

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

*God Searches
For A Heart
Fully His*

KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 2
GOD SEARCHES FOR A HEART FULLY HIS
PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

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LESSON ONE

I Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 14–16

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix
Observation Worksheet of 1 Kings 15
Map
Observation Worksheets of 2 Chronicles 14–16
“2 Chronicles 14–20 at a Glance” chart
“The Kings of Israel and Judah” chart
Cross-references

God found David, a man after His heart, but His search was not over. One is not enough. The kingdom of God marches on—advances—on the strength of men and women whose hearts are fully His. A careful study of church history affirms over and over the power of individuals fully committed to serving God’s purpose in their generations. How they are needed in our generation!

This is why, Beloved, each of us needs to come to the point where we consciously choose to serve the Lord.

We must ask ourselves, “If the forward thrust of the kingdom depends on consecrated hearts, how strong is His kingdom in *my* heart?”

To whom will you give your heart? Whose purpose will you serve?

It is our prayer that what you learn over the next five weeks will so capture your heart that it will impact the course of the kingdom of God in ways beyond what you can imagine.

DAY ONE

The war between the first kings of the divided kingdom, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, didn’t end with the death of Rehoboam. When his son Abijam (or Abijah, as he is called in Chronicles) took the throne of Rehoboam, it was “like father, like son.” Abijam followed his father’s footsteps in the path of evil, in the course of his war with Jeroboam. Fortunately he reigned only three years. Asa his son succeeded him. This is where the story and our study begins—a study, once again, that will especially benefit you if you long to be a man or woman of God.

Now don't think, "It could never be me!" Such thinking isn't biblical. God can use anyone whose heart is fully His! Read 1 Corinthians 1:25-30.

1. Observe 1 Kings 15:1-24, which you will find in the Appendix of this workbook. You'll want to read through these verses at least twice as you do your observations. Since you are studying the very words of God preserved for your spiritual understanding and godliness, you'll want to begin with prayer, asking for the assistance of the blessed Holy Spirit. Remember, if you are a child of God, the Spirit of God lives in you as your resident tutor! Take full advantage of His presence.

If you are a first-timer with Precept and your leader has not taken you through an orientation of the first lesson, you can learn how to observe a passage by consulting the section "Focusing in on the Details" in *How to Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur,¹ or by turning to the front section "Observation—Discover What It Says" in *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*.

As you observe this chapter:

- a. Develop a system for marking the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah so they are easily distinguished. Use either colors and/or symbols. The simpler the symbols the easier it will be unless you have a lot of time to devote to this. Some of you may choose to mark your Bibles instead of the Observation Worksheets.

If this is your first course with us in **this** series, you can get an overview of where we are historically by looking at the chart, "Israel's Division and Captivity" at the end of this lesson. At this point in Israel's history the twelve tribes of Israel have divided into two kingdoms (ten tribes in the North and two tribes in the South) that conflict not only with their enemies but also unfortunately with each other.

- b. It will help you to write key words you are going to mark on a card. Then color-code and/or put symbols over the words and use your card as a bookmark.
- c. You will notice a key (repeated) phrase as you study the reigns of the kings—either they *did right in the sight of the Lord* or they *did evil*. Mark these in a distinguishable way.
- d. **People** are key players in historical accounts so give them careful attention. Note *who* they are and *what* the text tells you about them. Their

¹You may order by going online to www.precept.org or call 800-763-8280 or write to Precept Ministries International, P. O. Box 182218, Chattanooga TN 37422.

behavior and speech will reflect their character. (*This says a lot, doesn't it! And what do our character and speech reflect?*)

- e. Mark references to **time**—which are most important. (Many of us use a green clock.) Time answers one of those 5 Ws and H questions that are key to observing the text: who, what, when, where, why and how. Note when a king began his reign and how long he reigned.
- f. **Geographical locations** are important because they tell us the all-important “where.” You may want to double underline these in green. We share our marking styles because some people find it easier to follow a system rather than create their own. You do what’s best for you. There’s nothing magical about this system.

If you are not familiar with the geography of a region, see if you can find places you mark on the map located in the Appendix.

- g. The **heart** is very important. It’s the control (command) center of our lives. It’s the seat of our thinking and the heartbeat of our affections (our driving passions). Therefore mark references to the *heart*. Note what you learn.

- h. Also mark three other things in this chapter: *sin, death or dying, and the house of the Lord*. The house of the Lord was central to all life. It was the place of worship, sacrifice, and celebration. You’ll want to observe what’s happening in and around the house of the Lord.
- i. When you finish observing the chapter, it will help to summarize the central event of the chapter in as few words as possible. Write it down on the At a Glance charts in the Appendix under the heading **Chapter Theme**. There is a chart for 1 Kings and another for 2 Chronicles. Because there is more to observe in 1 Kings 15, we won’t give this chapter a theme until next week.

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Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

2. When you observed the text, you saw references to **Jeroboam**, such as in verse 6: “There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.” You will see many references to Jeroboam as you proceed through Kings. He was the first king of the divided kingdom. The ten northern tribes of Israel came under his leadership after the death of Solomon and the appointment of Rehoboam, Solomon’s son. If you are not familiar with this, you need to go back and read 1 Kings 11:26–12:33. This will help you see why God uses Jeroboam as an example.
3. Now go back and walk through 1 Kings 15:1-24 again. Look at the key words and phrases you marked and think about what you learn from marking those words. As you move through the text, looking at every occurrence of *sin* for example, see if it answers any of the 5 Ws and H. This will help you understand the content of the chapter better and learn what you can about God, kings, prophets (if they’re mentioned), people, and events.
4. Finally, list kings that are mentioned in this chapter. Put down whom they rule over, how long they rule, and what you learn from the text about each one.

Good start. Aren’t you awed at what you saw all by yourself just by observing the text? This, fellow student, is the joy and reward of inductive study.

DAY TWO

Yesterday you met Asa, one of several kings mentioned in 1 Kings 15. By verse 24 Asa was buried with his fathers in the city of David (Jerusalem). Is this all the Word of God tells us of a man whose heart was fully devoted to the Lord? No! Second Chronicles has much to say about Asa, and you are going to be so thankful because there is much more to be learned from his life for our own.

1. As you begin your study in prayer, ask God to use Asa's example to correct and encourage you according to where you *are* in your life and where you *want* to be! Although *you* may not know, rest assured our omniscient God knows, because there is nothing hidden from His sight. Ask Him to reveal things that hinder or distract you from being a man or woman after God's own heart.

Your assignment for today is to observe 2 Chronicles 14. Again, read through the verses at least twice when you do your observations. Mark the text using your key word bookmark after you add the following words and phrases to it:

- a. *seeking the Lord*
 - b. the *Lord*—Because the *Lord God* is mentioned quite often in the text, we don't usually recommend that you always mark Lord or God as it can clutter the text too much. However, if there is something new you discover about God or His ways, then it is good to mark that reference and make a note of what you learn in the margin of your Bible or worksheet. This is the way you develop a biblical systematic theology on the person and ways of God.
 - c. geographical locations (look them up on the map).
2. Now before you go any further, list the main characters and events of this chapter. What's happening and who's involved?

3. What do you learn from this chapter about Asa's relationship with God?

4. Did you notice the “so” of verse 12? Where do you run in the time of need, Beloved? On what or whom do you depend? Is the Lord your very present help in the time of trouble? Do you give Him an opportunity or are you afraid to trust Him? Be honest in your answers. It’s always good to ask God to search your heart as the psalmist does in Psalm 139.

DAY THREE

There are still two chapters in Chronicles that deal with Asa. The Chronicler wanted to preserve some important truths for the struggling remnant that returned to rebuild the temple and reestablish the nation of Israel. Obviously these chapters were important not only for them in their period of history but also for succeeding generations as well. They contain precepts of life vital for every generation that awaits the kingdom of God on earth.

1. Observe 2 Chronicles 15. As you mark the text:
 - a. Mark *strong* and *courageous*. You will see this term intermittently in the Old Testament so it’s always good to mark. Make it stand out and begin here if you have not marked it previously. If you studied Joshua with us, you marked it in the very first chapter. We suggest you do it throughout your Bible.
 - b. Mark *covenant* and its synonym *oath*. This is another word you always want to mark. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement. Because it is an oath, the parties are obligated to carry out the terms. God, the sovereign administrator of all covenants, judges those who break these covenants.
 - c. Watch and mark references to time since they are important and will help keep you in context.

By the way, do you know how much we appreciate you? Thank you for determining to discipline yourself in the study of God’s Word so that you can be all God would have you be!

Well, Beloved, you are off to a good start. It's awesome, isn't it, to study the Old Testament! There is so much to learn from the lives of these kings and the people they ruled over. So much to learn about God. Daniel 11:32b tells us that the people who know their God are strong and able to take action. That is going to be you, Beloved, if it's not already! Press on, faithful one. God has a very significant purpose for your life.

**DAY
FOUR**

1. Today we move into the final chapter on Asa, 2 Chronicles 16. Observe the text. Don't forget to mark references to time. It will help you follow what happens during his reign of forty-one years—a reign covered in four chapters in the Bible, one in Kings and three in Chronicles.
2. Now let's analyze Asa's reign according to the events recorded by the Spirit of God in the Bible. Review what 1 Kings 15 tells you about Asa, and then sort out the events in the light of 2 Chronicles 14–16. Using a separate sheet of paper, list the events of these four chapters chronologically. If the text tells you when the event happened in respect to the year of Asa's reign, record it next to the event. Leave extra space between the events as you list them, because in Lesson 2 we will ask you to merge events from other passages where they fit chronologically. If you prefer, you may do this assignment in the form of a time line.
3. How did this chapter hit you, Beloved? Did it evoke any emotions? How did you feel when you read 2 Chronicles 16 and why?
4. God does nothing, says nothing, records nothing in His Book without a purpose. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4. What do you think God's purpose is for including this account of Asa in His holy Book? Think about it and then thoughtfully write out your answer. You don't want to miss the lesson(s) God preserves for our generation.

reference to God's heart! If you are unfamiliar with the setting of this verse, then read the first thirteen verses of this chapter. Saul is king. In 1 Samuel 10 Samuel anoints Saul to be king and then tells him in verse 8 to wait seven days for him to come, offer burnt offerings, and tell Saul what to do. Now with that in mind, what do you learn about the kind of "heart" God is looking for?

3. Now let's jump to 1 Samuel 16 where we find God finding "His" man. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Mark *heart* and record what you learn from the text about God and a person's heart.

4. What was said about David's heart after he died? Look up the following verses, note what is said, and when.
 - a. 1 Kings 9:1-5

 - b. 1 Kings 14:7-8

 - c. 1 Kings 15:1-5

d. Act 13:22,36

5. What does the Word of God teach us about the heart? Although the Word of God does not define “heart” like a dictionary, its meaning can be discovered inductively by the way it’s used in texts of Scripture. Look up the following passages in your Bible, watching for and marking *heart*. See if the text gives you clues to the meaning of heart. Record your insights of what happens in a heart next to the verse.

a. Genesis 6:5-6; 8:21

b. Deuteronomy 10:10-16

c. Deuteronomy 30:1-20

d. Proverbs 4:20-23

e. Matthew 12:33-37

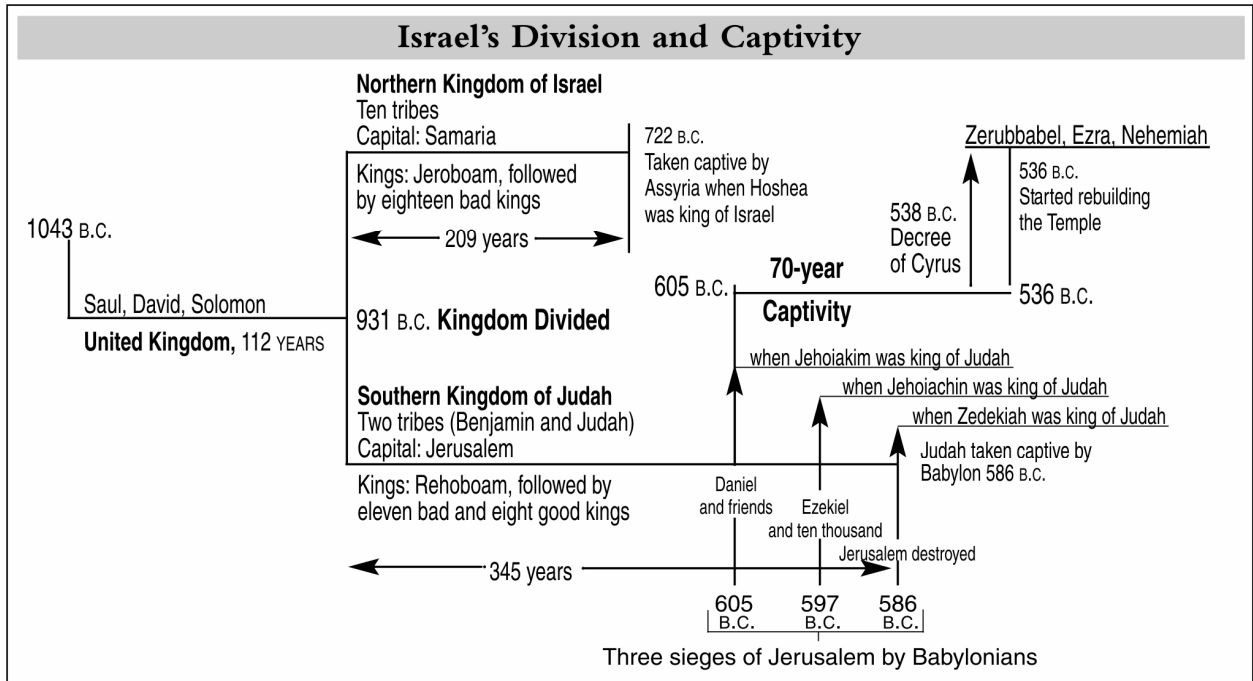
f. Matthew 15:18-19

g. 1 Kings 11:2-4, 9

h. 1 Chronicles 28:9

i. Read Mark 12:28-34. What do you learn about the importance of the heart from these verses?

6. Now, Beloved, from all you have explored in the Word, what is the heart the “seat of” in a person? If a person’s heart could be likened to a command center, what does it command? What happens in a person’s heart?



2 CHRONICLES 14-20 AT A GLANCE

Chapter Themes

14
15
16
17
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19
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God Searches For a Heart Fully His

Map



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Dates	King	Kingdom Ruled Over	Years Ruled	Insights on How King Lived and Died	State of King's Heart	Impact of King's Heart on Kingdom
971-931	Solomon son of: David	All Israel	40	Loved Lord, walked in statutes of David; God gave wisdom, riches, honor. When old, did evil, idolatry	God gave wise and discerning heart. When old, foreign wives turned his heart from Lord.	Had high places for idolatry. God tore part of kingdom from his son.
931-913	Rehoboam son of: Solomon	Judah	17	Forsook counsel of elders. Forsook law of Lord, unfaithful. Then humbled self.	Did not set his heart to seek the Lord.	Became Shishak's slaves to learn difference in serving God and nations.
931-910	Jeroboam son of: Nebat	Israel	22	Did more evil than all before him. Made priests not of Levi. Provoked God to anger.	Didn't follow Lord with all heart. Set up golden calves-heart afraid people would return to Rehoboam.	God will give up Israel on account of Jeroboam's sins with which he made Israel sin.
913-911	Abijah or Abijah son of: Rehoboam	Judah				
911-870	Asa son of:					
910-909	Nadab son of:					