

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (October 2) – 2 Chronicles 7, 8**

The dedication of the temple was an extraordinary occasion, with a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep! Then the Lord made His presence known visibly in the fire that consumed the sacrifices and the cloud of glory that filled the temple. But even though the temple was newly constructed, Solomon did not invent a new way to worship God. He was careful to use the liturgy that had been handed down to him by his father, David. The Levites performed the music of the Lord using the words of David from Psalm 136:1 “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever.”

When God appears to Solomon a second time, His words are a reminder to us of who it is that controls the events of this world. God is the one who shuts up the heavens so that there is no rain. God is the one who sends pestilence among His people (7:13). We would do well to remember this. Pestilence is not a random event caused by a virus. God directs these events for the salvation of His people, and He is always ready to hear and forgive those who call upon Him.

## **Tuesday (October 3) – 2 Chronicles 9, 10**

There is nothing in the account of the Queen of Sheba’s visit to suggest that she and Solomon were involved in any sort of romantic relationship. (There are non-biblical myths that make this claim.) Instead, Chapter 9 recounts the interaction between two Christians as the queen gives glory to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon Solomon and Israel. Jesus makes reference to the Queen of Sheba in Matthew 12:42, who “came from the ends of the earth” to visit Solomon, and yet, One greater than Solomon has come to visit us!

Solomon’s wealth was so great that silver was “accounted as nothing” during his reign (9:20). Riches, however, are always accompanied by danger, as they can deceive us and lead us into idolatry. Solomon’s downfall, which is more fully detailed in 1 Kings 11, serves as a warning. May God keep us from being ensnared by the deceitfulness of riches and the cares of this life.

Solomon’s son Rehoboam lacks his father’s wisdom. Rather than relying on the advice of the elders, he listens to the foolish counsel of his young friends. As a result, ten of the twelve tribes rebel against his rule, forming the nation of Israel.

## **Wednesday (October 4) – 2 Chronicles 11, 12**

The priests and Levites provide us with an excellent example. When the new king of Israel sets up two golden calves, the priests and Levites of Israel leave their common-lands and possessions and come to Judah (11:13). When the churches in their hometowns embrace idolatry and false doctrine, they give everything up and move to Judah where they can participate in the true worship of God. Sometimes a Lutheran family will say, “We started attending the Methodist church because there are no faithful Lutheran churches near our home.” Follow the example of the faithful priests and Levites and move, no matter the cost!

## **Thursday (October 5) – 2 Chronicles 13, 14**

Abijah, grandson of Solomon, goes to war against Jeroboam, king of Israel. The Israelites bring along their new golden calves to battle, thinking that these will give them victory. Israel had cast out the priests of the Lord, while Judah had welcomed them and embraced the pure worship of God. Therefore, God fights for Judah and destroys the army of Jeroboam.

Even though Judah had remained faithful to God, it was still necessary for Abijah's son, Asa, to cleanse the land of its idols (14:2). It seems that idols are always creeping up, even among the faithful people of God. There will never be a time this side of heaven where we can cease our vigilance against false doctrine and idolatry, even in times when the Church is enjoying great prosperity and blessing from God.

## **Friday (October 6) – 2 Chronicles 15, 16**

Asa removes his own grandmother from being queen mother because she is an idolater. Imagine how difficult this must have been to do! May God give each of us the strength to hold fast to His word, particularly when there is pressure from family members. Asa, however, sins against God later, in Chapter 16, and imprisons the prophet Hanani (v. 10). How easy it is, even for lifelong Christians, to become enraged at God's messenger, whether a prophet or a pastor, when he delivers God's words which are so offensive to the old, sinful nature. At the end of Asa's life, he suffers a disease in his feet. Yet in his pride, he refuses to seek God, trusting instead in his physicians.

## **Saturday (October 7) – 2 Chronicles 17, 18**

Jehoshaphat is the sixth king after David, and the most faithful to walk in the ways of his father David. However, in Chapter 18, he makes a foolish alliance with Ahab, the wicked king of Israel. Jehoshaphat allows his son to marry the daughter of Jezebel! It will take three generations before his family is finally free from this wicked and destructive influence.

The account of Micaiah's interaction with king Ahab is one of the most humorous stories in the Bible. Ahab pays 400 prophets to tell him what he wants to hear, but Jehoshaphat can tell that these are not true prophets. Micaiah is the only true prophet, and Ahab hates him, because "he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil" (18:7). After a false start, Micaiah tells Ahab that he will die in battle, according to the will of the Lord.

## **Sunday (October 8) – 2 Chronicles 19, 20**

In Chapter 19 God sends a prophet to rebuke Jehoshaphat for his alliance with Ahab and his family. Even so, God commends Jehoshaphat for his desire to serve Him. God disciplines those whom He loves. It is comforting to know that even though we are sinners and must often hear correction from God's Word, He will not cast us off forever when we fall into sin.

Chapter 20 serves as a wonderful example to us for times of trouble. When the people of Judah are besieged by a great army, they pray, saying, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You" (v. 12). This should be our prayer in every time of trouble.