

Seven Leadership Principles from the Kings of Judah

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Big Idea: As believers, we are called to rule in the spirit world, in our personal kingdoms, as kings and queens. The kings of Judah both, succeeded and failed in several ways. From their good and bad decisions, and the consequences, we can learn many life lessons.

Scripture: *Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he*

stands, take heed that he does not fall. 1

Corinthians 10:11-12 NASB

1. Practice servant leadership. King Rehoboam. Probably the greatest leadership lesson came from someone who ignored it. *Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you counsel me to answer this people?" They spoke to him, saying, "If you will be kind to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."* 2

Chronicles 10:6-7 NASB

2. Face opposition with worship by honouring God first. King Abijah *"My Father is God"* He drew the line to keep Satan out and declared, "I've had enough of your evil intents. We are servants of the most-high God and he has given us the Kingdom." *"But as for us, the Lord*

is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the sons of Aaron are ministering to the Lord as priests, and the Levites attend to their work.

“Every morning and evening they burn to the Lord burnt offerings and fragrant incense, and the showbread is set on the clean table, and the golden lampstand with its lamps is ready to light every evening; for we keep the charge of the Lord our God, but you have forsaken Him. 2 Chronicles 13:10-11 NASB

3. Trust God but work diligently. King Asa.

Although Asa did not finish well, because of unrestrained pride, during most of his life, for 36 years, he worked hard and maintained a soft heart. Azariah the prophet came to him and said, *“Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you ... But you, be strong and do not lose*

courage, for there is reward for your work.”

2 Chronicles 15:2-7 NASB

4. Whatever we do, no matter how difficult the challenge, pray first. Jehoshaphat. Even when fighting alongside wicked King Ahab, who resisted God at every corner, he insisted that they pray before going to war. *Moreover, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire first for the word of the Lord.”* 2

Chronicles 18:4

Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord. 2 Chronicles 20:3-4 NASB

5. Keep walking on the Path of Righteousness. Don't turn to the left or right. Jotham.

Although Jotham's father, Uzziah, had his struggles with following God because of his pride, he had the advantage of having a Godly mom, who was the daughter of a strong priest. Walking consistently is even more difficult for the rich, powerful and famous. *He did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah had done ... So Jotham became mighty because he ordered his ways before the Lord his God.* 2 Chronicles 27:2 and 6 NASB

6. Good leaders model generosity. Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a great leader in many ways. He cleaned and opened the Temple that his father Ahaz had closed, he was an encouraging leader, he was a strong organizer, he restored worship, he was a worshipper, he was evangelistic, but his generous heart was the secret of Hezekiah's success. ... *he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that*

they might devote themselves to the law of the Lord. As soon as the order spread, the sons of Israel provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of all.

2 Chronicles 31:4-6a NASB.

7. Revere, read and obey the Word of God.

Josiah. We learn about the boy king Josiah in Kids Church because he became king when he was only eight. His grandpa Manasseh was the most-evil of all the kings (although he did repent and honour God in his last year) and his dad, Amon, was just as bad, but thanks to a devoted priest Hilkiah, who took him under his wing, Josiah was a godly king. Probably his strongest contribution was when he restored the Torah as the foundation of his kingdom.

Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. The king went up to

the house of the Lord and all the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites and all the people, from the greatest to the least; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord. Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant written in this book. 2 Chronicles 34:29-31 NASB