

The Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah

King Jehu

Sunday 29th January 2017

God is speaking!



Are we listening?
How should we respond?

You're very welcome to join us here
as we explore the Biblical books of
1 and 2 Kings
and
1 and 2 Chronicles
in January and February.
Sunday mornings at 11.00am

muncatochristianfellowship.org.uk

2 useful bits of paper:

Reading Plan

Background Paper

Background



The three Kings before Rehoboam:

Saul, David and Solomon

all reigned over a "united" Israel.

Jehu c100 yrs after Rehoboam

King Jehu



2 Kings 9,10

King Jehu



2 Kings 9,10

The 10th King of the Northern Kingdom

He was previously a commander in the army.

King Jehu



2 Kings 9,10

The 10th King of the Northern Kingdom

**Quick Question
from the
congregation!**

Why is King Jehu
(and King Ahab from 2 wks ago)
only mentioned in 2 Kings?
King Rehoboam, Jeroboam I
and Jehoshaphat are mentioned
in 2 Chronicles too.



Only one northern King is mentioned in 2 Chronicles (Jeroboam I), whereas all the southern Kings are mentioned in both books.

Who wrote the books?



Who wrote the books?



What was their purpose in writing them?

Kings (really one book, but split into 2 bks so can fit on a scroll more easily – like Samuel) covers the period from David’s death (c970BC) to the exile of Judah in c.586BC. Chronicles goes back to Adam through a series of genealogies and ends with Cyrus’ decree in c538BC). Chronicles is much less critical of David and Solomon and is mainly concerned with Judah. It was written after the exile in Babylon and aims to show that the re-established kingdom was a continuation of the Judah from the past. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem is mentioned a lot. It also concentrates a great deal of space on the good, reforming kings such as Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, and Josiah. Elijah and Elisha feature a lot in Kings but in Chronicles Elijah is only mentioned in 2 Chron 21:12-15 with regard to a letter he wrote to a southern king. They were both northern prophets so only get mentioned in Kings. The Background Paper gives a list of many of the different prophets in the two kingdoms. In the Hebrew Bible Chronicles is the last book and Kings is in the section about the Former Prophets of Israel.

We call Chronicles that name due to an 5th century Italian scholar called Jerome (Vulgate). The translation of the Hebrew title is “The Matters of the Days” and the translation of the Greek is “things left on one side.” Some people think that Ezra wrote Chronicles. [In the Vulgate 1 and 2 Samuel are called 1 and 2 Kings and our 1 and 2 Kings is called 3 and 4 Kings.] Jewish tradition says Jeremiah wrote Kings, but that’s not been proved at all. It was the Septuagint that put Chronicles between Kings and Ezra/Nehemiah.

King Jehu



2 Kings 9,10

The 10th King of the Northern Kingdom

King Jehu



2 Kings 9,10

The 10th King of the Northern Kingdom

He reigned for 28 years

2nd longest reign after Jeroboam II
– about 30 years later.

King Jehu



2 Kings 9,10

The 10th King of the Northern Kingdom

He reigned for 28 years

Probably the Best King in Israel?



King Jehu bowing
before Shalmanesar III



on the Black Obelisk

Discovered in 1846 and was probably created around 830BC – it shows many scenes that the Assyrians would have celebrated – times of victory. One scene is where many people think King Jehu is bowing to the Assyrian King. Assyria was definitely a superpower at the time – others would come like Babylon, Rome and Greece. It's in the British Museum.

In the 2 chapters we read about his coming to power, the bloodshed that happened in several incidents quite soon after it and an evaluation of his life by the author of the book.

2 Kings 9:1-3

2 Kings 9:2 – “the son of Jehoshaphat” – not the King of Judah.

His anointing was treason. It was a coup as King Joram was still the King of the northern kingdom. It was dangerous for the prophet to go to him.

He kills the previous King, then the previous King's mother (Jezebel), then a lot of the King's cousins, all of the servants of Baal as well as a few other people and destroyed the Baal temple.

NIV: **2 Kings 9:22** shows his heart attitude then.

10:16 – “Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD.”

Jehu was definitely God's man. Going back in time slightly, in 1 Kings 19:15, 16 God gave Elijah three instructions: anoint Hazael king over Aram, anoint Jehu king over Israel and anoint Elisha as his successor. In 1 Kings 21: 20-28, Elijah speaks to King Ahab and talks to him about what God plans for his dynasty.

There were twenty rulers in nine different royal houses in the northern kingdom over 210 years. Jehu would be the beginning of a new royal dynasty as God ended the last one. In the southern kingdom there were also 20 rulers but over 345 years and in basically one royal dynasty – that of David.

Two words that begin with **B**



"Because"

"But"

Two words that begin with **B**



"Because"

Jehoshaphat - 2 Chronicles 17:3

"But"

Jehu - 2 Kings 10:28, 29

Gordon Neale last week: "The LORD was with Jehoshaphat *because* he followed the ways of his father David before him."

"Jehu eliminated Baal worship from Israel, *but* he did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit – worshipping the gold calves that were in Bethel and Dan."

The Message for 10:28 – But for all that, Jehu *didn't turn back* from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, the sins that dragged Israel into a life of sin – the golden calves in Bethel and Dan stayed.

He did what was right and godly at the start of his reign but he didn't carry it through. He was tolerant of things that should have upset him and cause him to take action. The challenges that he faced later weren't met with the right attitude and action. The steps of faith we might have taken yesterday don't guarantee that we will trust God or rightly interpret what He says to us today. We can be strengthened as we remember what God has done in and through us in the past, but the challenge is this: will I put my faith in God throughout the demands and ups/downs of today?

What event happened before the feeding of the 5,000+? (Luke 9:10f)

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How did they react now?
v13 - not faith but go to the shops

What is *your* next step in life?

Predictable? Risky?
Easy? Surprising?
Small?
LARGE?
Stimulating?

We might have gone a big event and had an encounter with God, it happens on a Sunday too! Monday comes and we all have to decide to continue to follow Christ wholeheartedly in the normality of life. Whatever the day and wherever we are, we need to submit everything we do to God.

Who is this?

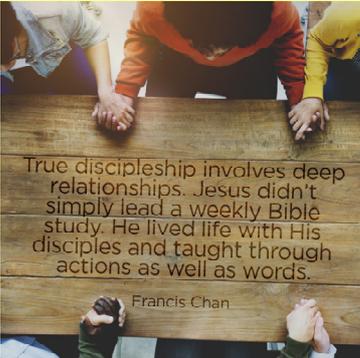


Clue: it happened on 21st (20th?) July 1969

JFK said America should put a man on the moon and bring him back safely by the end of the decade in a speech on 25th May 1961. Neil couldn't have taken that step on his own. 100,000s of people were involved – designers, builders, scientists, mathematicians, tea makers, cake makers, flag makers, typists and loads more. The steps we take for God can be helped hindered by those around us. All of us have an influence (good or bad) on lots of people. How can we help people take their next steps in a positive way?

What is *your* next step in life?

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True discipleship involves deep relationships. Jesus didn't simply lead a weekly Bible study. He lived life with His disciples and taught through actions as well as words.
 Francis Chan

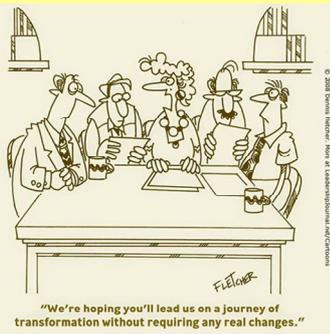
What is our next step collectively as a church now?

Predictable? Risky?
 Easy? Surprising?
 Small?
LARGE?
 Stimulating?

Around 15 years ago for NCF leaving the previous building in Clinic Drive and coming to Pallett Drive was an answer to prayer, but also a step of faith. There's a magazine article about it in the foyer.

What is next for us as a collection of God's people? We can't rest on our laurels. Normality often involves faith as well as the big steps. Perhaps there will be giant and terrific steps of faith in the next few months? We can't allow ourselves to settle and become complacent with our own spiritual destiny as well as the spiritual destiny of those around us. We have far too many empty chairs. We can't just remember the good old days and thank God for what he did 5, 10 or 20 years ago. We can't be seated. We have to take steps. God is still writing the history of NCF and He wants us all to take an active role in that.

An EMPTY Chair



'Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:18,19 [NIV]

How will God surprise us and cause us to say, "That could only have been God to make that happen!" this year? Advance Notice: 1st Issue of *Onward* in 2018 will include a section on prayers answered in 2017, not a selection, but all that are submitted. Hopefully be quite thick! Big answers, small answers and everything in between. Send them in as they occur so you don't forget. This will cause us to glorify God! It will be a reminder. It will help us to celebrate as a family.

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As we listen to God, we have to make a response. What will be our next step individually? What steps forward will we take collectively?