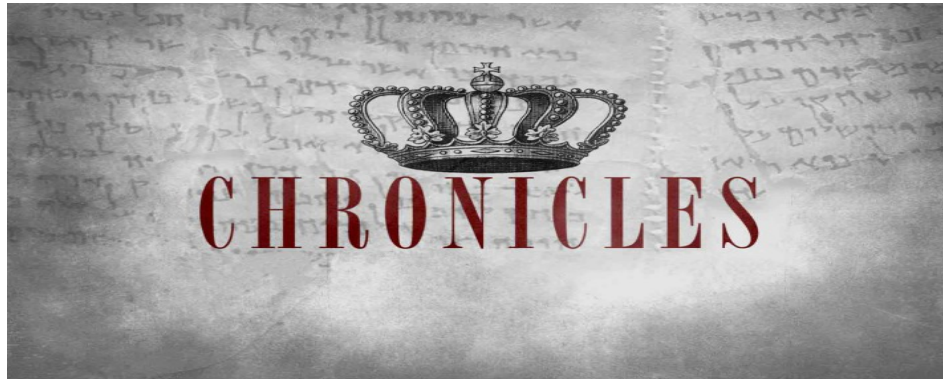


(103) Adult Sunday School Class  
2 Chronicles, chpts. 21-36  
Chronicles, pp. 76-102



## Part 4 of 4 – Second Chronicles

As previously mentioned, the writer of 1-2 Chronicles says little about the northern tribes, his main focus is on the reigns of the kings of Judah and how they relate to the Temple.

The northern nation (Israel) is overrun by the Assyrian Empire in 722 BC, the southern nation (Judah) outlasts another 150 years. Regrettably, Judah's kings also reject the advice of God's prophets and try to break free of Babylon (the empire that overran and replaced Assyria) by withholding the levied taxes. Three times the Babylonians invade: 604 BC, 597 BC and finally in 586 BC. The latter resulted in final destruction to all the fortified cities, everything of value is plundered, and the Jewish survivors are deported to Babylon (present day Iraq).

The Jewish nation ceases to exist on Jewish soil. The land rests, "lying desolate until the seventy years were fulfilled, just as the prophet had said" (2 Chr. 36:21). The prophet is Jeremiah who witnessed the fall of Jerusalem and warned the Jews would endure 70 years of captivity (Jeremiah 25:11). The writer ends 2 Chronicles with the decree of the Persian king Cyrus (the new empire which overran and replaced Babylon) allowing the Jews to return to Judah and rebuild their nation and the Temple (2 Chr. 36:22-23). God is faithful!

1-2 Chronicles teach us that even if we find ourselves in difficult circumstances, we should always grasp for God's promises and continue to worship God wholeheartedly. Even when we mess up and sin, we need to humble ourselves, repent, allow for God's forgiveness, and put our sinful past behind us. The chronicle writer says it this way... *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"* (2 Chr. 7:14). Timely words to live by today...