

## Psalm 41, II Chronicles 19-24 (#31) Revised 2022

**Psalm 41**— It appears that David has become exceedingly ill, to the point of death. In verses 4 and 8 David pleads to be healed of a vile or deadly disease. He prays for God's help and vindication. *Who might David be referring to in verse 9? See John 13:18, also II Samuel 11:3, 23:34?*

**II Chronicles 19**— Showing his godly character, Jehoshaphat repents of his compromise after being confronted by the prophet Hanani. He very wisely appoints judges and Levites for settling disputes and warning the people to live in such a way as to not incur the Lord's wrath. He challenges these leaders to judge in the fear of the Lord, to be honest, impartial, and faithfully warn and teach the people. No question.

**II Chronicles 20**— This chapter gives the story of another remarkable victory of Judah over its enemies. When the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites, who vastly outnumbered the army of Judah, came against Judah, Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast, claimed the promises of Abraham, and asked for Yahweh's protection in the battle. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel who prophesied that "the battle is not yours, but God's." He declared, "You will not have to fight this battle. Take your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you (v. 17 NIV)." As the choir of Levites went out on the front lines ahead of the army singing, giving thanks, and shouting praises to the Lord, the massive army of their enemies turned against each other until they completely annihilated one another. Because of their faithfulness to trust and seek the Lord, the Lord gave them rest on every side. The history of King Jehoshaphat ends on a sour note when he once again compromises by forming an alliance with Israel's King Ahaziah to build ships to go to Tarshish. Yahweh judged his unholy alliance by destroying all of the ships. *The Lord sent two prophets to chastise Jehoshaphat because of his compromising by forming alliances with God's enemies, the kings of Israel. In what areas are Christians tempted to compromise their Christian faith these days? Is there any specific area you might be tempted to compromise your faith? If so, what do you need to do to keep it from happening?*

**II Chronicles 21**— When Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, became king, his first item of business was to kill all his brothers as well as some of the princes. Because his wife was Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, he was evil like the Kings of Israel and caused the people of Jerusalem and Judah to practice gross idolatry. Since he had abandoned Yahweh, many enemies rebelled against Judah. The prophet Elijah sent him a letter of condemnation prophesying his defeat, the death of his children and wives, and the awful disease of the intestines by which he would die. When the Philistines and the Arabs attacked Jehoram, they carried off all his possessions including his sons and wives. When he died of a severe

intestinal disease, no one regretted his passing, and he was not buried in the tombs of the kings. No question.

**II Chronicles 22**— In 841 B.C. Ahaziah, Jehoram's son, takes over the throne and immediately kills all his brothers. He followed the wicked ways of the house of Ahab and received evil advice from his mother Athaliah. He joined in war with his uncle, King Joram of Israel, to fight King Hazael of Aram. Joram was wounded in battle and returned to Jezreel to recuperate. Jehu, appointed by God, came to Jezreel and executed the house of Ahab which included King Ahaziah of Judah. When Ahaziah was killed, his mother Athaliah took control of the throne and "proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs of the house of Judah (v. 10 HCSB)." Jehoshabeath, the daughter of Ahaziah and wife of Jehoiada, the priest, rescued Joash, the son of Ahaziah, and hid him in the temple for six years. *What were the probable reasons why Jehoram and Ahaziah were wicked kings? How does this apply to us? See I Corinthians 15:33. What were the possible reasons why Jehoshabeath (22:11) wasn't like her father (Jehoram) or brother (Ahaziah)?*

**II Chronicles 23**— In this very dark history of Judah, Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and mother of Ahaziah who was killed by Jehu, began to destroy all the royal heirs. Jehosheba, the sister of Ahaziah and wife of Jehoiada the chief priest, stole the infant son Joash, the only living descendent of David (that descended through the line of kings), and kept him hidden in the temple for six years. At the age of seven, Jehoiada anointed Joash as king of Judah with the help of the Levites and the military (vv. 1-12). Hearing the rejoicing of the coronation of King Joash, the self-proclaimed Queen Athaliah hurried to the temple to investigate what was happening. Upon seeing the newly crowned king, she tore her clothes and cried "Treason, treason!" She was seized by the commanders and taken outside and executed. After making a covenant between the Lord, King Joash, and the people, the temple of Baal was torn down, King Joash took his rightful place on the throne, and the city of Jerusalem was at peace (vv. 13-21).

*Joash was the last of the royal dynasty of David to survive. Who was behind the power scenes trying to kill all the royal heirs? Why would it have been impossible for him to succeed? See Ephesians 2:2, I John 5:19, and II Samuel 7:16.*

**II Chronicles 24**— Joash became king, reigned for 40 years, and did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada, the high priest, who instructed him. At the insistence of King Joash and the generosity of God’s people, the great temple built by Solomon was repaired and restored. The people gladly gave the temple tax that Moses had commanded, and the priests regularly offered burnt offerings all the days of Jehoiada. Sadly, upon the death of Jehoiada, King Joash listened to his officials and returned to the worship of idols. Then he ordered the death of Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada. Because of this evil, Hazael, king of Aram, came against Judah, and then Joash was assassinated. *What seems to be the reason that King Joash abandoned the temple of God and took his people into idolatry? See verse 17.*

*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 42-43, II Chronicles 25-30 (#32) Revised 2022**

**Psalm 42**— A wonderful Psalm of encouragement when one finds themselves in tragic circumstances. Peace comes when our hope, yearning and thirsting is for God. *Accusers taunt the author with questions, but also the author asks himself 6 “whys”. What are they and how do they teach us to renew our own hope in God?*

**Psalm 43**— The psalmist pleads for vindication from deceitful men and encourages himself with the realization that when his focus is on the Lord and not his circumstances, everything begins to change. *We see a pattern in the Psalms of men coming to God for justice, but not based on personal merit. What is the basis of their petition (see verses 2, 4)?*

**II Chronicles 25**— Amaziah became king of Judah and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord but not wholeheartedly. He had hired 100,000 brave warriors from Israel but then returned them to Israel when a prophet warned Amaziah that he would suffer defeat if he used them in battle against Edom. After a victory over Edom in the Valley of Salt, the king brought back the idols of Edom and worshiped them. A prophet confronted him for this evil, but Amaziah did not accept the Word of God spoken to him. Amaziah tried to pick a fight with King Jehoash of Israel, but due to his overconfidence and his leading Judah into idolatry, he was soundly defeated by Israel. King Jehoash not only captured and wounded Amaziah but broke down part of the wall of Jerusalem and took gold and silver from the Lord’s temple and the king’s palace. Amaziah was assassinated and his son Uzziah became king in his place. *Taking a cue from the life of King Amaziah, what are some characteristics of a Christian who does not serve the Lord wholeheartedly (v. 2)? See verses 14-16, 19, 27, and James 1:8.*

**II Chronicles 26**— At 16 years of age Uzziah (also called Azariah), in 792 B.C., became king of Judah, reigned 52 years, and did right in the sight of the Lord. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success wherever he went. Uzziah had victory over the Philistines, Arabs, Meunites, and Ammonites and supplied his powerful army with all of the weapons and equipment needed for them to triumph in battles. His fame spread to distant lands, and he received God’s powerful backing until he became arrogant because his great military might and prowess. In his pride, he tried to offer incense in the temple which only a priest was authorized by God to do. He was struck with leprosy for this act of

defiance against God's law and ended his days quarantined in a separate house. His son, Jotham, took his place. *Uzziah served the Lord faithfully for many years but had a tragic ending due to an act of pride and disobedience. The goal of every Christian is to not only live a life of service and obedience but to end his or her life well. What steps and precautions do we need to take in order to finish our life in a way that honors the Lord and does not bring shame to ourselves?*

**II Chronicles 27**— At the age of 25 in 750 B.C., Jotham became king of Judah in place of Uzziah and does what is right in the eyes of the Lord, but the people still acted corruptly. Although Jotham was generally a good king, he did not remove the high places (pagan hilltop shrines – II Kings 15:35). God strengthened him over the Ammonites because he did not waver in obeying Yahweh his God. He died at 41, and his son Ahaz replaced him. No question.

**II Chronicles 28**— In 735 B.C. Ahaz, the son of Jotham, became king and did great evil including; sacrificing his son on the altar of a pagan god, following the most detestable practices of the Canaanites, and satisfying the king of Assyria by building a new altar in the temple area. God comes in swift judgment, Judah is defeated on every side, and the people of Judah are taken captive by Israel. Instead of trusting and obeying the Lord (Isaiah 7:1-17), Ahaz seeks the help of Assyria to defend Judah against Aram and Israel. He takes silver and gold from the temple and the treasuries of the palace and sends it to Assyria. Becoming a vassal of Assyria, he does whatever is necessary to please the king of Assyria even to the point of forcing Uriah the priest to change the features of the temple to accommodate the Assyrian gods. The chronicler did not mention the evil done by Uriah the high priest but did clearly describe the wickedness of King Ahaz. *Verses 9 to 15 tell the story of the prophet Oded and how he convinced the people of Israel to return the captives to Judah. What was the work of a prophet, and what spiritual qualities were necessary to be a prophet?*

**II Chronicles 29**— Now II Chronicles records the history of the two best and most godly kings in Judah after David. These two kings are Hezekiah (chapters 29-32) and Josiah (chapters 34-35), who each follow the two most evil kings of Judah, Ahaz and Manasseh. Hezekiah trusted the Lord and tore down the high places and all the idols of Judah and opened the doors of the temple and repaired them. He told the priests to consecrate themselves and consecrate the temple. It took them 16 days to purify and

prepare the temple so that burnt offerings and sacrifices could be made. Hezekiah then had the musical families of the Levites once again return to the praise and worship that David began more than 275 years earlier. Then thousands of animals were sacrificed, and “Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for His people (v. 36 NIV).” *Although not perfect, Hezekiah was a great and godly king. What events in this chapter showed what his priorities were? See verse 3.*

**II Chronicles 30**— King Hezekiah, the people of Judah, and many from Israel celebrated the Passover with great rejoicing in a way that had not been observed since the days of Solomon. Couriers went from city to city throughout Israel to encourage them to repent and return to Yahweh. When invited to celebrate the Passover, many laughed and mocked the couriers, but others humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. Although there were many that were ritually unclean, Hezekiah interceded for them, and the Lord restored the people to Himself. The people were filled with such joy and devotion that the Feast of the Unleavened Bread was extended another seven days. *In what ways did this celebration of the Passover deviate from the Law of Moses? Why do you think God healed and accepted His people although they broke the Law of Moses? How can we apply this lesson to ourselves and to our church?*

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## Psalm 44, II Chronicles 31-36 (#33) Revised 2022

**Psalm 44**— The sons of Korah remember the former glory and subsequent ruin of their nation. Verse 22 is cited by Paul in Romans 8:36. *At face value, it would seem God is being unfair to them. Is that true? Why or why not?*

**II Chronicles 31**— As a result of the fervent worship and loyalty to Yahweh, all of the people went throughout Judah and Israel and chopped down the sacred pillars, Asherah poles, and altars to the very last one. Hezekiah reestablished the divisions of priests and Levites so that all of the Law that was commanded by Moses could be completed and obeyed including the sacrifices, the Sabbaths, and the appointed feasts. In order for the priests and Levites to serve and fulfill their duties, the people from all over Israel brought of their tithes and offerings to Jerusalem and gave in great abundance. Since Hezekiah wholeheartedly sought the Lord and obeyed His laws and commands, he greatly prospered.

*Does obedience to the Lord guarantee prosperity and blessings in our lives?*

**II Chronicles 32**— When King Sennacherib of Assyria came into Judah and planned war on Jerusalem, Hezekiah did all he could do to fortify the city including rebuilding the broken-down wall and increasing the height of the towers. He encouraged the people to be strong, courageous, and declared, “With him is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us fight our battles (v. 8 ESV).” King Sennacherib sent a letter through his servants to terrorize the people and ridicule Yahweh. He declared that no god of any other nation has saved their people from his power so why did Hezekiah think his God would deliver Judah? King Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed fervently and cried out to the Lord for His salvation. The Lord sent an angel and in one night annihilated 185,000 warriors of Assyria. Hezekiah became sick to the point of death and prayed to the Lord, and he was healed and received a miraculous sign. Hezekiah succumbs to pride and shows to the envoys of Babylon all of the riches of Judah. The Lord tested him to see what was in his heart. Hezekiah repented of his pride, humbled himself, and averted God’s wrath. *Verse 31b says, “God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.” What is God’s purpose for testing? Give the names of other Bible characters that were tested by God. Do you remember a time you were tested?*

**II Chronicles 33**— Now we come to the darkest, most evil days of Judah, when Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, becomes king and does more evil than any king before him. During his 55-year reign (697-642 B.C.), Manasseh committed every pagan atrocity imaginable including setting up the image of Asherah in the temple, offering his son as a sacrifice to the pagan god Molech, building altars to the heavenly hosts in the courtyards of the temple, and the shedding of much innocent blood (including probably that of Isaiah, Hebrews 11:37b). It was because of the evil he had done as king that caused Judah to go into captivity about 60 years later (II Kings 23:26, 24:3). The king of Assyria shackled Manasseh and took him off to Babylon, and “in his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers (II Chronicles 33:12, NIV).” The Lord brought him back to Jerusalem where he tried to undo the evil he had done. He removed the foreign gods and the idol he had set up in the temple and commanded Judah to only serve Yahweh, the God of Israel. At 22 years of age, Amon became king upon the death of his father Manasseh and continues the evil of his father. After two years he is assassinated and his son Josiah becomes king at the age of eight. *What attributes of God do we see evidenced in the way God dealt with Manasseh? Will God always act in mercy if we truly repent? See II Chronicles 7:14. What evidence was there that Manasseh truly repented?*

**II Chronicles 34**— Now comes the amazing reign of King Josiah (640-609 B.C.). At the young age of 16, just eight years into his reign, Josiah begins to seek the Lord. When he was 20, he cleanses Judah and all Israel of Asherah poles, carved images, and incense altars. Because of the waning influence of Assyria, Josiah annexes a portion of the land of Israel (Northern Kingdom) to Judah, including Manasseh and Ephraim, and abolishes pagan worship throughout Judah and Israel. He initiates repairs to the temple that had been in great disrepair due to the evil reigns of King Manasseh and Amon. While renovating the temple, the book of the law was found by Hilkiah, the high priest, who gave it to Shaphan, the court secretary, who read it to the king. Upon hearing the book of the law, King Josiah tore his clothes and wept knowing that God’s great wrath was imminent because of Judah’s evil. The king asks Hilkiah and other servants to inquire of the Lord. They went to Huldah, the prophetess, to find out what Yahweh would say to them. The Lord said that indeed His wrath was kindled against Judah, but that since his heart was tender and humble, that disaster will surely come but would take place after his death. Josiah commands all the elders and people of Judah to call a holy convocation in Jerusalem in order to hear the book of law and then make a covenant in the presence of the Lord to obey His commands and decrees.

*A major story of this chapter is that God’s Word is found in the temple. What was Josiah’s reaction when he heard God’s Word read? What should be our response when we read God’s Word? What does the Bible say about itself in the following passages: See Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 40:8, 55:11, and Psalm 119:105?*



**II Chronicles 35**— In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah, Judah celebrated the Passover as it hadn't been observed since the days of Samuel. He assigned the priests to fulfill their duties and service in the temple and organized them according to their family divisions. During this Passover there were more than 40,000 animals sacrificed. The Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers all fulfilled their God-ordained ministries at this most amazing feast. In the twenty-ninth year of his reign, Josiah went up to Megiddo to try to stop Pharaoh Neco who was supporting Assyria against Babylon. Although Neco tried to dissuade him, Josiah would not listen to the words of Neco that came from the mouth of God. Josiah was slain in battle, and all of Jerusalem and Israel mourned for this great king. *I Kings 23:25 says, "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart..." What might be the reasons that God didn't prevent this great, godly king from fighting Pharaoh Neco and being killed? See II Kings 23:26-30.*

**II Chronicles 36**— In 609 B.C. upon the death of Josiah, the people made his son Jehoahaz, king at the age of 23. Jehoahaz reigned in Jerusalem three months and was deposed by Pharaoh Neco and taken to Egypt. Neco appointed Eliakim (or Jehoiakim), his brother, as king, and he reigned 11 years and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated the combined armies of Egypt and Assyria at Carchemish in northern Syria causing Judah to switch its allegiance from Egypt to Babylon. King Jehoiakim attempted rebellion against Babylon. In 598 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege, captured Jerusalem, and replaced King Jehoiakim with King Jehoiachin. After reigning only three months, King Jehoiachin and all his royal family were deported to Babylon, and the gold articles from the temple and the palace were also taken. Jehoiachin was replaced by his uncle Mattaniah whose name was changed to Zedekiah. Zedekiah reigned eleven years and did what was evil in the Lord's sight and refused to humble himself when Jeremiah spoke the very words from the Lord. He rebelled against the king of Babylon which sealed his doom. After God's warning through the prophets time and time again, the Lord's wrath was stirred up against His people and there was no remedy. In 586 B.C. the Chaldeans completely destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, killed many people, and carried off others to Babylon. At the end of the 70 years that the land of Canaan had its Sabbath rests as spoken by Jeremiah, King Cyrus of Persia made a proclamation that the Lord, the God of heaven, had appointed him to build a temple at Jerusalem, and he invited all that the Jews that wished, to return to Jerusalem. *What were the Sabbath rests spoken of in verse 21, and what is the meaning of the words "until 70 years were fulfilled?" See Leviticus 25:4, 26:34-36, 43.*

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