

2 CHRONICLES 31-36; SONGS 1-2

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 29, Year 2: 2 Chr 31-36; Songs 1-2*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read 2 Chronicles Chapter 31. What did the people do to the idols and false gods as they left to return home?

What were the duties of the various divisions of priests and Levites as assigned by Hezekiah, in v. 2?

Where did Hezekiah get the required offerings for the appointed feasts in the temple, in v. 3?

How did Hezekiah make sure that the priests and Levites had time to do their jobs properly, in v. 4?

What was the response of the people when Hezekiah called on them to bring the required portion of their wealth for the support of the priests, in vv. 5-7?

How did Hezekiah and his officials respond to the generosity of the people in v. 8?

What did the chief priest tell Hezekiah about the abundance piled up in heaps around the temple, in vv. 9-10?

What organizational structure did Hezekiah put in place for taking care of the goods that were brought by the people, in vv. 11-13?

What sort of distribution system was developed to get the

provisions to all of the priests, in vv. 14-15?

Whose needs were provided through the administrators of the offerings in vv. 16-19?

What qualities characterized all of Hezekiah's actions as king, especially in relation to the temple worship, in vv. 20-21? What lessons do you learn?

2. Read 2 Chronicles Chapter 32. In verse one, who was the king of Assyria that went to Judah and encamped against the fenced cities?

What did Hezekiah do when he saw that Sennacherib was preparing to fight against Jerusalem in vv. 3-6?

What did Hezekiah say to the people in vv. 7-8?

Who did Hezekiah say would deliver them from the hand of the King of Assyria, in v. 11?

What did Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah do, according to v. 20?

What was the occasion of Hezekiah's prayer to the Lord in v. 24? How did the Lord respond to Hezekiah's prayer?

What kind of attitude did Hezekiah display after he was healed, in v. 25?

What kept Hezekiah and the people from being under the wrath of God, in v. 26?

What did Hezekiah do with all of his wealth and power in vv. 27-30?

What remarkable engineering feat had Hezekiah accomplished while he was king, in v. 30?

How did God test Hezekiah in v. 31?

What famous Bible prophet wrote about Hezekiah in v. 32?

What did the people think of Hezekiah when he died in v. 33?

Who succeeded Hezekiah as king in v. 33? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read 2 Chronicles Chapter 33. How old was Manasseh when he became king in v. 1?

What direction did Manasseh take the nation spiritually in v. 2?

How did Manasseh undo his father's work in v. 3?

How did Manasseh desecrate the temple as a place of worship, in vv. 4-5?

What evil acts did Manasseh commit personally in v. 10?

How did Manasseh's actions defy the conditions of the promises God had made to David and Solomon, in vv. 7-8?

How did the paganism of Judah under Manasseh compare to what had existed before God gave the land to His people, in v. 9?

How did Manasseh respond to warnings from the Lord in v. 10?

How did the Lord punish Manasseh for his sins in v. 11?

How did Manasseh change when he was taken into captivity in v. 12?

What happened to Manasseh while he was being punished in vv. 12-13? How did the Lord answer Manasseh's prayer in v. 13?

What did the new Manasseh build and destroy in vv. 14-16?

How did the people use the altars previously used for worshiping false gods, in v. 17?

Who succeeded Manasseh as king, and how long was his reign in vv. 20-21?

What spiritual leadership did Amon provide in v. 22?

How was Amon different from his father in v. 23?

What ended Amon's reign as king in v. 24? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read 2 Chronicles Chapter 34. How old was Josiah when he became king in v. 1?

What kind of spiritual leadership did Josiah give the nation in v. 2?

When did Josiah begin to search for God in v. 3?

What symbols and evidences of false gods did Josiah destroy in vv. 3-4?

What did Josiah do in an attempt to remove the guilt of the people for their previous idol worship, in v. 5?

How extensive were Josiah's efforts to clean up the nation in vv. 6-7?

What did Josiah send via trusted messengers to enable the high priest to repair the temple, in vv. 8-9?

What did Josiah do to repair the temple in vv. 8-11?

What skilled tradesmen were hired to work on rebuilding the

temple, in vv. 10-11?

What roles did the Levites fill in the temple restoration and worship, in vv. 12-13?

What did Hilkiah find in the temple in v. 14?

What was important about the old scroll in v. 14?

What discovery changed Josiah and his nation in vv. 14-33?

Who did the high priest give the scroll to when he found it in v. 15?

How did Shaphan break the news to the king about the scroll in vv. 16-18?

How did Josiah react to hearing God's law read aloud in v. 19?

What did Josiah send his men to do at the temple in v. 20-21?

Why was God's anger being poured out on Judah in v. 21?

Who did Josiah's men go to see about God's message for them in v. 22?

What was the bad news in the prophecy in vv. 24-25?

What was the good news in the prophecy in vv. 26-28?

How had Josiah's reaction to hearing God's Word influenced God's response, in v. 27?

To whom did Josiah first read the scroll in vv. 29-30?

What pledge did Josiah make to the Lord in v. 31?

What did Josiah require the people to do in v. 32?

How did Josiah and the people live after reading the scroll in v. 33?

5. Read 2 Chronicles Chapter 35. What special celebration did Josiah reinstitute in vv. 1-19?

What were the priests and Levites to do in preparation for the Passover, in vv. 2-6?

How were the priests and Levites to handle the sacred ark in v. 3?

What three actions were the Levites to perform in v. 6?

What did Josiah provide for the Passover in v. 7?

What did the officials provide for the Passover in vv. 8-9?

What was done to the Passover lambs in vv. 11-12?

What offerings were prepared for the people to eat in vv. 12-14?

What did the musicians and gatekeepers do in v. 15?

How long had it been since the Passover celebration had been observed exactly according to God's command, in v. 18?

What confrontation did Josiah have with the king of Egypt in vv. 20-21?

What mistake did Josiah make when he decided to fight Necho in v. 22?

How was Josiah killed in vv. 23-24? What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

6. Read 2 Chronicles Chapter 36. How long did Jehoahaz reign in v. 2?

Who dethroned Jehoahaz in v. 3?

How long did Jehoiakim reign in v. 5? What was Jehoiakim's spiritual influence on the nation?

Who conquered Jehoiakim and took him into captivity in vv. 6-7?

How long did Jehoiachin reign in verse nine?

Who deposed Jehoiachin from his throne in verse ten?

How long did Zedekiah reign in verse eleven?

What was Zedekiah's spiritual influence on the nation in vv. 12-14?

How did the people respond to God's messengers in vv. 15-16?

Who did God raise up to destroy Jerusalem in v. 17?

What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the city and the people of Jerusalem, in vv. 18-20?

How long were the Jews in exile in Babylon in v. 21?

Who gave permission for the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem, in vv. 22-23? What lessons do you learn?

7. Read Songs Chapters 1 and 2. Why do you think an entire book is devoted to romantic love? What kind of religious interpretation is symbolized in the book of the Song of Solomon? Do you think this book is an allegory of God's love for Israel and/or the Church? Why?

What is the relationship between the Lover and the Beloved? In

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**the Song of Solomon, why is it said that we shouldn't awaken
love until it pleases?**

SONGS 3-8; RUTH

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 30, Year 2: Songs 3-8; Ruth*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Songs Chapters 3-8. What do you learn about God's character from your reading? See Songs 8:5-6; 3:5; 4:1-6.
2. What is foundational to sex and marriage according to Song of Solomon?
3. What practical wisdom does Song of Solomon provide for married couples?
4. Read Ruth Chapter 1. At what time does the story of Ruth begin, according to v. 1? Why did Elimelech migrate to Moab? Where did Elimelech live before he migrated to Moab?

What was Elimelech's wife's name? What was the name of the sons? See Ruth 1:2.

What were the names of Naomi's daughters-in-law, in v. 4? How long did they live in Moab?

Why did Naomi decide to go back to Israel? (Ruth 1:6)

What did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law when she departed from Moab? See Ruth 1:8-9.

What did Ruth say to Naomi when Naomi asked her to return to her people, in vv. 16-17?

Where did Naomi and Ruth go in Israel, in v. 19?

What did Naomi ask the people of Bethlehem to call her instead of her real name and why, in v. 20?

At what time did Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, in v. 22?
What lessons do you learn?

5. Read Ruth Chapter 2. Who was Boaz, according to verse one?

In whose field did Ruth glean barley, in v. 3?

What did Boaz say to Ruth, in vv. 8-9?

Where did Ruth eat her lunch, in v. 14?

What did Boaz tell his hired hands to do for Ruth, in vv. 15-16?

How much barley did Ruth glean the first day in the field, in v. 17? What lessons do you learn?

6. Read Ruth Chapter 3. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do in verse three?

Was there a kinsman nearer Ruth than Boaz? See Ruth 3:12.

Where did Ruth lay until the morning came the next day, in v. 14?

7. Read Ruth Chapter 4. What did Boaz do for witness in his dealing with the other kinsman, in v. 2?

What did Boaz tell the other kinsman, before the witnesses, in vv. 3-5?

Why did the other kinsman decline buying the parcel of land and betrothal to Ruth, in v. 6?

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What custom did they have in Israel regarding the redeeming of a kinsman, in v. 7?

When the other kinsman took off his shoe, what did Boaz tell the ten witnesses, in v. 9?

What was the name of Ruth and Boaz's firstborn child, in v. 17?

What lessons do you learn from the Book of Ruth? What do you learn about God in this book?

LAMENTATIONS; ECCLESIASTES 1-7

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 31, Year 2: Lam; Eccl 1-7*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

8. Read Lamentations Chapter 1. How did the writer describe the city in verses one and two of this book?

What happened to Judah in verse three?

What did the empty roads to Zion depict in vv. 4-6?

What did Jerusalem recall in verse seven?

How had the city become ruined in vv. 8-11?

Who punished Jerusalem in verse twelve?

How had the daughter of Judah suffered in vv. 13-16?

Why were Zion's pleas for help ignored in vv. 17-19?

What price did Zion pay for her rebellion in vv. 18-19?

How did devastated Jerusalem describe her condition in vv. 20-22?

What was Zion's prayer for her enemies in vv. 21-22? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

9. Read Lamentations Chapter 2. What did the Lord do to the Daughter of Zion in vv. 1-2?

What happened to Judah's strength and power in v. 3?

What had the Lord become like to the Israelites in vv. 4-5?

What did the Lord allow to happen, in his anger, according to vv. 6-7?

What became of the city, according to vv. 8-9?

How did the destruction of the city affect the elders and young women in verse ten?

How did the author respond to the harrowing scenes of destruction in verse eleven?

What happened to the children because of the consequences of war in vv. 11-12?

How deep was the trouble that had overtaken God's people, according to v. 13?

How had the false prophets misled the people in v. 14?

How did Israel's enemies respond to her ruin in vv. 15-16?

What was the fearless message of the true prophets in v. 17?

What was the suffering city told to do in vv. 18-22? What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

10. Read Lamentations Chapter 3. How did the writer identify with the sufferings of the people of Judah in vv. 1-18? Who were the sufferings of the people directly attributed to?

What did the writer recall, according to vv. 19-21?

In the middle of lamenting the siege and destruction of Jerusalem, what profound assurance did the writer express in vv. 22-24?

What virtues were affirmed by the author in vv. 25-27?

How was God's mercy revealed in suffering, according to vv. 28-33?

What was intolerable to the Lord in these three verses of vv. 34-36?

How did the writer describe the nature of God's knowledge in vv. 37-38?

What did the writer say about sin and suffering in v. 39?

What did the poet urge them to do about, in identifying with God's people in vv. 40-42?

How did the writer describe the sorrows of sin in vv. 43-54?

What was the prayer of the penitent sinner, according to vv. 55-66? How did the prayer include both comfort and cursing in these verses?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

11. Read Lamentations Chapter 4. What was scattered throughout the streets in verse one?

What contrasts did the writer make between Jerusalem in her glory and Jerusalem in her shame in vv. 1-12?

How did the children fare in the siege of Jerusalem in vv. 2-4?

What happened to the wealthy in verse five?

How did Zion's punishment compare with that of Sodom, according to verse six?

How were the arrogant and self-confident people brought down in vv. 7-12?

What were the reasons for the siege, according to vv. 13-20?

How were the prophets and priests punished in vv. 14-16?

Why were the people disappointed in their ally in v. 17?

What was Judah powerless to avert in vv. 18-20?

What did the future hold for Edom in v. 21?

What was Zion's hope, according to v. 22? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

12. Read Lamentations Chapter 5. What did the people ask the Lord to do in verse one?

What was the predicament of God's people in vv. 2-18?

What were the Jews compelled to do in vv. 4-6?

What consequences were other generations forced to bear, according to vv. 7-10?

How did the poet describe the shamefulness of sin in vv. 11-18?

What was the attitude of God's people in v. 15?

Why did the Jews face such awful retribution in v.16?

What had become of dynasty of King David, in vv. 17-18?

How did the writer describe the throne of God in v. 19?

What were the longings of God's people in vv. 20-22? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

13. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 1. Who wrote this chapter, according to v. 1?

What sweeping statement did Solomon make about life, according to vv. 1-2?

What question did Solomon ask in v. 3?

How did Solomon illustrate his statement that the earth remains the same in vv. 4-7?

Who will be forgotten, according to v. 11?

What did Solomon devote himself to in vv. 12-13?

What conclusion did Solomon reach about everything he had seen and done in vv. 13-14?

What had Solomon committed himself to, in vv. 16-17?

What conclusion did Solomon reach concerning wisdom and folly in vv. 17-18? What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

14. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 2. What did Solomon say about his pursuit of pleasure, according to vv. 1-2?

How did Solomon try to cheer himself in v. 3?

What projects did Solomon undertake in vv. 4-8?

What way did Solomon indulge himself in, according to v. 10?

What conclusion did Solomon reach when he considered all he had achieved in v. 11?

What did Solomon turn his thoughts to in v. 12?

What conclusion did Solomon reach about wisdom and folly in vv. 12-14?

What did Solomon say would be the fate of the fool and the wise person, according to vv. 15-16?

Why did Solomon hate life and all the things for which he had worked for in vv. 17-21?

What does a person get for all his or her strivings, according to Solomon in vv. 22-23?

What did Solomon say a person should find satisfaction and why in v. 24?

What do we require to find enjoyment, in vv. 24-25?

What does God give, according to v. 26? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

15. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 3. What sort of activities is there a time for in vv. 1-8?

What topics did Solomon explore in vv. 1-22?

What has God set in the hearts of people, according to v. 11? What can we not understand?

What's the best way we can spend our days while we are alive in v. 12?

What is described as a gift from God in v. 13?

What did Solomon say about everything God does in v. 14?

What will God call into account, according to v. 15?

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What did Solomon see in the place of judgment and the place of justice in v. 16?

Who will God bring to judgment, according to v. 17?

Why does God test us in v. 18?

What fate awaits both people and animals in vv. 19-21?

What should we enjoy and why, according to v. 22? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

16. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 4. What did Solomon see taking place under the sun in verse one?

What did Solomon say about oppression in vv. 1-3?

What is the theme of this chapter, according to vv. 1-16? How would you describe Solomon's mood?

Who did Solomon declare to be happiest of all in vv. 2-3?

Why do people work to achieve, according to v. 4?

What did Solomon say about toil in vv. 4-6?

What meaningless thing did Solomon see "under the sun" in vv. 7-8?

What did Solomon say about friendlessness in vv. 7-12?

Why are two better than one, according to vv. 9-12?

What did Solomon say about young people in v. 13?

What did Solomon say about advancement in vv. 13-16? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

17. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 5. How should a person go to the house of God, according to v. 1?

How did Solomon encourage us to conduct ourselves in the house of God in vv. 2-3?

What did Solomon say about vows made to God in vv. 4-6?

Why should we stand in awe of God, according to v. 7?

What should not surprise us in vv. 8-9?

What unflattering truths hold for the person who loves money, according to vv. 10-12?

What grievous evil did Solomon notice in vv. 13-17?

What is good and proper for a person to do in v. 18?

What sort of experience did Solomon describe as a gift from God in v. 19?

What happens to the person who has wealth and possessions in v. 20? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

18. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 6. What evil did Solomon notice in vv. 1-2?

What is the main topic of vv. 1-12?

What shocking statement did Solomon make about children in v. 3?

What context did Solomon consider a stillborn child better off than a living person in vv. 5-6?

What is true about the fate of all people, including the stillborn in v. 6?

What is never satisfied, according to v. 7?

What question did Solomon ponder concerning the wise person and the fool in v. 8?

What did Solomon consider to be better than the roving of the appetite in v. 9?

What conclusions did Solomon reach about people in v. 10?

What did Solomon conclude about words, according to v. 11?

What question does this chapter conclude with in v. 12? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

19. Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 7. Why is it better to go to a house of mourning than to a feast, according to v. 2?

Why is sorrow better than laughter in v. 3?

Why should we be patient and not easily provoked, according to v. 9?

Why did Solomon counsel against comparing today with some wonderful past in v. 10?

What did Solomon compare wisdom to in vv. 11-12?

What is the advantage of knowledge, according to v. 12?

What should we do when times are bad in vv. 13-14?

What two things had Solomon seen during his meaningless life in v. 15?

What counsel about living did Solomon give in vv. 16-18?

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How much consideration should we give to the words of others in vv. 21-22?

What did Solomon discover when he sought out wisdom, according to vv. 23-26?

What did Solomon find while he was still searching in vv. 27-29?
What lessons do you learn from this chapter?