

This week's reading:

June 11: 2 Chronicles 18 – 20

June 12: 2 Chronicles 21 – 23

June 13: 2 Chronicles 24 – 26

June 14: 2 Chronicles 27 – 29

June 15: 2 Chronicles 30 – 32

June 16: 2 Chronicles 33 – 36

June 17: Romans 1 – 3

June 18: Romans 4 – 7

Summary:

June 11: 2 Chronicles 18 – 20

2 Chronicles 18 continues Jehoshaphat's reign and his alliance with Ahab with a compelling testimony from a true prophet.

2 Chronicles 19 shows some of Jehoshaphat's reforms. **(Note:** While not an evil king, Jehoshaphat is rebuked for aligning with the evil king of Israel. God's people were called to be pure and holy; even an alliance with a sinful nation—foreign or not—was a downgrading of that holiness.)

2 Chronicles 20 sees more war in Judah, as Moab & Ammon invade, and God delivers Judah. **(Note:** The work of God in this chapter is a lesson why Judah need not ally with other nations. Yet the sin of Judah, failure to trust God, rears its ugly head continually.)

June 12: 2 Chronicles 21 – 23

2 Chronicles 21 sees another king of Judah (Jehoram) and his sin leading to trouble.

2 Chronicles 22 sees more royal turnover and the judgment of God through Jehu.

(Note: Just as God will use Assyria & Babylon to judge Israel & Judah; He here uses the soon-to-be unrighteous Jehu as a means of condemning the royal houses.)

2 Chronicles 23 returns to some Godliness as Jehoida the priest crowns Joash and reforms begin.

June 13: 2 Chronicles 24 – 26

2 Chronicles 24 continues reform before showing the sin of Joash and war breaking out again. **(Note:** God promised peace and prosperity to Israel, if they were faithful. The recurring wars of the divided kingdom (both Israel in the north & Judah in the south) show the judgment of God; as well as serve as reminders to the people to repent and return to God.)

2 Chronicles 25 brings Amaziah to the throne along with his idolatry.

2 Chronicles 26 enters in Uzziah and his faithfulness (at first) before he falls into pride.

(Note: There are ups and downs of the kings of Judah. Some good, some bad, some eh; God faithfully cares for His people, even when He brings rebuke and punishment. Remember the Covenant, if Judah will repent and return to God they will be healed.)

June 14: 2 Chronicles 27 – 29

2 Chronicles 27 & 28 continue the decline of Judah leading to judgment before Hezekiah attains the throne. **(Note:** The steady decline of Judah continues. Seeing the story of the nation come this quickly gives the benefit of witnessing the slide over the years. Judah is failing because she is continually turning away from God.)

2 Chronicles 29 begins the reforms of Hezekiah and the reinstating of the Temple

routine. **(Note:** Such a staple of the Law, Temple worship being discontinued is such an alien idea it is hard to believe that it occurred.)

June 15: 2 Chronicles 30 – 32

2 Chronicles 30 & 31 continue the reforms of worship and the festivals. **(Note:** The festivals, the heartbeat of worship in Israel, are being restored. We are almost 3 centuries removed from the building of the Temple; Judah is starting to climb out of their apostasy, but the heart of the people has not changed.)

2 Chronicles 32 brings Assyria to the doorstep of Judah before God defeats them.

(Note: Assyria was the vehicle of God's judgment against Israel; but not against Judah. The Assyrians destroyed civilizations when they conquered, the Babylonians preserved. Judah, as the nation of the Davidic line, must be preserved until the Messiah comes. Assyria will not destroy Judah and her ancestry, because God is still at work amongst that ancestry.)

June 16: 2 Chronicles 33 – 36

2 Chronicles 33 brings the evil reigns of Manasseh & Amon.

2 Chronicles 34 & 35 return to reformation as Josiah ascends to the throne and again repairs the Temple and reinstates proper worship. **(Note:** What was so celebrated during Hezekiah's reign 80 years earlier is lost in a couple of generations. Again the judgment against Judah has been postponed, but by this point clearly is deserved.)

2 Chronicles 36 is the end of Judah as Nebuchadnezzar invades and destroys Jerusalem; but 70 years later Cyrus of Persia allows those exiled by Nebuchadnezzar to return and worship God. **(Note:** The judgment that was clearly seen is here. This event still did not "break" the Israelites, but it was a shocking event for the people and nation.)

June 17: Romans 1 – 3

Romans 1 outlines the sin of the world as it rejects what God has given and shown them. **(Note:** The ending of this chapter describes the condition of a world, wallowing in her sin; which is the condition of all people apart from Christ.)

Romans 2 moves Paul's argument from the natural to specific Law of God as the Law condemns those who try and follow it. **(Note:** There are none who are without sin, regardless of their access to the Law.)

Romans 3 moves the argument from Israel to all humanity as all under the Law are judged guilty as our only righteousness and salvation is from God through Jesus.