

APRIL 24

Read 2 Kings 15-17

CHAPTER 15

IN the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.

2 Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jechoiah of Jerusalem.

3 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;

4 Save that the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places.

5 ¶ And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son *was* over the house, judging the people of the land.

6 And the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

7 So Azariah slept with his

fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

8 ¶ In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months.

9 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

10 And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

11 And the rest of the acts of Zachariah, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

12 This *was* the word of the LORD which he spake unto Jehu, saying, Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth *generation*. And so it came to pass.

13 ¶ Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thir-

tieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.

14 For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

15 And the rest of the acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he made, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

16 ¶ Then Menahem smote Tiph-sah, and all that *were* therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah: because they opened not *to him*, therefore he smote *it*; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up.

17 In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and *reigned* ten years in Samaria.

18 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

19 And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with

him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

20 And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, *even* of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

21 ¶ And the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

22 And Menahem slept with his fathers; and Pekahiah his son reigned in his stead.

23 ¶ In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and *reigned* two years.

24 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

25 But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room.

26 And the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

27 ¶ In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* twenty years.

28 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-bethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.

30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

31 And the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

32 ¶ In the second year of Pekah

the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.

33 Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok.

34 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

35 ¶ Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.

36 ¶ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

37 In those days the LORD began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah.

38 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

CHAPTER 16

IN the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the

son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign.

2 Twenty years old *was* Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father.

3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.

4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

5 ¶ Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome *him*.

6 At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I *am* thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out

of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.

8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent *it for* a present to the king of Assyria.

9 And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried *the people of it* captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

10 ¶ And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that *was* at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof.

11 And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made *it* against king Ahaz came from Damascus.

12 And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon.

13 And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar.

14 And he brought also the brasen altar, which *was* before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar.

15 And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire *by*.

16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded.

17 ¶ And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brasen oxen that *were* under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones.

18 And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria.

19 ¶ Now the rest of the acts of

Ahaz which he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

20 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

CHAPTER 17

IN the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.

2 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

3 ¶ Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.

4 And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

5 ¶ Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

6 ¶ In the ninth year of Hoshea

the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7. For *so* it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

9 And the children of Israel did secretly *those* things that *were* not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as *did* the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:

12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold

themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

24 ¶ And the king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon, and

from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed *them* in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

25 And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, *that* they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew *some* of them.

26 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

29 Howbeit every nation made

gods of their own, and put *them* in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

30 And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima,

31 And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

34 Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;

35 With whom the LORD had

made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:

36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

37 And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.

38 And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.

39 But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.

40 Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner.

41 So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Uzziah is sometimes known as Judah's great king. Uzziah means "strength of the Lord." His other name, Azariah, means "help of Jehovah." Uzziah was elevated to the throne at the age of 16, and under his sound leadership the nation took on a new life of prosperity. His spiritual guide was Zechariah but, as in the case of Amaziah, we see that pride brought forth Uzziah's ruin.

Chapter 16 covers the reign of Ahaz over Judah. He was so wicked that he even sacrificed his son to Molock. He reigned for sixteen years, and his friendship with the Assyrian king led to much trouble. He saw a heathen altar in Damascus and tried to duplicate it in Jerusalem. In fact, his new altar replaced the God-ordained altar in the Temple.

Ahaz was led into idolatry because of his friendship with Assyria. He even stole from the Lord's house, and tried to bribe the king of Assyria, but in the end he failed to help Judah at all. In his reign he tried to compromise and buy his way to victory, but it only led to shame and defeat.

We could all learn a lesson from the life of Ahaz. God will not tolerate a compromising Christian. He tells us that we are to be separate from the world; that we are to come out from among them that are in the world. It is true that we are to love the souls of men who are lost in darkness. We are to take the Gospel to them, but we are never to compromise our stand in presenting the Gospel.

Chapter 17 is a record of Israel's last king and how he led the Northern Kingdom into final captivity. Assyria captured Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom, in 722 b.c., and in verses 7-23 we read of some of the causes of this captivity.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Rejoice not when thine enemy faileth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth" (Proverbs 24:17).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 9 (found on page 12).

HYMN FOR TODAY

CHRIST AROSE

by Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

"Alleluia! He is Risen!" "Alleluia, He is Risen Indeed!" If you and I had been living during the early Christian era, this undoubtedly would have been our

greeting to one another as believers on an Easter Sunday. For the past century, however, many evangelical churches have been inspired anew in celebrating this triumphant day by singing "Christ Arose", written and composed by Robert Lowry in 1874.

Robert Lowry is a highly respected name among early gospel hymn writers. He served for a time as a professor of literature at Bucknell University, pastored several important Baptist churches in the East, and then became the music editor of the Biglow Publishing Company. It has often been said that the quality of Lowry's numerous publications did much to improve the cause of sacred music in this country.

During the Easter season of 1874, while having his devotions one evening, Robert Lowry was impressed with the events associated with Christ's resurrection, especially with these words recorded in Luke 24:6-7: "He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

Soon Robert Lowry found himself seated at the little pump organ in the parlor of his home, and in a very spontaneous fashion, the words and music of "Christ Arose" gave expression to the thoughts that had been uppermost in his mind. The hymn was published the following year and has been an inspirational favorite with God's people ever since.

*Low in the grave He lay—Jesus, my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day—Jesus, my Lord!*

*Vainly they watch His bed—Jesus, my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead—Jesus, my Lord.*

*Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus, my Saviour!
He tore the bars away—Jesus, my Lord!*

Chorus:

*Up from the grave He arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
and He lives forever with His saints to reign:
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

534 B.C.

DANIEL SAW A VISION OF THE LORD IN HIS COMING GLORY.

Daniel 10:1-10.

In conjunction with this, read Revelation 22:20

and pray for the coming of the Lord. Also, read the glorious truth in I Thessalonians 4:13-17, concerning the Rapture of the Church. Then, pause to thank God that at any moment Jesus could come.

It was Bishop Steed who looked out of his window every morning and said, "Jesus, are you coming this morning?" In the evening he would look out of his window and say, "Jesus, are you coming this evening?" Let us live with the constant expectancy of the coming of our Lord.

1704
THE FIRST NEWSPAPER.

1800
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MOVED TO WASHINGTON.

Let us pray for the Lord's work in Washington. I am afraid we too often forget that politicians have souls, and the presidents, congressmen, senators, and Supreme Court justices must die. Let us pray for the souls of men everywhere, but especially for those in Washington, D.C.

1814
THE BRITISH BURNED WASHINGTON.

1846
THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

As I think of Mexico, I think of Seth Duffey and others who serve the Lord on the mission fields there. Pray for the souls of Mexican people and for the work of missionaries who are giving their lives in this part of our world.

ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1884
NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PHYSICIANS organized in Atlanta, Ga.

1867
BLACK DEMONSTRATORS STAGED RIDE-INS on Richmond, Va., streetcars. Troops were mobilized to restore order.

FIRST NATIONAL MEETING OF THE KU KLUX KLAN held at the Maxwell House, Nashville.

1886
AUGUSTUS TOLTON ORDAINED A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST in Rome and assigned to America.

1944
UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND ESTABLISHED.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 35

AUTHOR: David.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM

This Psalm was written in connection with one of the most noble times in David's life. The story is found in 1 Samuel 24. David was asleep in a cave. This was during the time that he was running for his life from Saul. Saul's pursuits were dedicated to the murder of David. One night David rested inside a cave. When he awoke the next morning, he found Saul asleep on the outside of the cave. Here was David's chance. Saul had pledged to kill David, and now Saul lies sleeping at the mercy of David. Will David kill Saul? Would he seek revenge? He draws his sword, cuts off a little piece of the skirt of Saul's garment but does no more. He is asked why he does not seek revenge and kill Saul. He replies that he cannot lift up his hand against God's anointed. Saul was not what he should have been, but he was God's anointed. Saul was not perfect, but he was God's anointed. David will not seek revenge.

How often we want to seek revenge and vengeance against those who have wronged us! Let us with David realize that this is God's department, not ours.

We should also join David in refraining from lifting our hands against God's anointed. Oh,

pray for God's men, love God's men, be loyal to God's men, stand beside God's men, hold high the hands of God's men. For years I've tried to help preachers. I've loved them, prayed for them, preached to them, come to their rescue and stood beside them. I love preachers. They are the hope of America. In many ways, they are the most lonely men in the world, but they hold in their hands the hope of the world. I once heard about a fellow who had ten sons. He said, "The first was a lawyer and the second was a liar too. The third was a banker and the fourth was a crook too. The fifth was a school teacher and the sixth was at a state institution too. The seventh was a doctor and the eighth stayed up all night too. The ninth was a preacher and the tenth didn't work for a living either." Of course, this is humorous, but it should not be true. God's men should be the hardest working men and the best men in the world, and God's people should hold them before the throne of grace in prayer, love and support.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE

When a Jew was tempted to seek revenge, he often turned to the 35th Psalm, read it and sung it. It gave him strength as he saw an example in David.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 9 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

GOD'S GREAT DESIRE

That none should perish.

() 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

That none be condemned.

() John 3:17 (John 5:24; 8:11)

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

So He calls him.

() Genesis 3:9

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

He seeks him.

() Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

He loves him.

() 1 John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.