2 Chronicles - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 34, Verses 19-33, Day 56 -

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V.19 A perfect example of how the Word of God should affect our lives. Immediately he is saddened! Good! (See v. 27).

V.21 He realizes the awfulness of sin in God's sight. Do we?

V.22-26 When God's people become careless, women come into prominence. Notice that today, believers are becoming more careless about the Word of God, women are preachers in many places.

V.27 Beautiful verse. Count on God to do the same for you.

V.28 Josiah was going to be spared from seeing the awful punishment which God was about to send on Judah.

V.29-33 You will find many beautiful thoughts here.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 34, Verses 1-18, Day 55 -

V.1-.2 A new story. What a tender heart Josiah has. How careful he is to obey the Word of God.

V.3 He is only 16 years old. It may be that some who read these words are this age. What a grand thing it is to turn to the Lord when we are young. Many years so often are wasted. Josiah's life can be a real encouragement to us.

V.4-7 By the time Josiah is king, the other kingdom (of Israel) has been carried away captive. Only the kingdom of Judah is left in the land. Josiah goes himself throughout the land of Israel to cut down the idols. Then he returns to Jerusalem — God's center.

V.8-13 Now he is 26 years old. A complete repair of the Lord's house is necessary.

V.14-18 God had hidden a book in the temple. It was His Word. It is passed from one to another. Each seems to realize it is something important.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 29, Verses 21-36, Day 50 -

V.21 Although the vast majority of Israel was scattered far from God, a little number gathers at the place where the Lord had chosen to place His name. A sin offering comes first. How suitable for their restoration.

V.24 It was not only for the little group that they offered the sacrifice but "for all Israel."

V.25 They went right back to the order of things that David had given. And this is what we need to learn today. We are to look to the Lord only, to find out what we are to do, and where we are to go. To continue on with things which we know are contrary to God's Word, is to shut our eyes to the truth. Hezekiah obeys the Lord and he is blessed. Will we do the same?

V.29 The result. Truth humbles us if we obey it. Worship of God is the result.

V.36 There was order. The result was rejoicing. It always is.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 29, Verses 1-20, Day 49 -

From such a wicked father, the grace of God raises up a faithful son, King Hezekiah. His name means "strength of Jehovah." There were three great and faithful kings in Judah's history Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah and later on Josiah.

V.1-9 This young king took the first correct step he confessed that they have sinned. When we get cold in our soul and the Lord speaks to us, the first important thing to do is to confess the exact sins which we have done. We need to name the sin and confess it to God (Read Prov. 28:13). A definite promise from the Lord.

V.10-19 The filth which had gathered in the temple was first removed. How otherwise could they speak to the Lord. Even the doors had been broken (v. 3).

All this can be a picture of what has happened to the church of God since the day of Pentecost. Carelessness has caused the doors to be broken, believers and unbelievers taking communion together. Are we willing to go back to the originals as in the days of the apostles? To remove the corruption which has been allowed to gather over the centuries?

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 28, Verses 16-27, Day 48 -

V.16-21 He turns to a heathen king to help him. Like believers turning to some worldly person to help them. No one can oppose the Lord. Verse 19 tells us why all the trouble. There is no word of repentance, nor confession of sin. All is dark.

V.22-27 Now he turns to religious evil. Note the awful insults to God.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 28, Verses 1-15, Day 47 -

These kings' names are confusing to us, for they have several names. Ahaz is the king's name (in Hebrew), but in Greek it is Achaz as in Matthew 1:9. In verse 1 we read what he did not do, but then to verse 4, we read six things he did do. He was an idolater and a murderer!

V.5 Notice the first word. He acts first, then God does although this was about 150 years later, it sounds a bit like the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5. Count the number of enemies who rise up against king Ahaz for his wickedness (2 here).

V.6-8 This is the king of Israel. Look what he did to 120,000 of his nationality. Remember Judah and Benjamin were now known as the kingdom of Judah. The last sentence of verse 6 is what God is saying, not Pekah. He didn't know that the Lord was allowing him to do this because of what Judah was doing. Now look at the number of men he captured! Almost of a million men were lost by Judah.

V.9-15 You will need to read this slowly to see that God was controlling everything. Although the Lord was punishing Judah by using Israel, yet He did not like to see Israel thinking that they were without sin themselves. So all the prisoners are sent back.

V.10 There was sin also in Israel which Israel was forgetting in their delight in punishing Judah. Aren't we quick to judge others and forget our own sins?

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 23, Verses 16-21, Day 42 -

V.16-21 Beautiful turn of events. How lovely when we see a person leading others back to the Lord. Galatians 6:1 is an example.

V.16 Notice the last seven words!

V.17 They knew where to start. We cannot get back into communion with the Lord until we first confess and forsake our sins.

V.19 What a lesson for us. God's Presence demands cleanness of all who enter in. Satan has cleverly deceived people into thinking that any denomination can have the Lord's Presence, and that we should not judge others. But when the Spirit of God gathers a believer to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, outside all denominations, then that person realizes how important verses like this are. The Spirit of God can ONLY gather to Christ. He cannot lead a believer into some group of believers who hold doctrines which are contrary to the Word of God. The Lord Jesus cannot have evil in His presence.

V.21 "And the city was quiet." What peace and quiet there is in the heart of one who obeys God and His Word. Jehoiada had gone right back to David's days for his guidance. And we need to go back to the apostles' teachings for ours. Let's review these six verses and see the pattern.

V.16 Gave themselves to the Lord.

V.17 Removed all evil out of their lives.

V.18 Went to God's Word for direction.

V.19 Were very careful who came into the Lord's house.

V.20 The king on his throne presented to all.

V.21 Everyone rejoiced. Quietness after judgment fell on the wicked. That should be the pattern of our life! Is it?

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 23, Verses 1-15, Day 41 -

V.1 A faithful and brave man appears. What a man he is! Jehoiada (2 Chron. 22:11 tells us who he is). His wife was the aunt of the little boy who is now hidden in the temple. The descendants of King David had almost completely ruined the kingdom by their wickedness, but God always has a man ready. And Jehoiada the priest is such a man. You will be surprised to find where he is eventually buried!

V.2-10 Jehoiada carefully lays the plans to proclaim the boy to be king. Count how many times David's name is mentioned in the chapter. It was because of king David that God preserved his line.

V.11 The six-year-old boy is made king!

V.12-13 What a surprise she must have had. What a surprise all the unsaved are going to get when the Lord Jesus appears in glory to set up His kingdom. This story is a little picture of the Lord who is now hidden in heaven, the house of God, until He is pronounced King of kings and Lord of lords.

V.14-15 The wicked woman gets her wages!

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 20, Verses 18-37, Day 38 -

V.18 They did not all jump and shout for joy — they worshipped the Lord. Count the number of times “the Lord” is mentioned in today’s reading! He was the source and the object! This will be the result in your life too if you follow the principles of this chapter.

V.20-21 What a strange sight! What confidence they had in the Lord! Soldiers following the priests to the battle! Priests who were praising the beauty of holiness! This was the secret of their strength and victory.

V.25 They were more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).

V.26 The valley of Berachah (pronounced BAY-RACK-A) was the valley of blessing. May we all come there, His way.

V.27-30 Let us be like this. Not promptly forgetting the Lord after He has so graciously helped us.

V.31 His mother gets special mention. God must have seen the influence of the mother on the son. Mothers! Are you implanting the fear of the Lord in your children’s hearts? There is nothing more important. Many years later the fruit was seen.

V.35-37 A foolish mistake, He joins in a business venture with a godless friend. And the result is failure! How slow we are to learn God’s lessons! Have we learned from the story of Jehoshaphat?

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, 2 Chronicles 20, Verses 1-17, Day 37 -

When a person takes a stand for the Lord and sets out to follow the Lord, then the Lord allows that person to be really tested.

V.1 These particular enemies had not been bothering the kingdom of Judah, until now. Who was behind this? The Lord. He was going to see how real all this work (in 2 Chron. 19) was (Heb. 12:5-11).

V.2 A detailed report of the enemy’s strength and location is given to the king. To whom will he turn? To whom do we turn when sudden trouble comes to us?

V.3-12 Some one might say “Don’t waste precious time like this.” Let’s prepare the army. Notice how thoughtful he is in his prayer. He recalls Solomon’s prayer (1 Kings 8:33-34).

V.12 Read over this verse many times. Remember where it is in the scriptures. Quote it to the Lord in your prayers!

V.13 The little children were there praying too.

V.15 Here is God’s answer to such a prayer. May we all experience this in our life!

V.16-17 Who could fear to go out with a promise from God like this?