

**Week 23**

<p><b>June 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 26</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 27</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 28</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 29</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 30</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 31</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? This week you will read about the end of Saul’s reign and the story of David’s reign. As you read take time to compare and contrast these two kings. Both kings committed a sin that brought God’s judgment. Both kings were confronted by a prophet because of their sin. But the end of Saul’s story and the end of David’s story is much different. Why?</li> <li>? Why is Saul’s end so tragic? Do you see that each time he was confronted by the prophet, Saul excused his own sin. “You were late and I had to do the sacrifices myself.” “The people spared the best of the flock.” Saul never admits his sin and comes to a place of true repentance. The result is death.</li> <li>? As you read 1 Samuel 28 and 31, remember the bright promise of Saul’s early days. If you had seen him as a humble young king, would you have imagined he would one day commit suicide as a man who had been abandoned by God? Recognize the awfulness of sin. Pray that God will give you grace to remain humble in His eyes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>June 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* In 1 Kings, we will read about the division of Israel into two sections, the northern Kingdom and the southern Kingdom of Judah. The roots of this division are seen forty years earlier in 2 Samuel 2-4. Already, there is rivalry between the tribes. Judah follows David; the northern tribes follow Saul’s son, Ish-bosheth. In the same way, Judah will later follow Rehoboam while the northern tribes follow Jeroboam.</li> <li>? Imagine that you are David and that the man who has been trying to kill you is now dead. How will you respond? Will you rejoice that your enemy is dead? Or will you respond like David in 2 Samuel 1:17-27?</li> </ul>
<p><b>June 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 5</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 6</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 7</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 8</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? These chapters are the brightest time in David’s reign. He has political success, uniting all Israel under his authority (2 Sam 5). He has military success, defeating the Philistines who had plagued Israel for decades (2 Sam 5). He has religious success, bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6). He has spiritual success, as God makes a covenant between Himself and David and his descendants (2 Sam 7). Why does God pour out such blessing on David?</li> <li>? Do you see the heart of David in 2 Samuel 9? Instead of killing any remaining descendants of Saul (the normal response of an ancient king), David provides for Mephibosheth and treats him like one of his own family. Do you have that kind of love for your enemy?</li> </ul>
<p><b>June 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 10</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 13</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 2 Samuel 10 concludes the story of David’s great rise. It is his last great military victory. 2 Samuel 11 begins the story of David’s failures in the last part of his reign. It begins with a phrase that any ancient reader would have recognized as a warning, “In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab.... But David remained at Jerusalem.” As the king, it was David’s responsibility to lead the armies into battle. Instead, David enjoyed the luxury of the palace.</li> <li>? Do you see how the narrator of 2 Samuel 11 contrasts the honor of Uriah with the dishonor of David? David fails in his duty. He “remained at Jerusalem.” Uriah was faithful to his duty – even refusing to return to his wife while his comrades were in battle. The contrast is emphasized by the phrase “Uriah the Hittite.” A Hittite (not a Jew) is more faithful than Israel’s king.</li> <li>? Although David sinned severely, 2 Samuel 12 shows the difference between David’s response to a prophet’s warning and Saul’s earlier response to a prophet. Where Saul , “The people...,” David said, “I have sinned against the Lord” (2 Sam 12:13). What is your response when God convicts you of sin? Do you repent or do you excuse? The lives of Saul and David show why repentance is so important.</li> </ul>

<p><b>June 8</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 17</p>	<p>* God’s response to David’s sin included this judgment: “I will raise up evil against you out of your own house” (2 Sam 12:11). This judgment is fulfilled in today’s reading. Absalom, David’s favorite son, rebels against his father and divides the nation in a civil war which does not end until Absalom is killed in 2 Samuel 18.</p> <p>? There is far more pain in the results of sin than pleasure in the enjoyment of sin. As you read these chapters, think of the ongoing results of David’s sin with Bathsheba. When you face temptation, remember these chapters as a warning against the ongoing result of sin.</p>
<p><b>June 9</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 21</p>	<p>? Because of David’s love for his son, David failed to take strong action against Absalom’s rebellion. David’s general, Joab led in putting down the rebellion. What do you think of Joab’s actions? Was he too harsh or was he realistic in responding to a rebellion that divided the nation?</p> <p>* For the background of the famine in 2 Samuel 21, review Joshua 9 for the story of the covenant between Joshua and the Gibeonites. Hundreds of years later, God judged Israel because Saul broke this covenant.</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

**Week 24**

<p><b>June 11</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 23</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Samuel 24</p>	<p>* 2 Samuel 22 is the same as Psalm 18. It is David’s song of praise for God’s deliverance from his enemies.</p> <p>? 2 Samuel 23:1-7 records David’s final testimony. What will your last words be? Will you praise God for His faithfulness?</p> <p>* Throughout David’s life, we can see both God’s judgment and His mercy on David. This pattern continues in 2 Samuel 24. David’s census showed that he had begun to trust his military power rather than trusting in God. Because of this, God sent judgment. However, the land that David bought for an offering became the future site of the Temple. The place of judgment became a place of mercy.</p>
<p><b>June 12</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chronicles 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 2</p>	<p>* 1 &amp; 2 Chronicles cover the same historical period as 1 &amp; 2 Kings. However, they are much different in their perspective. Kings looks at both the Northern Kingdom and Judah; Chronicles looks only at Judah. Chronicles pays primary attention to the Temple as a symbol of God’s presence in the nation. The genealogies are important as a reminder that Israel is the people of God and He will preserve them.</p> <p>I will ask few questions in these chapters of genealogy. You can skim them quickly. However, as you read, keep in mind God’s sovereignty in working out His plan in Israel’s history.</p> <p>Chronicles was written during the years after Judah returned from exile in Babylon. Although the people were back in the land of Israel, there were few signs of hope: Solomon’s Temple had been destroyed; they had no king; and they were under the political control of Persia. By the time Chronicles was written, the Temple was rebuilt – but it was smaller than Solomon’s temple and much less impressive. In spite of this, however, Chronicles was intended to remind Israel that God’s presence in the Temple was still the sign that they were God’s people.</p>
<p><b>June 13</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 5</p>	<p>* The message of Chronicles is a message of hope: “If my people who are called by my name 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 heal their land” (2 Chron 7:14).</p> <p>The name Jabez (4:9-10) sounds like the Hebrew word for “pain.” Jabez prayed that God would bring blessing instead of pain into his life. “And God granted what he asked.” Even a person whose name reminds people of “pain” can touch the heart of God. This brief story fits with the theme of Chronicles: if Israel will call on God, He will hear her prayer and restore His people.</p>
<p><b>June 14</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 7</p>	<p>* 1 Chronicles 6 is one of the longest chapters in Chronicles. It gives the genealogy of the tribe of Levi. This is important because the Temple is so important to Chronicles. The Levites were responsible for caring for the Temple. Their story is an important part of the message of Chronicles.</p>
<p><b>June 15</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 10</p>	<p>* At the end of the genealogies, Chronicles gives attention to the duties of the Levites. The chapter begins by pointing to the reason for Judah’s captivity; “Judah was taken into exile in Babylon because of their breach of faith” (9:1). The Levites have the important duty of ensuring that Judah never “breaches the faith.” She must remain faithful to God and to the duties of the Temple.</p> <p>? The only part of Saul’s story that receives attention in Chronicles is his death. The focus of Chronicles is on David and David’s successors. However, notice 10:13-14; why did Saul die? Then go back to 9:1; why was Judah taken into exile? God requires faithfulness from His people! Are you serving Him faithfully?</p>

<p><b>June 16</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* One of the key phrases in Chronicles is “all Israel.” Highlight this phrase every time you see it. It was a reminder of God’s message of hope. At the time Chronicles was written, only Judah had survived. The Northern Kingdom was destroyed. But <i>spiritually</i> “all Israel” included everyone who was faithful to Jehovah. “All Israel” represents the unity of God’s people.</li>   <li>* Notice the devotion of David’s “mighty men.” These were “mighty and experienced warriors, expert with shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions and who were swift as gazelles upon the mountains” (12:8). They were intensely loyal to David. They represent the high point of Israel’s history. One of these mighty men was Uriah the Hittite (11:41). Uriah’s loyalty contrasts with David’s shameful treatment in the sin with Bathsheba.</li>   <li>* God’s judgment on Uzzah for violating His law about the Ark of the Covenant seems severe. However, God knew that His people <i>must</i> remember the sanctity of holy things. If they were ever to honor God as a holy God, they must recognize His laws about holy things. In Chronicles, this story is a reminder that God is still a holy God and that His people must still treat Him with honor and respect.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

**Week 25**

<p><b>June 18</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 1</p>	<p>* 1 Chronicles 15 shows that David learned an important lesson from the death from Uzzah. He learned that the Ark must be carried according to God’s clear instructions.</p> <p>* Notice 15:29 – Michal, “the daughter of Saul,” mocked her husband David for his celebration when the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Jerusalem. Fitting with the theme of Chronicles, this story contrasts the spiritual joy of David with the spiritual insensitivity of Saul and his family.</p> <p>? 1 Chronicles 16 is a song of praise that combines sections of three Psalms: Ps 105:1-15, Ps 96:1-13, and Ps 106:1, 47-48. As you read this song of praise, make a list of five things for which you can praise God today.</p> <p>* Proverbs 1:2-4 lists the purpose for this great book. As you read, ask God to accomplish this purpose in your life.</p> <p>* To see the importance of wisdom as a theme for Proverbs, use two highlighters as you read. In one color, highlight every occurrence of these words: wisdom, wise, understanding, knowledge. In a contrasting color, highlight every occurrence of these words: foolish, fool, simple, scorner, mocker, scoffer. Proverbs contrasts these two paths: the path of the wise and the path of the fool.</p>
<p><b>June 19</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 17</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 2</p>	<p>* David’s faithfulness to God is seen in his desire to build a house for God. However, God sent Nathan to tell David that “the Lord will build you a house” (17:10). If David’s descendants were faithful to God, God would preserve their throne forever.</p> <p>? David’s response to Nathan’s message was humble submission. He praised God for God’s goodness and trusted God’s purposes. When God does not allow you to fulfill your plans, do you continue to trust and praise Him?</p> <p>? 1 Chronicles 18-20 repeats information from 2 Samuel 8 and 10. The main difference is that Chronicles does not include David’s sin with Bathsheba. Why do you think this is omitted? (Think of the purpose of Chronicles – it is a message of hope.)</p> <p>? Proverbs 2:4-5 shows the price of wisdom. Do you search for wisdom as diligently as you would search for hidden treasures? How much do you value wisdom?</p>
<p><b>June 20</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 23</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3</p>	<p>* 2 Samuel 24 tells the story of David’s numbering of the people. 1 Chronicles 21 reveals why this sin was so significant. Satan himself inspired David’s actions through pride. In pride, David counted the people so that he could trust in the size of his army, instead of trusting only in God.</p> <p>? Notice David’s response to God’s judgment. He immediately repented and prayed for mercy. This is the heart of David, a “man after God’s own heart.” Do you have a heart of humble submission to God? Are you quick to repent when God reveals His judgment?</p> <p>* Don’t skip quickly over 22:1. “Then David said, “Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel.” The place where God’s judgment was stopped became the site of the Temple. Think how encouraging this was to the people who read Chronicles. They had just experienced God’s judgment in the Exile. This verse promised them that God’s mercy could be as real to them as His judgment. The God who judges sin is the same God who shows mercy on those who repent!</p> <p>? Trusting in God leads to wisdom (Prov 3:5-7). Trusting in our own heart leads to folly. Do you trust primarily in God or in your own wisdom?</p>

<p><b>June 21</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 4</p>	<p>* This is another series of chapters describing the organization of the Levites to care for the Temple.</p> <p>? Every detail of Temple worship was important. Just as God gave specific instructions for building the Tabernacle in Exodus, God gave specific instructions for the care of the Temple. David was careful to observe every detail. Are you careful in your obedience to God?</p> <p>? Wise people walk in a “straight path” (Prov 4:25-27). They refuse to turn away to evil. Look at your life – your marriage, finances, job, talk, etc. Are you honest (straight) in each of these areas?</p>
<p><b>June 22</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 27</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 28</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chron 29</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 5</p>	<p>* In his final charge to Israel, David again showed his submission to God’s will. Perhaps there might be a human disappointment that he was not allowed to build the Temple, but David willingly submitted to God’s plan.</p> <p>? David’s charge to Solomon includes two instructions. He instructs Solomon to “Know God” and to “Serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind.” Do you <i>know God</i>? That is more than “knowing about God.” To “know God” is to have experiential knowledge. It means to have a relationship with God. Do you know Him?</p> <p>Do you serve God with your <i>whole heart</i>? To serve God with our whole heart is more than forced obedience. It means to willingly and joyfully obey Him in every command? Do you serve Him?</p> <p>? Notice Prov 5:22-23. Man’s folly says, “I am <i>free</i> to live for my own desires. That is true freedom.” God’s wisdom says, “The sins of the wicked are a trap.” Are you living in bondage to sin? Are you willing to abandon your sin and allow God’s grace to free you to live in obedience to God?</p>
<p><b>June 23</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 6</p>	<p>* In judgment of David’s sin with Bathsheba, God warned, “I will raise up evil against you out of your own house” (2 Samuel 12:11). This judgment continued as David was on his deathbed. His sons Adonijah and Solomon fought for the throne while their father lay dying.</p> <p>? It appears that David failed to discipline his son Adonijah or to hold him accountable for his actions (1:6). Do you discipline your children even when it displeases them? Remember that proper discipline is for our child’s benefit.</p> <p>? At the end of his life, David charged Solomon to be faithful to God (1 Kings 2:1-4). Every believer is a “first generation” believer. No one becomes a believer by inheritance. Have you committed to following God or are you living on your parents’ commitment? You must commit to God for yourself.</p> <p>? Read the seven things God hates (Prov 6:16-19). Are you careful to avoid these areas of sin?</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

**Week 26**

<p><b>June 25</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 7</p>	<p>* 1 Kings 3-10 shows the great potential of Solomon’s early reign. God gave him great wisdom and prosperity. As long as Solomon trusted in God, his reign was successful.</p> <p>? If you were given the choice that Solomon received, what would you request?</p> <p>? Wisdom is “the ability to discern between two paths” (1 Kings 3:9). Are you learning to make wise decisions?</p> <p>? Proverbs 7-9 shows the blessings of wisdom and the danger of folly.                  -Read Prov 7:1-5. List the blessings that come from wisdom.                  -Read Prov 7:27. What is the result of following folly and sin?</p>
<p><b>June 26</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 8</p>	<p>* 1 Kings 5-6 is the story of the building of the Temple. This is the high point of Solomon’s reign. The Temple was the sign of God’s presence among His people.</p> <p>? The key word in 1 Kings 6:12 is “if.” God’s promises often include an “if.” “If you do this, I will do this....” We can’t claim God’s promises if we refuse to meet His conditions. Think of a biblical promise you claim. Does the promise include an “if”? Are you meeting the condition?</p> <p>? List the blessings in Proverbs 8 that come from wisdom. Read Prov 8:18, 21, and 35.</p>
<p><b>June 27</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 9</p>	<p>* As you read 1 Kings 8:10-11, imagine what it would be like to witness God’s presence in this way.</p> <p>? Do you limit God to a building? God is bigger than a building!</p> <p>? Notice the humility of Solomon’s prayer for those who may sin (8:31-53). Do you confess your sin with this kind of humility?</p> <p>? Again, notice the “if’s” in 1 Kings 9. Underline each “if.” Think about the conditions that God gives. Notice the promises for faithfulness (9:4-5) <i>and</i> the warnings against unfaithfulness (9:6-9).</p> <p>? List three characteristics of wisdom in Prov 9:1-12.</p> <p>? List three characteristics of folly in Prov 9:13-18.</p>
<p><b>June 28</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 10</p>	<p>* Solomon was famous throughout the ancient world for his great wisdom and wealth. Sadly, in his prosperity, Solomon wandered from God. Prosperity can be dangerous; we can begin to trust in ourselves instead of trusting God.</p> <p>* Proverbs 31:3 warns the king not to “give your strength to women.” “Women” is plural and refers to multiple mistresses or wives, not to a healthy monogamous marriage. However, Solomon failed to follow the wisdom of his own book of Proverbs! Instead, political marriages led him to worship other gods (1 Kings 11:1-8).</p> <p>* Proverbs 10-29 is a collection of “wise sayings” on a variety of life topics: marriage, family, the tongue, pride, laziness, money, etc. From each of these chapters, choose one verse that applies to <i>your</i> life now. Copy that verse into this reading journal and meditate on it throughout the day.</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 10.</p>

<p><b>June 29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chronicles 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 4</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 5</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 11</li> </ul>	<p>* These chapters repeat the story of Solomon that is told in 1 Kings. As you read, remember again the great potential that Solomon had as a young king. Then remember how he wasted his potential by turning away from Jehovah. Pray that God will keep you faithful to Him alone.</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 11.</p>
<p><b>June 30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chronicles 6</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 7</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 8</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 9</li> </ul>	<p>? As you read this section from 2 Chronicles, do you notice something missing? Chronicles does not include the story of Solomon’s apostasy. Why? (Again, remember the purpose of Chronicles – to bring a message of hope.)</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>