

Psalm 38, II Chronicles 1-6 (#28) Revised 2022

Psalm 38— David describes severe discipline from God as an overwhelming burden too heavy to bear. He cries out for relief (see verses 1, 15, 21-22) to his Lord and Savior. *How does David demonstrate a pattern for renewed fellowship with God?*

II Chronicles— Written by Ezra (Jewish tradition) approximately 430 B.C., I Chronicles and II Chronicles were one book but were divided into two books during the second century B.C. by the Greek Translators of the Septuagint Old Testament. It was originally written for those who returned to Jerusalem from Babylon to teach them the history of King David and the worship in the temple developed by him. II Chronicles gives a history of the kings of Judah who are in the line of David beginning with Solomon in 970 B.C. and ending with Zedekiah and the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. This book showed the Jewish people in Ezra's day where they fit into God's plan and the need of staying faithful to Yahweh while they wait for the restoration of the monarchy with the appearing of the Messiah. I and II Chronicles were written from a priestly viewpoint explaining that God has a purpose for Israel as well as giving a positive perspective by omitting the sins of David and Solomon. The first ten chapters of II Chronicles give a positive history of King Solomon. The rest of the book narrates the history of all the kings of Judah with special emphasis on the good kings. The book begins with the building of the temple in Jerusalem and ends in chapter 36 with the destruction of the temple and Judah's exile to Babylon.

II Chronicles 1— Solomon's throne is strengthened and exalted by the Lord. Solomon summoned the whole assembly of Israel to come to Gibeon where God's tent of meeting was located although the ark had been taken by David to Jerusalem previously. Solomon offered 1000 burnt offerings to the Lord before all the people. The night after sacrificing the offerings, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and gave him the opportunity of asking for anything he wanted. Solomon asked God for a discerning heart to judge the people of Israel in wisdom and justice. Because of his unselfish request, God not only gave him wisdom but also promised him riches and honor more than any king before or after him. Solomon accumulated 1400 chariots, 12,000 horsemen, and made silver and gold as common as stones showing that God had answered His promise about material prosperity. He also had a thriving export business. No question.

II Chronicles 2— Solomon now builds the temple and the royal palace. He writes a letter to King Hiram of Tyre asking him for his help with building materials and skilled craftsmen. He declares to King Hiram that the temple will be great because Yahweh is greater than all other gods. "But who is able to build a temple for Him, since even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Him (v. 6 HCSB)?" In return Solomon would send Hiram annually 100,000 bushels of wheat flour, 100,000 bushels of barley, 110,000 gallons of wine, and 110,000 gallons of olive oil. King Solomon drafted over 180,000 laborers from throughout Israel to work on the temple project (vv. 1-10). King Hiram wrote a letter praising the Lord God of Israel and agreeing with the offer of Solomon. He said he would send an artisan by the name of Hiram-abi who was a very gifted craftsman. Solomon conscripted all the foreigners in Israel to be his labor force in building the temple and the royal palace. *If you were given \$10,000,000 to invest in God's kingdom or for the needs of others, how would you spend it?*

II Chronicles 3— In the fourth year of Solomon’s reign and 480 years after the Israelites came out of Egypt, Solomon began to build the long-awaited temple on Mount Moriah using only the best materials and skilled craftsman befitting the awesome God of the universe. The temple that was to be built for Yahweh would be 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high and would use finished stones and cedar and Cyprus wood overlaid with gold. The Most Holy Place was 30 feet by 30 feet and overlaid with 45,000 pounds of fine gold. The two cherubim were overlaid with gold with an overall length of 30 feet with the wings touching the walls on each side. The craftsmen also made a veil of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen and wove cherubim into it. In front of the temple were two bronze pillars that were 27 feet high. No question.

II Chronicles 4— The bronze altar was 30 feet long by 30 feet wide and 15 feet high. The sea, a large reservoir used for ritual cleansing, held 11,000 gallons of water. In the temple there were 10 gold lampstands and 10 tables for the bread of the Presence. Hiram-abi made all of the furnishings, utensils, water carts and basins, and the gold altar of incense. *What is the importance of Mount Moriah in Jewish history? See 3:1 and Genesis 22:1-2.*

II Chronicles 5— When the temple was finished in the seventh month, Solomon gathered all of the elders, tribal leaders, and the men of Israel before him in Jerusalem, in order to bring the Ark of the Covenant from Zion into the Most Holy Place in the new temple. After the priest placed the Ark in the Most Holy Place, the Levitical singers and the 120 priests who blew trumpets joined together to praise and thank the Lord. Then the glory of the Lord filled the temple so much so that they could no longer minister inside the temple. *The glory of the Lord came in a cloud and filled the temple in verses 13 and 14. Where else in the Bible do we see God’s indwelling presence? See Exodus 40:34-38, Ezekiel 43:1-5, Matthew 17:1-3, John 1:14, I Corinthians 6:19-20, and Matthew 18:19-20. Extra Questions: What was missing from the Ark of the Covenant that was previously inside it, and what was in the Ark of the Covenant at Solomon’s dedication?*

II Chronicles 6— After the glory of the Lord filled the temple, Solomon then spoke to the people praising God for His faithfulness to Israel and His servant David. First, Solomon addresses the entire congregation and tells them that what is happening this day is a fulfillment of God’s promise to David that one day his son would build the temple which David wanted to build (vv. 1-11). Then Solomon spreads out his hands toward heaven and prays to Yahweh. Solomon begins by speaking of the uniqueness of God: His character, His faithfulness in keeping His promises, and His transcendence. Solomon then speaks of different occasions when the people of Israel might sin. In such cases he petitions the Lord to give justice, but also show mercy, forgiveness, and restoration when they truly repent and seek His face. Solomon ends his prayer, “O Lord God, do not turn away the face of Your anointed; remember the mercies of Your servant David (v. 42 NKJV).” *Solomon asked God to hear their prayers in a variety of circumstances. What were the seven situations he mentioned? 1. vv. 22-23, 2. vv. 24-25, 3. vv. 26-27, 4. vv. 28-31 5. vv. 32-33, 6. vv. 34-35, and 7. vv. 36-39.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups, c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible ESV, 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible HCSB c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion c.2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible NIV, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Key Ideas Bible Handbook, Ron Rhodes, c. 2016, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Homan Bible Handbook, c.1992, Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL. 13. Life Essentials Study Bible, c. 2011, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 14. The Message, c. 2002, Eugene Peterson, NavPress Publishing Group, Colorado Springs, CO. 15. NIV Study Bible, c. 2011, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI. 16. Understanding the Bible, c.2000, Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN.

Psalm 39, II Chronicles 7-12 (#29) Revised 2022

Psalm 39 — In this psalm we see a fervent prayer full of vivid descriptions of humanity's plight. David wrestles with the themes of wickedness, posterity, and discipline. *Name three things that David requests from God.*

II Chronicles 7— The Lord showed His acceptance of Solomon's prayer and the new temple by sending fire from heaven and consuming the burnt offering and by filling the temple with His glory. The celebration of the dedication of the temple lasted 7 days and then another 7 days were spent in celebrating the Feast of the Tabernacles (or Booths). The hearts of the people rejoiced for the Lord's goodness to David, Solomon, and His people Israel. After the dedication of the temple and his prayer, the Lord appears a second time to Solomon saying that his prayer has been heard, and that He has consecrated the temple with His presence. God gave the promise that Solomon's royal throne would be established if he walks before the Lord in obedience and integrity, but if he turns away from God and follows other gods, Israel would be cut off and the temple he had built would be destroyed. *What are the four conditions that must be fulfilled by individuals, churches, or nations in order for them to hear from the Lord and receive His healing and forgiveness? See verse 14.*

II Chronicles 8— In his first twenty years as king, Solomon had great success negotiating in trade ventures with King Hiram of Tyre which included a fleet of ships to Ophir to acquire 17 tons of gold. He formed an international network of commerce that made him famous and powerful. Solomon's extensive building programs included the temple, the palace complex, the storage cities, the chariot cities, the cavalry cities, and any place else he desired to build. Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh and built a house for her but did not let her live in the palace of David since it was holy because the ark had been there. He carefully observed all the offerings that were required in the Law of Moses and celebrated the Sabbaths, New Moons, and the three annual festivals that were commanded. He also made sure that all of the ordinances of David were fulfilled regarding the organization and responsibilities of the priests and Levites. *As you read this chapter, what is the one very disturbing thing Solomon did? See Deuteronomy 7:3-4. How does this apply to Christians today?*

II Chronicles 9— The story of the queen of Sheba was representative of the many kings, queens, and ambassadors who came to visit Solomon to test his wisdom and see if all the rumors about him were true. After verifying the greatness of his wisdom and seeing the temple, palace complex, the amazing dining hall, the presentation of his staff, and the burnt offerings, her breath was taken away. Because of her visit the name of Yahweh was praised for all He had done through Solomon. After exchanging the riches of their countries including gold, spices, and other things out of their royal bounty, the queen of Sheba returned the 1200-mile journey to southern Arabia with her entourage (vv. 1-12). The writer describes the ivory throne overlaid with gold that was so extravagant and impressive that no other kingdom had anything like it. The rest of the chapter tells of the luxurious splendor of Solomon's kingdom, the vast quantity of gold, ivory, and exotic animals, including chariots and horses which were bought and sold at a profit. II Chronicles does not describe Solomon's turning away from God and leading the nation into worshipping idols, but only records that he died and reigned 40 years, and that his son Rehoboam became king in his place (vv. 13-30). *Reading about the wisdom and riches of Solomon in this chapter is very impressive. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and list the ways and activities that Solomon experienced in order to find enjoyment and fulfillment. What was his final assessment of all of it? See 2:11.*

II Chronicles 10— This chapter is a turning point in the life of Israel since Solomon's son, Rehoboam, has the opportunity to keep his country unified with a correct response to the concerns of the northern tribes, but instead he divided Israel. Jeroboam and the northern 10 tribes wanted Rehoboam to lighten the oppressive forced labor and the excessive taxes that Solomon had imposed upon them, but in a moment of imprudence Rehoboam decided to follow the advice of the young men he grew up with instead of the elders who served with his father. Israel then separates from Judah, and Rehoboam barely gets out of Shechem alive after making this disastrous decision, but this turn of events was from the Lord due to Solomon's apostasy. *Why was Solomon apprehensive about his successor? See Ecclesiastes 2:18-19. What part might have Solomon played in the way the reign of Rehoboam turned out?*

II Chronicles 11— Rehoboam mobilizes an army of 180,000 choice warriors to go to battle against Israel, but the prophet Shemaiah convinces him to go back home and not fight against his fellow Israelites. Rehoboam strengthens and fortifies the cities of Judah and Benjamin. Because of the idolatry of Jeroboam and the Northern tribes, the priests and Levites as well as others moved to Judah so that they could seek and worship Yahweh. Rehoboam had many wives and children and dispersed his sons throughout the fortified cities of Judah. No question.

II Chronicles 12— Rehoboam leads Judah into great sin by following all the detestable practices of the other nations. Because of this, King Shishak of Egypt comes into Jerusalem and seizes the treasures of the Lord's temple and the royal palace including the gold shields Solomon had made. After King Rehoboam humbled himself before the Lord, the Lord's anger was turned away from him. Rehoboam, however, did what was evil and did not desire to seek after the Lord. *Just like his father Solomon, although not as numerous, Rehoboam had many wives and concubines. Does God approve of polygamy? Back up your answer with biblical references and illustrations.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups, c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible ESV, 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible HCSB c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion c.2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible NIV, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Key Ideas Bible Handbook, Ron Rhodes, c. 2016, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Homan Bible Handbook, c.1992, Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL. 13. Life Essentials Study Bible, c. 2011, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 14. The Message, c. 2002, Eugene Peterson, NavPress Publishing Group, Colorado Springs, CO. 15. NIV Study Bible, c. 2011, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI. 16. Understanding the Bible, c.2000, Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN.

Psalm 40, II Chronicles 13-18 (#30) Revised 2022

Psalm 40 — David's "remembrance of salvation (vv. 1-5) leads to willing commitment to God (vv. 6-10) and an appeal to God for support (vv. 11-17)." #6 p.267 Verses 6-8 are referenced by the author of Hebrews 10:5. Some even consider the entire psalm to be messianic. There are difficulties with verse 12 which make that interpretation problematic. Others claim it refers to David or Israel. None of those views fit perfectly either. The most recognized is that it refers to David with portions that are messianic. *What is the relationship portrayed between the author and God? (Look for "I" and "LORD")*

II Chronicles 13— Abijah becomes the king of Judah after Rehoboam and reigns for three years but walks in the evil ways of his father (I Kings 15:3) although the chronicler portrays him in a favorable light. Abijah preaches a powerful sermon to Jeroboam and his army and wins a significant victory over Jeroboam where 500,000 Israelites die although Judah is outnumbered in battle 2 to 1. The war is won because they trusted in the Lord and cried out to Him in time of battle. After this defeat of Israel by Judah, the Lord struck down Jeroboam, and he died. No question.

II Chronicles 14— Asa then becomes king in Judah and reigns 41 years and was completely devoted to the Lord. During his life he tells his people to seek the Lord God and obey His commands. He removes the high places and rids the land of idolatry which causes Judah to experience peace and rest during this time. Zerah the Cushite came against Asa with a million soldiers and 300 chariots, but when Asa cried out to the Lord, the Lord routed the Cushites before Asa and Judah and left no survivors. *What lesson did we learn from Abijah and Asa on how to have victory when we are in serious danger of facing sure defeat? See 13:14, 14:11, Psalms 34:6, and Psalm 145:19. Has there ever been a time when you have done this? If so, what was the result?*

II Chronicles 15— This chapter describes a time of prosperity and rest for the people of Judah because they sought after the Lord with all their hearts. After being encouraged by Azariah the prophet to follow Yahweh, Asa purified the land of Judah and Benjamin by removing the detestable idols and renovating the altar of the Lord. They made a covenant to seek the Lord with all their hearts and were found by Him and because of it they had rest on every side. Asa removed his grandmother, Maacah, as queen mother because of the obscene Asherah pole she had erected. No question.

II Chronicles 16— In the 36th year of his reign, Asa sought the help of Ben-hadad of Aram to defeat Baasha of Israel instead of trusting in the Lord and seeking His help. When confronted by Hanani, the seer, about his dependence on the king of Aram instead of trusting in the Lord, Asa threw him in prison. In the 39th year of his reign Asa developed a disease in his feet and only sought advice from physicians

instead of the Lord. He died in his 41st year. *What was the great spiritual guidance that the prophets Azariah (15:2) and Hanani (16:7-9) gave to Asa? How should you apply this to your life?*

II Chronicles 17— When Jehoshaphat became king after the death of Asa his father, he walked in the ways of King David and obeyed the Lord's commands, therefore Yahweh established his kingdom. In the third year of his reign, he sent his officials and the Levites throughout Judah to teach them the Law of the Lord. The terror of the Lord fell on all the nations that surrounded Judah so that they didn't war against Judah but rather brought King Jehoshaphat tribute. His army grew in strength numbering 1,160,000 men. *Jehoshaphat sent Levites all over Judah to teach the common people the Word of God because they were biblically illiterate. Is biblical illiteracy of Christians a problem today? What can we do to increase the knowledge of the Lord and of the Bible in our day?*

II Chronicles 18 — King Jehoshaphat made an alliance with Ahab and married his son to the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. In order to take back Ramoth-gilead from Aram, Ahab of Israel invited Jehoshaphat and the army of Judah to go with him. The good king Jehoshaphat asks Ahab to find out what the Lord's will is. Ahab gathers 400 false prophets who proclaim victory, but Jehoshaphat insists they hear from a prophet of Yahweh. The prophet Micaiah predicts that Ahab will die in battle. As they go to combat, Ahab disguises himself and tells Jehoshaphat to wear his royal robes. When the Aramean chariot commanders tried to kill Jehoshaphat, he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord protected him. "But a man drew his bow without taking special aim and struck the king of Israel through the joints of his armor (v. 33 HCSB)." Ahab was badly wounded and died at sunset. *How are some ministers of the Christian church a lot like Ahab's 400 false prophets? See II Timothy 4:3.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups, c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible ESV, 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible HCSB c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion c.2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible NIV, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Key Ideas Bible Handbook, Ron Rhodes, c. 2016, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Homan Bible Handbook, c.1992, Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL. 13. Life Essentials Study Bible, c. 2011, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 14. The Message, c. 2002, Eugene Peterson, NavPress Publishing Group, Colorado Springs, CO. 15. NIV Study Bible, c. 2011, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI. 16. Understanding the Bible, c.2000, Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN.