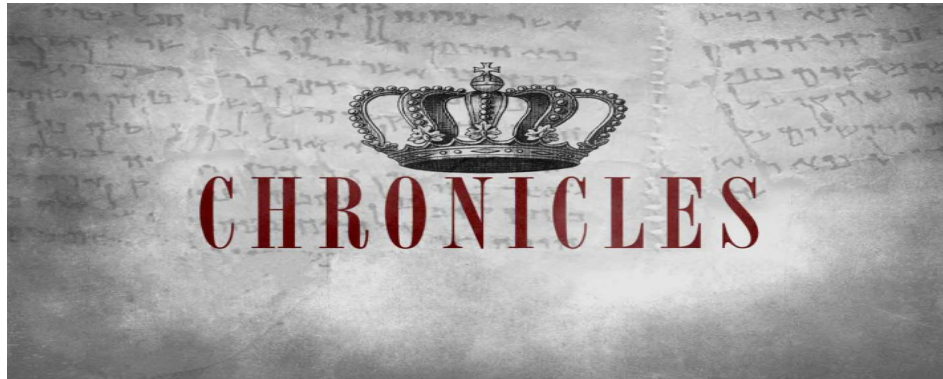


(102) Adult Sunday School Class
2 Chronicles, chpts. 1-20
Chronicles, pp. 50-76



Part 3 of 4 – Second Chronicles

First Chronicles ends with elderly David, 40 years into his reign, naming Israel's new king: Solomon (David and Bathsheba's son), the man who would also build God's Temple.

Second Chronicles continues the story of the Jewish nation chosen by God. They are chosen not just for privilege, but for a mission: to become a light that draws people from all over the world to God. Solomon builds the most glorious Jewish nation that had ever existed, reigning over a golden age. Kings and queens come calling to admire Solomon's wisdom and wealth.

One example is Queen of Sheba (land of Ethiopia) who is drawn to Jerusalem because of Solomon's fame, and she tests the king with hard questions, and Solomon is able to answer them all. Impressed by Solomon's wisdom—and by the riches of his kingdom—she proclaims, "Your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard" (1 Kings 10:7). She leaves with "whatever she asked for. Gifts of greater value than the gifts she had given him" (2 Chr. 9:12). *Ethiopian legend says the queen converted to Solomon's faith and gave birth to his son.*

Since the time of the Exodus out of Egypt (~480 years earlier), Jews had worshipped God in a Tent. But now they worship at the Temple that shimmered like a jewel set into the Jerusalem hilltop. And for the next 400 years, this Temple will serve as the one place on earth where Jews can expect to encounter God by presenting their requests and finding atonement for their sins.

After Solomon dies, the northern tribes of Israel refuse to be ruled by a descendant of David and split the once united tribes of Israel into the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) tribes.

God patiently endures the sinful northern nation for about 200 years, sending prophets to warn them of the tragic consequences if they persist. *Next time we will conclude 2 Chronicles...*