

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (September 4) – 2 Kings 19

Hezekiah and his officials covered themselves in sackcloth as a sign of repentance. Whenever calamity strikes we are to turn to the Lord in repentance and faith. We remember that we do not deserve God's grace and goodness and we throw ourselves upon His mercy in Christ. Hezekiah does this by coming to God in fervent prayer and sending a message to the Prophet Isaiah. Through Isaiah God tells Hezekiah and the people that the overweening pride of Assyria shall be overthrown. This prophecy concerning the downfall of Assyria is an important lesson in the affairs of nations and politics still today. God allows nations and empires to rise and fall, but Assyria believed all its conquests were done by its own strength and might instead of by God's providence. Since Assyria has boasted against Him, He will overthrow it and will protect and establish His believers in Judah against them. God will let worldly tyrants have their success for a moment, but finally God will cast them down. All who exalt themselves God will humble, and those who humble themselves God will exalt.

Tuesday (September 5) – 2 Kings 20-21

The days of your life are all numbered by God. Yet it is possible for God to lengthen those days if it is His will. Hezekiah was told he was going to die, but in fervent prayer he requested God to lengthen his life—a request that God granted. However, Hezekiah, like most people, could spiritually endure evil days better than good days. When God told him what the King of Babylon would do to his family in the future, Hezekiah didn't repent or come before the Lord in prayer. Instead, out of apathy and selfishness, he thought that at least the evil wouldn't be in his own days. Dear Christian, do not have such a selfish and spiritually short-sighted view. Beware of good days when God blesses you with riches and health, for they are spiritually more dangerous than the times of suffering. Be constant in prayer and faith in Christ who will preserve and protect you both in sickness and in health, in evil days and in good days. In chapter 21 Manasseh is the most wicked and godless of all the kings to reign in Judah. Manasseh even brings idolatry into the temple itself and sacrifices one of his own sons as a burnt offering. He causes Judah to fall into idolatry and sin even worse than the inhabitants who lived beforehand. It is because of this great wickedness that God promises to bring about the destruction of Jerusalem in the future by Babylon. 2 Chronicles 33:10-17 describes how Manasseh later repented of his great evil and returned to God. Repentance and forgiveness in Christ is always open to even the greatest of sinners like Manasseh.

Wednesday (September 6) – 2 Kings 22

Josiah was one of the better kings of Judah who was a humble believer in the Lord, walking in His ways. It was during his reign that they rediscovered the Book of the Law which was the Old Testament Scriptures. Imagine losing the Bible and then finding it again! The Bible is God's Word and is a light to our path and has power to break our proud hearts and make us humble before God so that we may trust in Him. It has the power to create faith and

strengthen our faith. Josiah's reform is much like the Reformation. God worked through Luther and others in bringing back God's Word to the center of the Church.

Thursday (September 7) – 2 Kings 23

In this chapter we see the power of God's Word. After Josiah reads God's Word to the people, they have a massive reform of the worship and life of the people. All the pagan idols and altars are destroyed and defiled. God's Word is meant to burn and destroy all the idols in our hearts, to sweep us clean and restore a wholehearted trust in Christ alone.

Friday (September 8) – 2 Kings 24-25

These last two chapters describe the fall of Jerusalem and Judah. Judah was destroyed chiefly because of its idolatry (worship of other gods) along with its serving of the flesh: lust, sexual immorality, greed, oppression, shedding of innocent blood, and vice. When the First Commandment is no longer kept ("You shall have no other gods"), then soon the rest of the commandments will not be kept. The people of Judah will live in Babylon in exile for 70 years as prophesied by the prophets Jeremiah and Daniel. After 70 years God will bring His people back to Judah to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

Saturday (September 9) – 1 Chronicles 1

1 and 2 Chronicles go through the history of Israel again. These two books are parallel books to 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings just as Mark, Luke and John are parallel accounts of Christ's life to Matthew. 1 and 2 Chronicles will repeat much of the same information and at the same time add additional details, just like the Gospel of Luke repeats much of Matthew but also gives additional stories and details. The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles are genealogies. The genealogy starts with Adam then goes to the three sons of Noah: Japheth, Ham and Shem. From Shem's line comes Abraham. Then God goes through the genealogies of Ishmael, Isaac and the sons of Seir (Edom). In these genealogies we see how God controls world history and knows all the nations and individuals in them. From the line of Adam, Shem, and Abraham will come the promised Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

Sunday (September 10) – 1 Chronicles 2

In this second chapter we begin with the sons of Israel. Then God draws our attention to the genealogy of Israel's son Judah. It was from Judah's line that Jesus would be born. The genealogy goes from Judah to the line of his son Perez (vs. 5), then to the line of Perez's son Hezron (vs. 9). From Perez's line King David was born, and from King David's line would Jesus be born. In verse 18 we go backwards to Hezron's son Caleb. Caleb's line is included because one of his descendants is Bezalel (vs. 20), whom God equipped by His Holy Spirit to build the Tabernacle in the days of Moses when they were wandering in the wilderness (Exodus 31:1-5). The other lines descending from Hezron are given in verses 21, 24 and 25. Verse 42 begins another genealogy on the sons of Caleb, and verse 50 focuses on the descendants of Caleb's son Hur.