

## December 24th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 17:1-18:34](#)

[ROMANS 9:25-10:13](#)

[PSALM 20:1-9](#)

[PROVERBS 20:2-3](#)

In 2 Chronicles 17, we're introduced to Jehoshaphat, King of Judah. Jehoshaphat was a good king; he strengthened his country politically, militarily, and financially. In verse 6, the bible gives a very profound characterization of Jehoshaphat. "His heart was courageous in the ways of the LORD." What does this description mean?

Jehoshaphat sought God alone. He did not practice idolatry like the nations around him, but walked in God's commandments. He removed the high places and took the Asherim out of Judah. However, this leader did more than just lead by spiritual example.

Because this king desired his country to be a godly nation, Jehoshaphat embraced the role of spiritual overseer of his nation. He made sure that all the people were taught about God. He sent out officials, Levites, and priests to teach them God's word. Because of King Jehoshaphat, even surrounding nations were influenced in a godly way and Judah was blessed with peace.

God not only wants us to walk in His commandments, but also to teach others about Him. When we do, our hearts are courageous in His ways as well.

## December 25th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 19:1-20:37](#)

[ROMANS 10:14-11:12](#)

[PSALM 21:1-13](#)

[PROVERBS 20:4-6](#)

Does your walk match your talk? According to Proverbs 20:6, there are many who claim to love God, but few who actually do. It's easy to say you love God. But loving God isn't just about what you say. It's very much about what you do!

To understand just what it means to be steadfast, here are a few synonyms: committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, constant, steady, true, and solid. Let's ask ourselves some questions.

Are you truly committed to obeying God in every way? Have you devoted your life to serving God? Have you dedicated your time, money, and talent to work for the Lord? Are you dependable when your brothers and sisters in Christ need help? Are you reliable in your worship attendance? Are you constant in your study of God's word? Are you steady in your prayers? Do you always speak the truth? Are you solid in your faith?

"Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?"

### December 26th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 21:1-23:21](#)

[ROMANS 11:13-36](#)

[PSALM 22:1-18](#)

[PROVERBS 20:7](#)

Some of the saddest words ever written about anyone are in today's reading in 2 Chronicles 21:20. "And he departed with no one's regret." These heartbreaking words were written about King Jehoram of Judah. Although they were said of his death, they are actually a commentary about his life.

Jehoram was so blessed at birth. As the son of a king, he was born to wealth and privilege. Of even greater blessing, both his father and his grandfather were godly men. Their examples of devout living left him a legacy of spiritual blessing that would have helped him tremendously in leading his nation in righteousness. But he turned his back on all he had been taught about godly devotion.

Instead Jehoram chose for his wife the daughter of an evil king. Her ungodly influence led him to murder his brothers, forsake God, and lead his nation into corruption and spiritual adultery. The LORD punished Jehoram; he lost most of his family and died in agony. No one was saddened at Jehoram's death because his life blessed no one.

2 Corinthians 6:14 tells us *“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?”* Sadly, Jehoram chose an unbelieving wife and paid the ultimate price.

#### December 27th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 24:1-25:28](#)

[ROMANS 12:1-21](#)

[PSALM 22:19-31](#)

[PROVERBS 20:8-10](#)

The book of Romans contains so many fundamental doctrines of Christianity. Much of it demands deep, concentrated study to grasp the tenets of our faith. Then there is chapter 12. We almost sigh with relief.

This chapter begins with that familiar word: therefore. Here at last is the practical application of all those doctrinal truths that have come before. Chapter 12 reads like a list from *“What to do to be a Christian!”*

We come to understand that because of all the wonderful ways God has blessed us through Christ, He expects something of us in return. This is in no way saying that we have to “earn our salvation.” In fact, it is the exact opposite. Because of God’s grace, we become living sacrifices. This chapter teaches us to know how to please God through our obedience; it teaches us how we worship God with our very lives.

I’m so thankful for the book of Romans. Not only does it help us understand how we receive Christ, but it also teaches us how to live in Him.

#### December 28th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 26:1-28:27](#)

[ROMANS 13:1-14](#)

[PSALM 23:1-6](#)

[PROVERBS 20:11](#)

King David wrote many of the Psalms. In them, he expressed every emotion man displays. He was often fearful of his enemies and cried out to the LORD for protection and comfort. Other times he despaired of his circumstances, seeking enlightenment and direction from the Almighty.

Eventually, David would return to praising his Creator and Master for the care shown to him and the trust he had in God alone. No Psalm of David's expresses this more than the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

Christians turn to it again and again for its beautiful words of comfort and hope. Even those who consider themselves "non-religious" find a measure of peace from the imagery this Psalm evokes before the grave of a loved one.

Take the time today to thoroughly study the words of David in this Psalm. Press them into memory until you are able to recall them easily. By doing so, your heart will be gladdened and your soul will be comforted always.

December 29th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 29:1-36](#)

[ROMANS 14:1-23](#)

[PSALM 24:1-10](#)

[PROVERBS 20:12](#)

We depend on our eyes and ears to function in life, but they also bring us so much pleasure. There is much beauty to see and enjoy. Likewise, we are indeed blessed to hear the sounds around us. We should be thankful for our eyes and ears for they are a gift from God.

Proverbs 20:12 tells us that the LORD has made both the *hearing* ear and the *seeing* eye. This verse speaks of the higher purpose that God has given the ear and eye; for both of these senses are our primary learning senses. God gave them to us so that we could learn about Him.

Scripture speaks often of seeing God with our eyes and listening to His word. It also condemns those who refuse to see what the Lord has done or to hear His commandments. Matthew 13 is a good example of both these truths.

The bible tells of God's eyes and ears as well. "*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.*" (1 Peter 3:12) When we use our eyes and ears for the purpose God intended, He blesses us in so many ways!

#### December 30th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 30:1-31:21](#)

[ROMANS 15:1-22](#)

[PSALM 25:1-15](#)

[PROVERBS 20:13-15](#)

Romans 15:1-3 tells us that the strong Christian must bear with the failings of the weak. This doesn't mean we "put up with each other," or just go along with whatever the weaker brethren say or do for the sake of keeping the peace. We do what is best for our weaker brother or sister. What is best is to teach, encourage, admonish, forgive, pray for, and love each member of the body as Christ loves us.

We follow the example of Christ. We don't please ourselves. Instead we build up our weaker brethren. We support them and help them. Then when they are stronger, they can in turn support and help us and others.

*"Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."* (2 Corinthians 13:11)