

Church of St. George  
Sporting - Alexandria

Stories for boys

Inspired from the Old Testament (14)

A pre-trial copy supported for  
service 2019

Decorated with Coptic icons

# The Book of Chronicles Two

## A Divine Life in the Temple of God



Prepared by: Fr Tadros Yaacoub Malati  
Publisher: St. George's Sporting Church

Queen Mary and Prince Tadros Coptic Orthodox Church  
South Brunswick, NJ 08831  
Saint Antony Cathedral Church - Abu Dhabi  
St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church - Semoha - Alexandria

**In the Name of The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit  
One God, Amen**

---



The book's name: Stories for Kids inspired from the Book of Chronicles Two (14)

Author: Father Tadros Yaacoub Malati

Translated by: Karen Rateb farag - Remon Rateb farag

Edition: 2019 A.D.

Publisher: St. George Coptic Orthodox Church - Sporting - Alexandria

Queen Mary and Prince Tadros Coptic Orthodox Church - South Brunswick

Saint Antony Cathedral Church - Abu Dhabi

St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church - Semoha - Alexandria

Print: Perfect Graphic

Decorated with Coptic icons, by Sister Sawsan

Preparatory copy:

If you have notes, please write to [Bible4boys@gmail.com](mailto:Bible4boys@gmail.com)

## George's Conversation with his Father

George joined the rest of his family at dinner and said to his father: "I have spent a lot of time this weekend reading the Book of Chronicles Two, and I have a lot of questions I want to ask you, father. I feel happy and relaxed while you answer my questions in the Bible, since you lift my heart to Heaven and I feel like God is present with us.

Cheerfully, the father welcomed the son's questions and started to answer them. George and his father started praying and both of them opened their Bibles, and below is a part of the conversation that happened between them:

**George: "Father, I think what was mentioned in the Book of Chronicles Two is a repetition to what was mentioned in the Books of Kings, what do you think?"**

**Father:** «Truly there was a repetition but from a point of view complementary to what has been written before. Therefore, every book is considered a divine storage that provides us with precious treasures to build our spirit. What the Book of Chronicles Two highlighted is that:

- David the man of Psalms died joyfully although he was full of pain.
- David dedicated his abilities and energy to achieve his message which is preparing his son to build God's Temple.
- Solomon was happy while building the Temple to declare God's presence among the believers.
- This book declares that God creates His own house and throne in the heart of every believer.

**George: "What subjects does the Book talk about?"**

**Father:** The book tells us about five important things, that is:

- **King Solomon, The builder of God's Temple (Chapters 1-9).**

Solomon ordered building it, preparing its furnishing and providing sacrifices that God smelled and found it joyful.

- **The Division of Kingdom of Israel to a North Kingdom and a South Kingdom called Judah (Chapters 10-13)**

The secret of that division is the spirit's leaving God and searching for the human's wisdom.

- **The Reforms of Asa (Chapters 14-16)**

It is not enough to remove evil for repairing but it is also a must to do good. For this, Asa destroyed the altars of the idols and built defensive cities. «For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is» (16:9)

- **Jehoshaphat's, king of Judah, reforms and his daughter's marriage to the Evil Ahab (Chapters 17-20)**

However his repairs, especially the educational part on every level, he made a lot of mistakes because of his daughter's marriage to the evil king Ahab (Chapter 18). But he refused the false counsel of Ahab's prophets, and his relation with Ahab led to his death. Evil Ahab wanted to shut Prophet Micaiah's mouth, so the King died and the Prophet was rewarded.

- **Judah's Kings and Jerusalem's Captivity (Chapters 21-36)**

Jerusalem has fallen to captivity for discipline after a long period of God's warnings. Most of the kings at that time were evil, even Josiah who has been raised well, did not stick to his upbringing after the death of Jehoiada the priest (23-24)

Also Amaziah walked in integrity, but his heart wasn't good. And Uzziah was honest at the days of Prophet Zechariah and God made him successful, but he fell because of his arrogance and his disregard to the sanctuaries, for he wanted to practice the priestly work forcibly to kindle for the Lord so he got Leprosy.

However, Jotham his son was good and because of him, the ruin that was about to hit Judah was delayed, and The Lord gave him respect in the eyes of the people and they loved him. He also beat his enemies and defeated them.

**George: "Father, Can we start from the beginning? How did Solomon begin to rule?"(2Chr:1)**

**Father:** King Solomon visited the Jewish Tabernacle in the city of



Gibeon while The Ark of the Covenant place was in Jerusalem. This visit symbolizes The Kingdom of Jesus Christ in our lives, and His living in our hearts and our submission to him with love and He went with the leaders to the Jewish Tabernacle and made thousand sacrifices. God appeared to him and asked him for his needs.

**George: "And what did King Solomon ask from God?"(2Chr:1)**

**Father:** He asked for wisdom not to boast but to serve his people with godliness and rule them with justice

**George: "How did King Solomon plan building the Temple of the Lord?"(2Chr:2)**

**Father:** He planned the inside and the outside with the Spirit of Modesty and Live Testimony for God. He cared for the inner construction of the building, (1-2) and asked for a skillful man from the King of Tyre to benefit from his experience (3-7) he also ordered the best types of wood (8-9) promised to support the workers (10) he welcomed the King of Tyre's message (11-16) and he also accepted the company of foreigners at work (17-18).

**George: "Where did Solomon start building God's Temple?"(2Chr:3)**

**Father:** In Jerusalem at The Mountain Moriah where Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice (Gen 22:2) the Temple was built in the place where the first symbol of the Son's sacrifice was done, which The Father gives for humanity's salvation. This is the foundation and goal of the house of the Lord; enjoying redemption's sacrifice which Jesus Christ offered.



### George: "What is the importance of the metal furniture and the holy utensils in the Temple?" (2 Chr 4)

**Father:** These furnishings are symbols that touch the life of the believer in the New Testament, and without these furnishings that God chose, it was not possible to the priests to practice their service.

- **The Bronze Altar:** (1) symbol for Jesus Christ sacrifice on the cross.
- **The Cast Sea (The Basin):** (2-6) Baptism as we should wash our conscience with true repentance, to serve God. (Heb 9:14)
- **The Gold Lampstands and Tables:** (7-8) The Word of God is a shining lamp which lightens a dark world. The Tables refer to Lord Jesus who offers himself as Divine Bread for next generations from the east to the west, without any bias or preference to a certain nation.
- **The Holy Utensils and Others:** (11-22) Solomon made a lot of utensils of every type (18) so that the work in the temple would finish quickly and to allow them to replace any damaged ones, it refers to spirits praising the Lord.

### George: "What is the aim of building God's Temple?" (2 Chr:5)

**Father:** The King, the leaders and the people worked a lot in building the Temple and even some loving strangers for Israel contributed in it, however it was not truly considered a Temple except after God showed His love and presence in the building and His sanctifying it and his believers.

### George: "How was this done?"

**Father:**

- The Ark of the Covenant was entered in the presence of a lot of Israel's elders who attended in calmness and fear of God (2-4). This happened in great happiness and made this occasion a holiday.
- Solomon brought the holy utensils that David prepared.
- The priests consecrated themselves when they left the Most Holy, as they had to leave to let the True King and the divine arch priest enter himself and to declare his glory. Sacrifices were offered, then One hundred and twenty Priests played the Tuba in the midst of Chorus songs of praise, God's glory came upon them like a cloud. The priests stood surprised as the clouds overcame them, and became like those in

heaven. They were filled with the Fear of God and an extreme love for Him as He had declared His Glory in His Temple.

**George: "What happened after the building of God's Temple was finished and everyone enjoyed God's presence?" (2 Chr :6)**

**Father:** God's glory came upon Holy Temple and declared His Holy Presence among His people. Solomon the Wise took this chance to ask God for blessing to his people and prayed for Him to become glorified in his people through his Holy Temple (See 1 Kings 8). Solomon desired that God's eyes would be open and His Ears listening for the prayers done in the Temple. (40) But now in the New Testament, God has come with his incarnation among us and has become one of us, so close to us. And now we have the right to enjoy the embrace of The Father who answers to what we ask for, in the name of Jesus Christ.



**George: "Why did God accept Solomon's prayers?" (2Chr:7)**

**Father:** Solomon presented the prayer with a modest spirit with thanks and praise to God, who gave him this mission as a Godly gift. In the same time, Solomon didn't ask for anything for himself, but only asked for mercy to his people, and didn't ignore his father's role in work. His prayer was in harmony with God's love and his Holy Will. God appeared to Solomon at night to ensure God's acceptance to his work. (12) God warned Solomon, the leaders and the people from deviation from God's Will. (19)

**George: "What was mentioned in the book about King Solomon's movements and his concerns about his commitments?"(2Chr:8)**

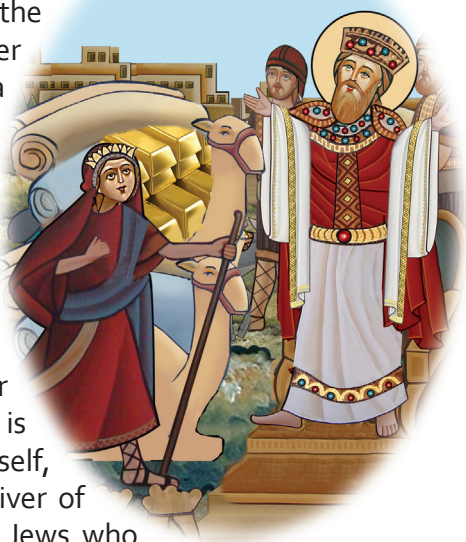
**Father:** His care and attention in building God's Temple led him to

the organization of worship and service in it, and he did not ignore his other commitments like building his own palace and building cities and fortifying them as well as offering sacrifices and offerings and also starting commercial relations with other countries.

**George: "What was the world's attitude towards Solomon, the Builder of God's Temple?"(2Chr:9)**

**Father:** Towards the end of Solomon's biography, this Book reveals his international popularity, especially the visit of the queen of Sheba and her conversation with him. For Sheba had a great importance; as all the coming ships traveling to the south or the Indian Ocean, pass the city of Sheba.

**The meeting of Queen of Sheba with King Solomon** is considered an invitation directed to every person to meet whoever is greater than Solomon, and that is Jesus Christ, God's Wisdom Himself, The Creator of Solomon and His Giver of Wisdom. Jesus Christ criticised the Jews who did not accept him, while the Queen of Sheba who is from the nations, came to Solomon to listen to him. (Mat 12:42)



**George: "Why did this Book ignore the mistakes of David and Solomon?"**

**Father:** This Book ignored the mistakes of David and Solomon, not to cover them but to present the two kings as symbols for the Messiah, the only king with no sin. But it did talk about the division in the people that happened during the days of Rehoboam (2 Chr 10:15)

### George: "What caused the division that happened during the rule of Rehoboam son of Solomon?"

**Father:** Solomon was mistaken in the exaggeration in his constructions and his expenditure on his women, so he weighed his people down with taxes. The people wailed Solomon's heavy yoke, as he didn't have his father David's spirit who truly loved his people, and exerts himself for their service.

After Solomon's death all of Israel met in Shechem to make Rehoboam his son king over them. Rehoboam did not follow his grandfather's steps in the purity of his heart, as he thought that the people were his slaves. So when they asked him to lift the heaviness of the yoke that his father Solomon put upon them he did not ask the Lord for counsel, and did not take God as a leader to his thoughts and his life.

He did listen to the advice of the elders and the young but he only took the advice that agrees with his needs. Violence found its place in his heart as well as his mind. He chose violence arrogantly, so the people lost their unity, and Rehoboam lost ten tribes who left him and established the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

### George: "Why did Rehoboam's attempts to conjoin the Northern Kingdom fail?" (2Chr:11)

**Father:** Rehoboam found **excuses which led him to fight the ten tribes** which are:

- He thought that these tribes are separated and rebellious which needs to be disciplined.
- He has to assert his rule and his military abilities to gather the twelve tribes together for war.
- Also, he wanted to achieve his father's desire who asked him to kill the rebellious Jeroboam
- As well as the ten tribes killing of





Hadoram whom he sent for reconciliation (2 Chr 10:18)

The Word of God came to Rehoboam through Shemaiah the man of God: «You shall not go up or fight against your brethren! Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.» (11:4). They refused David so God deemed them refusing Him!

**George: "Why did Rehoboam's Kingdom fall after it was fixed?"**

**Father:** After Rehoboam's kingdom was fixed, He and his people left God's law. Without doubt, this shocked the priests, the Levites and also the devout men who came from the northern kingdom - because they left the worship of God - after they found that Rehoboam has deviated from the law of God after three years.

And after five years from Rehoboam's sitting on the throne, The King of Egypt's brother invaded Jerusalem and plundered the Holy Land and everything that attracted his eyes either in God's Temple or the royal palace.

**George: "Did the kingdom end after Rehoboam's Death?"**

**Father:** No, but his son became king instead and some other kings like Abijah son of Rehoboam (2 Chr 13) Abijah sat on the throne of Judah for three years. He went in a fight with Jeroboam king of the Northern kingdom, where the battle ended with the death of approximately a half million person in the northern kingdom army.

**George: "What do we learn from Asa King of Judah?" (2 Chr 14-16)**

**Father:** Asa is one of the five kings whom God used for the renaissance of the Kingdom of Judah, and they are **Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah**.

In contrast to the Northern Kingdom which had nineteen kings and none of them was a straight man nor made proper repairs; Asa sat on the throne for forty one years. We learn from his life what Messenger Paul said: «Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.» (1 Co 10:12)

King Asa's rule has gone through three stages:

**1. First Stage (14)** lasted ten years, he ruled with an upright heart. He

cured the kingdom from worshiping the idols and inspired his people to ask for God and also strengthened the military field.

**2. Second Stage** (15) the stage of repairs where he removed the abominations from the lands and renewed God's altar.

**3. Third Stage** (16) a stage of failure and deviation in the last years and God's Discipline to him

### George: "How did Jehoshaphat son of Asa rule?" (2 Chr 17)

**Father:** Jehoshaphat was a partner in ruling with his father in his three last years when the disease got to his legs, and it is possible to say that **Jehoshaphat was the best king of Judah since King David's depart**, He was a good man and son of a good man, where grace flowed in his royal blood at that time.

He started with strengthening the army and fortifying the cities, and then lifted his heart to work without frustration. He removed worshipping the idols, and sent good teachers to the cities to enlighten everyone and accept the Divine Light.

He also started training another army which is training the Levites and others and encouraging them to learn. He also trained civilians and spiritual leaders.

He acted like the prophecy of Jesus Christ's who chose twelve apostles and seventy messengers for service and testimony for the true bible. Likewise the church must follow her groom and transmit the spirit of learning and honest knowledge under the guidance of His Holy Spirit, and as a result of his staying with God and keeping His words; God gave him and his nation «**The Fear of the Lord**» against the neighboring nations.(10)



### George: "What was Jehoshaphat's mistake?"

**Father:** The alliance of The Good Jehoshaphat with The Evil Ahab (2 Chr 18). Jehoshaphat's image became disfigured, and caused him a lot of troubles.

Prophet Micaiah asked him to withdraw and not go with Ahab to the battle. But he rushed with empathy to Ahab the Evil to support him in battle. Maybe he felt that this is a kind of masculinity or bravery; not to leave Ahab in battle alone.

Jehoshaphat was surrounded in battle so he cried out asking for help from his men. The captains of the chariots of Syria (The enemies) heard him and knew that this was not the cry of Ahab but the cry of Jehoshaphat, so they left him. And like that, God saved Jehoshaphat despite of not following Micaiah's prophecy.

### George: "Why did God save Jehoshaphat and returned him safely to Jerusalem?" (2Chr: 19)

**Father:** Jehoshaphat did a mistake and God disciplined him; his life was in danger but God was kind to him. What happened to him was better than he had expected, for the purity of his heart, and his true longing to stick to God, and his efforts for the salvation of his people.

Josephus the Historian says about him that he: "He rushed to all countries under his authority and taught the people the laws that God gave to Moses and also the proper worship that must be given to the Lord.» He got new judges and sent judicial organizations solid in the small villages and cities and also in Jerusalem and large cities. Their work was enforcing the laws and stopping the wrong doers.

### George: "Why did God allow Moab's attack on Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and what is the weapon with which Jehoshaphat was victorious?" (2 Chr :20)

**Father:** Jehoshaphat returned to being unfaithful to God where he became an ally with Syria against his brother Israel, so Prophet Jehu warned him that God's anger would fall upon him.

The Devil, used this chance of his unfaithfulness and he urged Moab to oppose him because he was related to Israel, and there was rivalry

between Moab and Israel. He went into deep trouble because of the alliance of some idolatry nations against him, but after his return with his people to God with a modest spirit he grabbed again God's mercy and forgiveness. This was mentioned in (2 Kings 8).

The king, the leaders and the people declared their trust in God, and offered their thanks with a humble spirit before salvation was achieved, for they believed it was already done and as if they have seen it already.

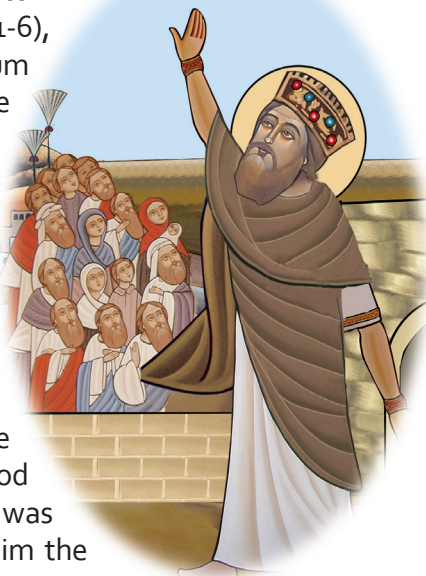
The battle was strange and unique. We haven't heard about the army's - made up of legendary warriors - military equipment of swords, spears and arrows, however the king rushed forward and provided them with weapons in the field, which were Faith and Glorification, where he said to them: «Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.»

There is no better weapon in the times of trouble than true faith in the power of God and his mercy and promises and planning. The battle was over with their victory without fight.

**George: "Why was Jehoram gone without any remorse from the people?"(2Chr :21)**

**Father:** Jehoram who was married to Evil Ahab and Evil Jezebel's daughter (1-6), led the House of David to the maximum levels of evil. But God kept His promise to David and his offspring.

Some believe that God allowed this evil king to rule over the people as a punishment or for their discipline, as they did not benefit from the reforms done at the days of Jehoshaphat his good father, where it was said: «Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.» (20:33) Discipline was done to Jehoram gradually to allow him the



chance for repentance:

A. He sent for him - through Elisha- a warning written by Prophet Elijah (12)

B. He allowed the Philistines, the Arabians and the Ethiopians to ally together and stir up against him. (16)

C. They invaded and carried away all what they found in Jehoram's House together with his sons and wives.

D. He got a disease (18) he lost his energy, his spirit was broken, because he didn't have enough power to hope to get back his family and the treasures of his palace.

E. He was deprived the company of his wives and children for his condolence and care in his sickness.

God wanted to open his eyes to see the results of his sin, as he became sick, poor, alone, deprived from God's acceptance and Grace, and still he did not come back to himself. Shame came upon him not only on his death bed, but also after his death where no one grieved for him for his great evil.

**George: "Why was king Ahaziah thirsty to shed blood?" (2 Chr: 22)**

**Father:** Jehoram died and was buried and the throne went to his wife Athaliah, who was an exact copy of her evil mother Jezebel. That is why we are not surprised for her lust to shed blood. Her son Ahaziah was affected by her and she encouraged him to do evil. (2)

After that Jehu killed Ahaziah who hid in Samaria thinking that he was safe there, and Jehu left Ahaziah's body to be buried. Athaliah did not repent so she ordered the killing of her grandchildren (the rest of David's offspring) to ensure her staying on the throne. She aspired to destroy David's House entirely to establish on its ruins a throne for herself. She killed all the royal offspring with cruelty, and probably she wanted to transfer the throne for David's House to her mother's relatives.

But in the midst of that slaughter that Athaliah made to execute all the royal offspring to stay alone on the throne, The Lord's Christ Lamp did not turn off, for God spared a small baby as a symbol for Jesus Christ who was spared from the children's slaughter in Bethlehem.



And in the Seventh Year, The year of the rest of the land, Joash the baby appeared to rule in front of everyone's eyes and was declared the only king fit to wear the crown.

**George: "How was Joash son of Ahaziah made king and how did Athaliah die?"(2Chr:23)**

**Father:** The five captains of hundreds were the force of the royal guard, and they were upset with Athaliah and her violent tendencies, to the house of the Lord and David's offspring, and they were often friendly to Jehoiada the priest.

The young prince was saved for several years until he was able to appear in front of the people and the good captains who got sick of the acts of the throne-invading queen. Jehoiada planned this and carried it out in absolute secrecy and speed with no slacking off.

Jehoiada was keen to invite the military captains together with the civilians and religious leaders to revolt against Athaliah and call Joash king. He probably feared that the Baal priests would attack the king inside the temple, for this reason, the Levites who surrounded the king carried weapons to prevent them from entering.

The people were so joyful while seeing the young child Joash son of David standing on the platform. Despair which came upon a lot fled, as they started to run happily to see the unexpected. Jehoiada was also keen not to let Athaliah be killed inside the temple, and the historian Josephus says that she was killed at the Mules Gate southeast of the temple near the Horse Gate in Kidron's Valley, and at that time it was considered a defiled place.



**George: "Did Joash learn from the previous lessons and walked in God's way?"**

**Father: No, he did not learn,** he deviated after the death of Jehoiada the priest (2 Chr 24) **The Jew captains took the role of bad friends and congratulated him** as they thought Jehoiada was his caretaker. The Devil urged and pushed the Jew captains to return the worship of the idols, and God sent prophets to scold them for their evil and warn them of the consequences of evil and sin.

And God's spirit came upon Zecariaiah son of Jehoiada the priest and stood in front of the people who hadn't left the temple yet and asked them to keep God's divine laws. The young priest's speech moved the conscience of the king and Judah's captains so instead of returning to God they stoned him to death as an order from the king who thought that the priest's words was a challenge to his rule.

God disciplined them by:

A. letting a pack from Syria to defeat his army and kill the people's leaders

B. Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went far away from Jerusalem. (2 Kings 12:18)

C. Joash got a lot of diseases

D. He got assassinated on his bed by the hands of the sons of heathens.

E. He was not buried with the kings as he disgraced his name and dignity.

**George: "Who is Amaziah king of Judah?"(2Chr:25)**

**Father:** He is a king who did well in the eyes of the Lord meaning that he worshipped the Lord and established service in the Temple, but he didn't do it full-heartedly. Unfortunately, he started his rule with justice and wisdom and keeping the Lord's law, but it seems that he got arrogant after his victory over the Edomites.

In ignorance and recklessness, He went in battle with his brother nation Israel and was defeated and continued his days in shame, and was killed in Jerusalem and after him Uzziah became king.

**George: "Why did king Uzziah lose his way?" (2Chr:26)**

**Father:** Uzziah started his rule with a straight life in God's eyes and he cared for constructions and victories. But he tried to invade the priest work, so God beat him with Leprosy until he died.

In his last years, because of his stay in a diseased house, his son Jotham joined him in ruling.

Uzziah's works were:

- A. His military attention and his bold actions (6-9,11-15)
- B. His eagerness for agriculture progress and animal production.(10)



**George: "How did Jotham surpass his father Uzziah?"(2Chr: 27)**

**Father:** The Bible admits that Jotham took his father as a role model in every good work he made and at the same time, with wisdom and proper planning, he was very careful not to fall like his father, as he didn't invade the sanctuaries and took for himself what it is for the priests.

**George: "Did the kings after Jotham continue in the fear of the Lord?"(2Chr: 28)**

**Father:** No, they did not continue, as the evil king Ahaz(2 Chr:28) closed the house of the Lord and set it on fire, so God delivered him into the hands of the king of Syria and the king of Israel who captured two hundred thousand people and stole lots of their treasures.

God asked Israel the nice treatment of the prisoners of Judah when Prophet Oded appeared suddenly to welcome the victorious army of Israel which returned putting Judah place down in captivity and carrying spoils after shedding their brothers' blood. He greeted them

not to congratulate them on their victory but to warn them from the punishment that would fall upon them.

As God got angry with Judah for leaving him, he asked Israel not to get distracted with victory and look at their evil: «but are you not also guilty before the Lord your God? ... for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you.» (10-11)

### George: "Did the kingdom end with the death of Ahaz?"

**Father:** No, it didn't, as Hezekiah became king and sanctified the house of the Lord. Since the good king Hezekiah reigned, he occupied himself with the holy worship for God more than any one of the previous good Kings. He was eager for the Divine Love and the full care and attention to the holiness of the house of the Lord.

In his first year, he:

- A. restored the priests and the Levites to the house of the Lord(1-11)
- B. encouraged the Levites on sanctifying the Temple(12-19)
- C. atoned for the sins of the previous rule (20-24)
- D. cared for offering prayers and sacrifices (25-36)

### George: "How did Hezekiah care for the two kingdoms? (2Chr:30)

**Father:** The people did not experience true happiness and holy celebrations since Solomon's days(26). But Hezekiah believed that God of Impossibilities has nothing difficult for him and was keen that the two kingdoms would celebrate the Passover together in an unprecedented way.

Hezekiah sat on the throne while the house of the Lord was impure with the idol worship, he did not hurry to celebrate the Passover in its time (the first month) but he and the leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem agree to keep the Passover in the second month after purifying the house of the Lord and sanctifying the priests. In addition, waiting another month probably gives a chance to invite those who were in the northern kingdom to participate in the celebration. The king was aware that a lot did not know the rule for participating in the feast, because the feast was not made for a lot of time.

**George: "How did Hezekiah care for the house of the Lord?"(2Chr: 31)**

**Father:** Everybody; The king, the leaders, the priests, the Levites and the people enjoyed celebrating the Passover with which Heaven was pleased in the Holy house of the Lord, and everyone went to the cities of Judah. They crossed their hearts not to let the worship of the idols come back. He opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and ordered purifying the Temple and celebrating the Passover with the company of many from the northern kingdom which led to the desire to more holding onto God.

Hezekiah's behavior showed his true personality for he is good, straight and just, doing according to the truth which was declared to him.

**George: "How did King Hezekiah challenge King of Assyria and disease?" (2Chr: 32)**

**Father:** Hezekiah experienced the spirit of power when he faced a greater power at that time, Assyria, and overcame the stubborn dangerous disease that had fallen upon him. But when he got careless and arrogant because of his victory and cure, he fell and he exposed Judah's nation to suffering in his grandchildren's rule.

Messenger Paul warns us with his saying: «Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.» (1 Co 10:12)

The second book of Kings (2 Kings 18-19) tells us the story of Sennacherib's blasphemy to God and Hezekiah's prayer and Jerusalem's salvation from the devastation of Assyria's army in more detail.

Sennacherib was hoping to invade Jerusalem and capture its people without getting into battle with them, since a lot of nations surrendered themselves to him and welcomed him with dancing and Singing, but still he didn't treat them well. He sent a message to Hezekiah ordering him to surrender like the other nations.





Both of King Hezekiah and Prophet Isaiah cried to Heaven and the Resident in Heaven was not far from them. With praying to Him, He was so close to them. If the evil enemies' blasphemies get God's attention, so to say, then His people painful cries also draw His attention to them. Sennacherib got careless with the Mighty God, so he experienced with his own eyes how one hundred and eighty five thousand of his men died in a single night without human weapons. And when he returned to the altar of his God Nisroch feeling rage and anguish, he got killed with the hands of his sons.



### George: "What is the reaction of King Manasseh and his son Amon?" (2Chr:33)

**Father:** The rule of Manasseh which lasted fifty five years is divided into three stages:

Stage one: Stage of Idol worship

Stage two: His fall in captivity.

Stage three: His return from captivity, where Manasseh cried from the bottom of the pit and lowered himself in front of his fathers' God and admitted his mistakes so he became a new person.

The book of kings ignored the story of Manasseh's repentance but did not deny it, as the writer's objective was to reveal the evil of the nation which led to its doom.

He destroyed all the repairs that his father made, if Hezekiah dedicated his life to restoring the True living God's worship then his son came to dedicate his life to destroying God's worship and spread the worship of the idols. He was a ruthless murderer, he even offered his sons as sacrifices (2 Kings 21:3-11)

Josephus wrote about him that: «He slaughtered the innocent Jews in a barbaric way, and did not spare the prophets whom he killed some of them each day until Jerusalem became flooded with blood.»

Manasseh finally repented and Manasseh's Prayer was mentioned in the Septuagint under the title of "**The prayer of Manasseh king of Judah during his captivity in Babel**", It is said and praised in the Vigil of the Apocalypse and the night of Bright Saturday.

Manasseh was mistaken because when he repented he removed the idols and threw them out of the city and did not burn or destroy them like the Law says (Deu 7:5) So when his son became king he instantly ordered setting them up and offering sacrifices to them. Evil filled Amon's heart even after his father's repentance, and in two years' time «**Amon's evil grew**».

### George: "Who is King Josiah?"

**Father:** Josiah is considered one of the great reparer kings of Judah and their last (2 Kings 34-35) God allowed a reform movement shortly before captivity, so He wanted to give hope that there is salvation to those who wanted to return to him.

King Josiah cared for the repair of the temple, one true loyal man was able to give the chance to many people to reveal what is in their hearts from honesty and the extreme will to work for God.

When they started working the archpriest Hilkiah found the book of the Laws of the Lord which was lost due to the carelessness of the kings and their indifference to the company of God. Finding this copy had its effectiveness on the king, the men of the kingdom, the leaders and the people. Joy and cheer filled the air in the whole kingdom.

Maybe for the first time, Josiah heard God's words, so he ripped his clothes and cheered for the Lord his God. We ought to rip our hearts not our clothes.

King Josiah celebrated the Passover in a wonderful way, it is said that it was not celebrated like this since the days of Prophet Samuel.



He invited the rest of the kingdom of Israel to participate in the celebration as king Hezekiah once did.

The celebration was not like any other feast, it was unique as he united Israel in love.

### George: "Did God punish the people for their mistakes?"

**Father:** God punished his people because he loved them not because he wanted to destroy them. He wanted to invite them to repent and return to him. Unfortunately, Josiah, the good king, made a big mistake to go into battle against Necho without the Lord's acceptance, and without knowing that Babel is a more dangerous enemy on Judah than Assyria.

Josiah disguised himself and was heavily injured in the battle that led to his death. And with Josiah's death, Judah lost its independency and became under Egypt's oppression for three or four years (606-609 B.C.). Egypt retreated to let Babel control Judah.

And after him Eliakim reigned and preferred Egypt from a political point of view, but Jehoahaz preferred his alliance with Babel against Egypt like his father Josiah. Therefore when Necho met Jehoahaz in Riblah, The Egyptian military headquarters, put him in chains and took him prisoner in Egypt where he died.

The people thought that Jehoahaz was coming back from Egypt to sit on the throne, but Jeremiah's prophecy came true. This is the result of sin; man loses his kingly spirit and doesn't get to see heavenly Jerusalem, but lives in the land of captivity in humiliation as Jehoahaz lived in Egypt in bitterness and misery until he died.

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babel came to Jehoiakim and put him in copper chains and took him to Babel, he also stole the Temple's utensils (7) Jehoiakim died an evil doer's death. (Jer 36:30)

Jehoiachin became king and was eight years old at that time, and it was mentioned in the Book of Kings that he was eighteen years old. It seems that he was a partner in ruling with his father when he was eight and then he sat on the throne when he became eighteen.

When Evil-Merodach ruled over Babel, he returned Jehoiachin after

thirty seven years of captivity (2 Kings 25:27-30) and it is not mentioned in the Book of Chronicles Two.

The Book of Chronicles Two ended with the realization of Jeremiah's prophecy with the return from captivity after the end of seventy years. As well as what the Book revealed from the corruption of most kings with the leaders and the people, God is always honest and declared his mercy and realizes his divine promises.

The Divine promise which was said by Prophet Jeremiah about the return from captivity after seventy years was a symbol for our enjoyment of being free from Satan and sin's captivity, with the act of salvation by Jesus Christ.

With this ending the writer reveals the objective of this Book which is that God, the maker of history, wants our return to the heavenly life and to establish His Heavenly kingdom in our Inner Jerusalem, our hearts.



For our beloved children

## What do you know about the Book of Chronicles Two?

If the previous book emphasized that God is the one true king, ordering us to be like King David not Saul, then this Book tells us to ask for God the Heavenly King.

1. King Solomon, The builder of God's Temple p. 1-9
2. The Division of Kingdom p. 10-13
3. The Repairs of Asa p. 14-16
4. Jehoshaphat's, king of Judah, repairs p. 17-20
5. Judah's Kings till Jerusalem's Captivity p. 21-36

«May the good Lord provide atonement for everyone who prepares his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers» (2 Chr 30:18-19)