

2 CHRONICLES 18-23

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

In 2 Chronicles 18, King Jehoshaphat of Judah visits King Ahab of Israel. Ahab wants Jehoshaphat to fight in a battle. Even though Jehoshaphat loves God, he still agrees to work with Ahab, who doesn't follow God at all. A prophet, Micaiah, warns them that the battle will go badly, but Ahab ignores the warning. When the fighting begins, Ahab is killed just as God said, and Jehoshaphat barely escapes. It teaches that bad company corrupts good company. 2 Chronicles 19 begins with the aftermath of the battle. Jehoshaphat realizes he made a mistake. A prophet tells him that God is not pleased because he helped a wicked king. Jehoshaphat listens, learns, and travels around Judah, encouraging people to follow God. He sets up judges to help the people make fair decisions. He shows that wise leaders admit their mistakes and turn back to God.

In 2 Chronicles 20, a huge army comes to attack Judah, and Jehoshaphat is afraid. But instead of panicking, he leads everyone in prayer. God tells them they won't even have to fight—He will take care of it! The people praise God, and the enemy armies fight each other instead. Judah wins in the end without using any weapons. It's an important reminder that when we look to God first, He brings peace and helps us in our most difficult moments. 2 Chronicles 21 follows Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram. He becomes king, but he chooses to follow poor examples. Jehoram leads the people astray from God, and his reign is marked by trouble and sorrow. Because he refuses to turn back to God, his kingdom becomes weaker. Jehoram's story shows what happens when a leader's heart turns away from God.

2 Chronicles 22 includes Jehoram's son Ahaziah, who becomes the next king. However, he follows bad advice—this time from his mother, Athaliah, who leads him to make wicked choices. After just one year as king, Ahaziah was killed. Athaliah takes over the throne and tries to destroy the entire royal family. But God protects one young boy, Joash, who is rescued and hidden under secrecy in the temple for six years. Lastly, 2 Chronicles 23 follows a faithful priest named Jehoiada. He decides it's time to put an end to Athaliah's rule. He gathers wise leaders and reveals the hidden child, Joash, the true king. With courage and cautious planning, they protect Joash, crown him king, and remove Athaliah from power. The people rejoice, destroy the idols, and return to worshiping God. God's promise to keep David's royal family line continues through young Joash.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prayer is a weapon, not a last resort
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jehoshaphat and Ahab Go to War ● Jehoshaphat's Reforms ● Jehoshaphat's Prayer and God's Victory
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 Chronicles 18:4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, 'First seek the counsel of the Lord.'" ● 2 Chronicles 19:11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "'Amariah the chief priest will be over you in any matter concerning the Lord, and Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the leader of the tribe of Judah, will be over you in any matter concerning the king, and the Levites will serve as officials before you. Act with courage, and may the Lord be with those who do well.'" ● 2 Chronicles 20:21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.'" ● 2 Chronicles 23:3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "The whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, 'The king's son shall reign, as the Lord promised concerning the descendants of David.'"
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sorrow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A feeling of deep disappointment ● Descendant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A person in the direct family line of an ancestor ● Corrupt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dishonest behavior that is used for personal gain

Reflection Questions

1.	What do these chapters tell us about praying when we are filled with fear?
2.	Jehoiada exercised his bravery and trust in Christ when he planned to overthrow Athaliah. How can we be courageous in our own lives like Jehoiada?