

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (October 9) – 2 Chronicles 21-22**

Jehoshaphat and his father Asa had done much work in reforming the religious life of the Israelites. They had both worked on eliminating the idolatry in Israel. But Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram was married to the daughter of the ungodly King Ahab and Queen Jezebel from Northern Israel. In a short while, Jehoram undoes all the work of his father and grandfather. It is always easier to tear down than to build up. This is true, not just in general earthly matters, but also spiritually with being faithful to Christ and His Word. God has the prophet Elijah write a letter to Jehoram to move him to repentance for murdering his brothers and bringing Judah into idolatry, but he hardens his heart against God's Word and dies a painful death.

In Chapter 22 Jehoram's son Ahaziah begins to reign in Judah. He follows in the idolatry and wickedness of the line of the evil King Ahab. The Lord raises up Jehu in Israel to destroy all the line of Ahab including Ahaziah. After the death of Ahaziah, his mother, daughter of Jezebel, becomes queen. She executes all her grandchildren (except Joash who was hidden away). She does so to secure her own power. Her actions are also a Satanic attempt to destroy the line of David, the line Christ will be born into. Her ungodliness puts her in the same class as Herod, Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas. Motivated either by fear, selfishness, greed or lust for power and control, they all oppose Christ. This is also the real reason and motivation behind those who oppose Christ today. May we be ever faithful to Christ and His Word, who frees us from the self-destructive power of unrepentance and unbelief.

## **Tuesday (October 10) – 2 Chronicles 23-24**

The faithful priest Jehoiada hides Joash, the last remaining rightful heir to the throne, and organizes a successful coup against Queen Athaliah. We are to endeavor to be obedient to the government, but obedience to God and His Word must always take priority. After Joash is crowned king, Jehoiada initiates a religious reform, bringing the people back to worship of the true God. Reformation of our churches and families will always be an ongoing project since our sinful hearts so easily fall into idolatry. Like weeds in a garden that must be continually pulled, we too must pull out the various idols and sins that creep in, and return to our baptism where we have had our sins washed away and been united to Christ and His life.

In Chapter 24 Joash decides to refurbish the temple since it has fallen into disrepair. The people of Judah give generously to support this project along with the ministry of the temple. The Church and her ministry of faithful preaching continues by cheerful and generous believers. May God grant to us such cheerful and generous hearts (2 Cor. 9:7). Sadly, Joash falls away from the Lord after his mentor and counselor, the faithful priest Jehoiada, dies. May we be like Jehoiada who influenced others to a lively faith in Christ and to a godly life.

## **Wednesday (October 11) – 2 Chronicles 25**

Amaziah was initially a faithful king to the Lord, but like his father Joash, he later on turns aside from following the Lord. When the Lord sends a prophet to call Amaziah to

repentance for worshipping the gods of Edom, Amaziah tells the prophet not to speak anymore lest he die. Darkness wants to silence God's Word, for it hates being exposed by its light. O Lord, keep us from the arrogance of trying to silence those who speak to us Your Word when it convicts us. Instead, may we live in the light of Your Son and find life.

### **Thursday (October 12) – 2 Chronicles 26-27**

In these two chapters we have two faithful kings of Judah: Uzziah and Jotham. Uzziah sounds like the perfect king. He follows the Lord. He loves the soil and agriculture which is necessary for the flourishing of his people (vs. 10). Under his reign Judah has a time of economic and military revival, all of which is due to the Lord making Uzziah prosper. But Uzziah becomes proud in his heart. He decides that he was just as worthy as God's called servants, the priests, to burn incense in the temple. He haughtily usurps the ministry God has ordained, and God strikes him with leprosy while he is in the act of his disobedience. God does not look favorably upon rulers and governments that overreach their authority by trying to control God's Church. Nor does God want anyone to usurp those whom He has called into His ministry. May we all be content to live in whatever vocation and station God has placed us in, trusting in His provision and care for our country and our families.

### **Friday (October 13) – 2 Chronicles 28**

The next king of Judah is Ahaz, and he is a wicked king who intentionally brings in various idol worship and closes the doors to the temple, so that the people cannot worship the true God. Due to his unfaithfulness, God humbles Judah, giving them into the hand of their enemies. Faithfulness to the Lord results in blessing, whether here on earth or in eternity.

### **Saturday (October 14) – 2 Chronicles 29**

"...For the thing came about suddenly" writes the Chronicler in verse 36. What happened suddenly is that King Hezekiah restored the worship in the temple. Ahaz had shut the temple down, but after Ahaz's death Hezekiah opens it up again. Churches are to stay open, for we need Christ and His Word and Sacraments. Also, when things look bleak and dark, God can suddenly change them. It seems that all of Judah has sunk into pagan unbelief, but God changes the course of things with King Hezekiah. When we consider the church and worship life in our country, things can also look bleak. Remember that Christ is still King, and if it is in His will, He can cause things to change suddenly. We trust in Him and in the power of His Word to change hearts and souls, and to strengthen and uphold us in His love and grace.

### **Sunday (October 15) – 2 Chronicles 30**

Hezekiah celebrates the great feast of Passover. Some "laughed them to scorn" (vs. 10), but those who love the Lord are glad to worship God. We no longer celebrate the old Passover, but we do keep the New Passover, when Jesus died on Good Friday and rose three days later on that first Easter morning. Lord, help us keep the Passover of Your Son in sincerity of faith and love of You.