

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are two teachers and every day during the past week we had a quiet time from 7 selected chapters from 2 CHRONICLES in the Old Testament. Once a week we come together to share what we have learned from our quiet times. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM 2 CHRONICLES.

(S) **POINT 1. SHARING FROM SELECTED CHAPTERS FROM 2 CHRONICLES**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from 2 Chronicles 16, 20, 26, 32, 33, 34 and 36. Now we will use our notes to share important truths and lessons from some of these chapters and discuss some difficult passages.

**Sharing quiet times from 2 Chronicles chapter 16.**

(T) I would like to share from 2 Chronicles 16 about king **Asa. His heart was fully committed to God.** Asa reigned as king over the southern kingdom of Judah from 912 to 872 B.C.

First. Asa was fully committed to the Lord. During the greater part of his life, he was a king whose heart was fully committed to the God of the Bible. According to chapter 14, Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of God (2). He commanded his people to seek God and to obey God's laws (4). When a foreign army marched against him to make war, he prayed to God and said, "Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us ...for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army." God answered Asa's prayer and crushed the foreign army, so that they could not recover (12-13). According to chapter 15, Asa gathered all the people from Judah together with all the people from Israel who had come over to his side when they heard that God was with him (9). They made a covenant with God to seek him with all their heart and soul (12). They sought God eagerly and God gave them rest on every side (15). King Asa did not hesitate to act against the sins of his parents. He deposed his grandmother from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive idol. Although Asa did not destroy all the idolatry in his country, the Bible says that his heart was fully committed to God all his life (17).

Second. Asa made a great political mistake. During the last few years of Asa's reign, he made a serious political mistake and also showed his sinfulness. When the king of the northern kingdom of Israel fortified his southern border in order to prevent his people to walk over to Asa's side, he bribed the king of Aram to attack the king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Asa's plan worked, but it displeased the Lord. God sent the prophet Hanani to king Asa and he said, "The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him" (9). King Asa had previously always relied on the God of the Bible, but now he relied on the king of Aram. Asa's heart was no longer fully committed to the Lord.

The prophet Hanani said, "Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God, .... you will be at war continually" (7). Asa would have continual war with Aram.

Third. Asa made a great spiritual mistake. He refused to repent and instead became angry. He put the prophet Hanani in prison and brutally oppressed some of his own people. And when he was afflicted with a severe disease in his feet, he refused to seek help from God, but instead sought help only from physicians (12).

The history of king Asa teaches me that even if my heart is fully committed to God, it does not safeguard me from making serious political or spiritual mistakes. But when I make mistakes, I should humble myself and repent instead of getting angry with God.

**Sharing quiet times from 2 Chronicles chapter 20.**

(S) I want to share from 2 Chronicles 20 about king **Jehoshaphat. He resolved to seek the help of God through prayer.** Jehoshaphat reigned as king over Judah from 871-846 B.C.

First. He turned his people to the God of the Bible. According to chapter 19, after Jehoshaphat had made a serious compromise with the wicked king Ahab of the northern kingdom of Israel, he once more served the Lord wholeheartedly. As king he went himself to all the people in his kingdom from the south to the north, and turned them back to God (4). He appointed judges in the whole land and commanded them to judge the people with justice. He said to them, "Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery." (6-7). He also appointed spiritual leaders to teach the law of God and to warn people not to sin against God (8-10).

Second. He relied on God when he was attacked. According to chapter 20, when Judah was attacked by a vast army of Moabites and Ammonites, Jehoshaphat resolved to seek the help of the Lord through prayer. He decided to pray for God's intervention rather than making war. So he proclaimed a fast for the whole country and the people gathered together to seek help from the Lord. Jehoshaphat stood up among all the people and prayed this humble prayer saying, "Lord, you rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. ... We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (6,12). God answered the king's prayer and said, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. ... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you" (15,17). The next day the army of Judah went out to take their positions against the armies of Moab and Ammon. People walked ahead of the army, singing and praising the Lord. As they were singing and praising the Lord, the Lord set ambushes against the armies of Moab and Ammon, and the armies of Moab and Ammon destroyed one another. The two vast armies had killed one another and not one enemy soldier escaped! Then "the fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the God of the Bible had fought against the enemies of Israel" (29). King Jehoshaphat resolved to pray instead of making war. Because God is the sovereign ruler of all the nations, he can intervene and without war he can change the situation in favour of the praying leader and praying nation!

The history of Jehoshaphat teaches me that only when I do things that please the God of the Bible and do them in full dependence on him, he will help me to succeed. I too resolved to make my plans by praying to the God of the Bible.

### Sharing quiet times from 2 Chronicles chapter 26.

(T) I want to share from 2 Chronicles 26 about king Uzziah. After he became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. Uzziah was also called Azariah and reigned as king over Judah from 788-737 B.C. He first reigned together with his father. Then he reigned alone from 769-750 B.C. and after he became a leper, his son reigned in his place.

First. When he was young, he did what was right in the eyes of God and sought God. As long as he was instructed in the fear of God and sought God, God gave him success. King Uzziah became the strongest military force in the region, had a well-trained and organised army of more than 300 000 soldiers. He constructed war machines that could shoot arrows and hurl large stones from the walls onto the enemies. King Uzziah also became a great builder and agriculturist. He built towers on the fortified walls, water reservoirs in the country and rebuilt the harbour city of Elath. He possessed much livestock and had many people working his fields and vineyards, because he loved the soil.

Second. He did not serve God wholeheartedly. He was just like his father (26:4; 25:2). After king Uzziah became powerful, his *pride* led to his downfall (16). God had given him success, but instead of acknowledging that it was God who gave him success, he became proud. *His success and power made him proud. And his pride made him unfaithful and arrogant towards God.* He became authoritarian and crossed the limits that God had ordained for a king. He already had power as a king, now he also wanted power as a high-priest and burn incense on the alter of God in the temple. Only the high priest was allowed to do this, but king Uzziah wanted to have power in every area of life. When the high priest and 80 other courageous priests confronted king Uzziah and told him that he was doing something forbidden by God, he did *not repent*. Instead, he *became angry and raged* at the priests inside the temple. God immediately punished Uzziah's pride, unfaithfulness and arrogance. He struck him with leprosy. And king Uzziah was rejected by the people as king. He lived alone in a house by himself as a leper until he died 13 years later. He was not even buried together with the other kings of Judah.

The history of king Uzziah teaches me the danger of pride, unfaithfulness and arrogance for a Christian. Even if God gives me success, I must remain humble, faithful and sensitive towards God.

### Sharing quiet times from 2 Chronicles chapter 32.

(S) I want to share from 2 Chronicles 32 about king Hezekiah. He encouraged his people to depend on God. Hezekiah reigned as king over Judah from 727-685 B.C. The first 13 years he reigned under a guardian. We find his history also written in Isaiah 36-39.

First. King Hezekiah made reforms. He repaired the temple, opened its doors and re-established the service of the Lord in the temple (29:3,35). He invited the people from the former northern kingdom of Israel as well as all his own people in the southern kingdom of Judah to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem (30:1,5). After this grand celebration, the people went throughout these kingdoms and destroyed all the places of idol worship (31:1). The Bible describes the reformation of king Hezekiah, saying, "Hezekiah did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly" (31:20-21).

Second. Hezekiah prayed for God's intervention instead of making war. The Assyrians were the strongest nation at that time in history. They were extending their territory and also came to Jerusalem. King Hezekiah encouraged his people saying, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people of Jerusalem gained confidence from Hezekiah had said. The king of Assyria, Sennacherib, sent a letter to Hezekiah telling him how the Assyrians had completely destroyed other nations and had thrown their gods into the fire. He boasted that no god could stop him and warned Judah to capitulate. According to 2 Kings 19, King Hezekiah went to the temple and spread this letter before the Lord. He prayed and said, "Lord, ... you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. ... See and listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God. ... Deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone are God" (15-19). God send an answer through the prophet Isaiah. God said that he had heard Hezekiah's prayer and knew that Sennacherib had spoken in pride against God and had insulted God. He promised that Sennacherib would not fight against Jerusalem, but that God would force him to return to his country. God said, "I will defend this city and save it for my sake" (34). That very night, God sent his angel and the angel killed 185 000 soldiers within the Assyrian army! All the fighting men and all the military officers of the king of Assyria were annihilated!

This is a warning to the leaders of all countries. The political and military leaders of all countries in the world must be careful that they do not oppose the living God of the Bible and his people. If they fight against a nation who prays to the living God, then the living God will fight against them! Not earthly rulers, but the living God of the Bible rules in the universe and on earth!

### **Sharing quiet times from 2 Chronicles chapter 33.**

(T) I want to share from 2 Chronicles 33 about **Manasseh. He sought God in his distress.** Manasseh reigned as king over Judah from 695-641 B.C. The first 10 years he reigned under his father, king Hezekiah. Manasseh was one of Judah's most wicked kings. He did only what was evil in the eyes of God. He followed the detestable practices of Israel's neighbouring nations. He made idols and built altars for the idols and even put them inside the temple of the living God. He worshipped the fertility gods, called Baals, as well as the starry host. He even sacrificed his own sons in the fire to the idols. He practised fortune-telling, witchcraft and consulted the mediums and spiritists. King Manasseh led all the people of his country astray, so that they did more evil than the wicked nations that God had destroyed before the Israelites. God spoke to king Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. Finally, God brought disaster against them. The Assyrian army attacked them. They took king Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. Only then, in his distress, king Manasseh prayed to God. He humbled himself before God and God listened to his prayer. God brought him back to Jerusalem to be king. Then king Manasseh knew that the God of the Bible is God. He changed his life. He destroyed the idolatry he had promoted before. And he led his people to serve the living God of the Bible.

The history of Manasseh teaches me that when a leader of a country has lived a wicked life, he will be punished by God! However, if this leader turns to the living God, humbles himself and confesses his sins to God, then God can restore him to a righteous life. *With God, nobody is a hopeless case and nothing is impossible for God.* I want to encourage everybody who has slipped into a life of wickedness, to start to pray that God may deliver them and restore them to a righteous life. They will certainly not be disappointed in God!

### **Sharing quiet times from 2 Chronicles chapter 34.**

(S) I want to share from 2 Chronicles 34 about **Josiah. He had a responsive heart towards God Word and reformed his country in accordance with God's Word.** Josiah reigned as king over Judah from 639-608 B.C. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the example of his ancestor, king David, and walked in his ways, not turning aside to the right or to the left (2). There were three stages in the reformation of Josiah.

The first stage of Josiah's reformation. When he was still a youth of only 16 years old, he began to seek the God of his ancestor, king David. This meant that he personally renounced the corrupt, polytheistic religion of his two predecessors.

The second stage of Josiah's reformation. When he was a young man of 20 years, he began to extend his reformation to Jerusalem and eventually to the whole kingdom of Judah and even to the former kingdom of Israel until its climax, when the book of the Law was found in 622 B.C. The call of Jeremiah the prophet in 627 B.C and his vigorous prophesying against the gross idolatry in Jerusalem and Judah (Jer 1:4 - 4:2), may have been the strongest force that stimulated Josiah to act more and more strictly to root out idolatry.

2 Kings 23 describes his reformation in much more detail. He killed the false idol priests and prophets and burned their bones on their own altars. Then he destroyed the places of idol worship together with their idols. He tore down all altars, smashed all idols and cast images, and scattered the rubble over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. He purged the whole of Judah and the former Israel. According to 2 Kings 23:24, he even got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, ... and all other detestable things found in the country.

The third stage of Josiah's reformation. When he was 24 years old, he gave orders to repair the temple. During the reparation, a hand-written copy of the Book of the Law was found. This consisted of the first five books of Moses (14). Hilkiah the priest read the Book of the Law to king Josiah, and Josiah tore his clothes in repentance and wept in grief that God's people had backslided so far from God's law. King Josiah called all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem as well as all the priests and Levites together to the temple. In their hearing, he read all the words of the Book of the Law to them. King Josiah then renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord. He promised to follow the Lord and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in the Book of the Law (31). The Bible says, that Josiah's heart was responsive to God's Word and that he had humbled himself before God (27).

The history of Josiah teaches me that every leader of a country has the power to lead his country to spiritual and moral reformation. And if a leader of a country does that, God will certainly honour him.

**(T) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Every day have a quiet time from one chapter from Psalms. The selected Psalms are Psalms 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 14 and 15. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share your discoveries, lessons and blessings.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and preach God's kingdom" and Internet on [www.dota.net](http://www.dota.net)

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to "Discipleship training on the air".