusalem, break down its walls, and burn down the House of the LORD.

The Captivity 70 Years in Babylon

Chapter 36 (See Also II Kings 24:17-20 & Chapter 25)

Verses 20-23. The people of Judah are carried away to Babylon and are made to serve there until the Kingdom of Persia arises and conquers the Babylonians. The length of the captivity is 70 years as spoken by the word of Jeremiah the Prophet. (See Jeremiah 25:9-12) The Persian King (Cyrus) in his first year as King decrees that the Temple in Jerusalem is to be rebuilt.



Distance from Jerusalem
 Gaza (Philistines)- 48 Miles
 Tyre (King Hiram)-105 Miles
 Sidon(Phoenicia)-123 Miles
 Demascus (Syria) -135 Miles
 Ezion Geber (Solomon's Navy Port) -155 Miles
 Hamath (Syria) -250 Miles
 Euphrates River (Northern Boarder)-330 Miles

