

Summary of Readings

Day One: II Chronicles 5:1-6:11

Upon the completion of the Temple, Solomon begins the work of bringing in the items that had been dedicated by David and the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark is escorted by the Levites into the Most Holy Place in the Temple underneath the Cherubim. Inside the Ark were the two tablets that Moses had placed in the Ark. As the Priests depart the Most Holy Place, celebration is shared through cymbals, harps, lyres and the sounding of 120 trumpets. The people's voices were also raised in singing, "He is good; his love endures forever." This section concludes with the statement, "then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

When Solomon sees the cloud, he turns to address the people. In his address, Solomon reminds the crowd that God had not previously chosen a city to dwell, a place for a temple to be built, or a leader for Israel. Now, God has chosen Jerusalem, he has anointed the house of David, and following God's instruction to David, Solomon has fulfilled God's request to construct this new Temple.

Day Two: II Chronicles 9:30-11:4

Solomon dies after reigning over Israel for forty years. His son, Rehoboam succeeds him as King. Jeroboam approaches the new King about reducing the work load on the people. After Rehoboam consults with his advisors, he decides to increase the "yoke" of their labor. Rehoboam's decision leads to Israel rebelling against his leadership causing a split in the Kingdom. Rehoboam seeks to reclaim the entire Kingdom by force, but the word of the Lord comes to him and instructs him by saying, "do not go up to fight against your brothers."

Day Three: II Chronicles 14:1-15:19

King Asa acted in accordance with God's desire by removing the articles, altars and high places dedicated to the pagan gods and instructing Israel to return to obedience to the law. During his reign, he also fortified the cities of his Kingdom. When a challenge comes Zerah the Cushite, Asa meets the challenge with his army and his fervent prayer for God to help them crush the army of the Cushites. Asa's army defeats the Cushites and plunders their towns.

Azariah, a prophet, comes to Asa to encourage Asa to continue his work of reforming Israel. Asa continues his work of removing idolatrous places and practices and brings Israel to a time of presenting sacrifices and repentance. Israel renews their commitment. Asa even removes the queen mother from her position because of her construction of an Asherah pole. Asa's heart was described as, "fully committed to the Lord all his life."

Day Four: II Chronicles 19:1-20:30

Jehosaphat goes out among the people to appoint judges in order to arbitrate among the people on behalf of the Lord. The appointment of Judges continues even into Jerusalem. He gives them instruction as to how to judge in a way that will lead the people in obedience to the Lord. Jehosaphat places the judges under the authority of Amariah, the Chief Priest.

A war breaks out between Judah and the Moabites and the Ammonites. When Jehosaphat receives word that a large army from Edom is gathering, he instructs Judah to fast and gathers the people for preparation. Jehosaphat then prays on behalf of Judah in which he reminds those gathered how God has acted on their behalf in the past and asks God to do so again by saying, "we have no power to face this vast army that is

attacking us... but our eyes are on you.” The spirit of the Lord then comes upon Jahaziel who says to the assembly that the battle belongs to the Lord. He then instructs Judah as to what they should do to defeat their enemies. All of Judah worships God for his providence and seeks to act on God’s direction.

Day Five: II Chronicles 30:1-31:1

Hezekiah sends word to all of Israel, Judah, Ephraim and Manasseh to come and celebrate the Passover. Couriers sent the letters of invitation throughout the land. The people scorned and ridiculed them. The feast of the Unleavened bread was celebrated in the second month and on the fourteenth day, the Passover lamb was slaughtered. The priests then began the process of sprinkling the blood handed them by the Levites as well as killing the passover lambs brought by the people since they were ceremonially unclean. Hezekiah lifts a prayer for those who are participating in the passover without being properly “cleaned.” God hears and responds to his prayer. The Feast of Unleavened Bread continues for seven days. After the completion of the seven days, the people decided to extend the celebration another seven days. Nothing had happened like this in Israel since the days of Solomon. After the Feast, the people depart and destroy all signs of pagan worship.

Day Six: II Chronicles 35:16-36:1

Passover is again being celebrated. This time it is occurring under King Josiah’s reign. This passover, celebrated in the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign was unmatched by any of the Kings of Israel.

After the passover, Josiah marches out to meet Neco, King of Egypt, in battle. Neco sends messengers to Josiah to inquire as to reason for the quarrel. He does not understand why Josiah has marched out in battle., and believes that God does not want this fight. Josiah ignores Neco’s message and goes to fight him at Megiddo. Josiah is wounded in the battle and he eventually dies from his wounds. Jeremiah and others participate in lamenting Josiah’s death.

Day Seven: II Chronicles 36:11-23

Zedekiah reigns in Jerusalem for eleven years doing evil in the sight of God. He did not listen to Jeremiah and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. Though God sent word to the leaders in Jerusalem, they did not heed God’s warning and even mocked the messengers. The Babylonians rose up against Judah and, “God handed them over to Nebuchadnezzar. After the defeat, he carried away all the articles of the temple and the treasury. Further, the temple was set ablaze, the walls were knocked down, and the palaces were destroyed. The remnant of Israel as carried into exile in Babylon and they became the servants of the Babylonians. In fulfillment of Jeremiah’s words, the land enjoys it’s sabbath rest for 70 years. When Cyrus comes to power, he invites the people to return.