

# DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

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## 10-08-2023 // WEEK 40 NOTES

### 2 Chronicles 22 - The Book of James

As of today, you concluded the book of **2 Chronicles**. Once again, as in **1 and 2 Kings**, you saw the **demise of the northern and southern kingdoms**. There was no good king in the north, thus its demise was quicker (from around 950 BC to 722 BC) when the Assyrian Empire carried away the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom.

The southern kingdom lasted longer because it had several good kings who did not imbibe the godlessness of the surrounding cultures (kings like Asa, Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, and Josiah). Because these good kings initiated reforms in accordance with God's law, apostasy and God's judgment was delayed (from around 950 AD to 586 BC). But in the end, the culture imbibed God's people of Judah and Benjamin and his judgment came to the southern kingdom and its final kings after Josiah: Jehoiachin, Jerhoiakim, and Zedekiah.

### 2 Chronicles ends though with hope:

It refers to King Cyrus of Persia overtaking the Babylonians after Jeremiah's predicted 70 years in captivity. Astoundingly, Cyrus acknowledged that all he had been given was by God! And then **Cyrus gives permission for the Jews to return to the homeland to rebuild Jerusalem and specifically the Temple**. You can see the order of the books of the Bible being intentional as Ezra and the return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple is the next book chronologically.

### Recap of the Old Testament

*Congratulations! You have now read through the entire Old Testament.*

I hope you see its storyline from Creation to the Fall to the beginning of God's plan of redemption through the call to Abraham...to Isaac...to Jacob...to Joseph...to Moses...to Joshua...to the Judges...to Samuel...to Saul...to David...to Solomon...to the division of the two kingdoms (Jeroboam and Rehoboam)...the good and bad kings in both kingdoms...the prophets (Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah-Malachi), who continually warned

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both kingdoms of God's impending judgment if they didn't repent and return to him (the warnings of God's blessings and curses in **Deut. 28-29**). They didn't repent and God didn't relent of his judgments.

And sandwiched in between God's history of all these major characters in his Word is the wisdom literature: **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon** - books about suffering, worship, wisdom, life, and covenant with God and a person's spouse.

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**You will now read through the New Testament.** Your reading began in the book of **James**.

## **The Book of James**

James is the half brother of Jesus and was the head of the early Jerusalem church. This book resembles the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. God's name is hardly mentioned but obedience to God's heart is evident.

It's almost as if James had Paul's salvation by grace message before him, but wanted the people not to forget to obey God's moral law. That's a conjecture, but it seems possible. Then comes **Galatians**, a book of God's great grace (often called "Romans in miniature"). Then **1 and 2 Thessalonians**, books primarily dealing with living faithfully until Jesus returns.

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*I hope and pray your life has been encouraged and deepened in Jesus because of this journey through God's Word - especially as you continue now through the New Testament.*

*David*