

# 2 Chronicles

## IGNATIUS CATHOLIC STUDY BIBLE QUESTIONS

### Welcome

*“You are approaching the ‘word of God’. But for thousands of years, ... the Word of God has been approaching you.”*

The following guide is provided to enhance your reading of the Second Book of the Chronicles using the *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*. If you are new to this resource or to reading the Bible, we recommend you read the general Introduction before you begin. It explains what it means that Scripture is the Word of God as well as how we understand and interpret it as Catholics. It also introduces the special features of the Study Bible and tells how they can enrich your reading and study. Additionally, the *Introduction to the Historical Books* will provide valuable context for your reading.

A simple rhythm of prayer followed by reading and reflection is offered below to guide you through the book one chapter at a time. Questions draw attention to key footnotes and word studies to lead you into a deeper understanding of what you read and then prompt you to consider how to apply what you have learned. For a deeper dive, take advantage of additional features as you go: not just the other footnotes but also cross-references to Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* that are provided above the footnotes as well as any maps, charts, or essays that are not touched on in the questions.

Don't miss these helpful icons as you read! They highlight footnotes that pertain to the Church's criteria for interpreting Scripture (see CCC 112–14):



### Be attentive to the content and unity of Scripture

Notes marked with a Bible icon connect Old Testament passages and New Testament mysteries, fostering appreciation for God's unified plan.



### Read Scripture in light of the Church's living tradition

This icon marks notes drawn from the Holy Spirit's guidance of Church teaching and the spiritual senses of scripture. Here you'll find official teaching as well as interpretations from Fathers, Doctors, and saints of the Church.



### Be attentive to the “analogy of faith”

Explore notes marked with an icon of keys to learn how the mysteries of faith, revealed in Scripture and defined by the Church, clarify and connect with one another in a unified, coherent way.

May God bless you as you read his word!

of God,\* did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,<sup>†</sup> taking the form of a servant,<sup>‡</sup> being born in the likeness of men.<sup>§</sup> And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.<sup>¶</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,<sup>||</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>|||</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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12 Therefore, obeyed, so now much more in salvation with f work in you, bo pleasure.

14 Do all th tioning,<sup>15</sup> that y children of God crooked and per

2:9–11: Rom 10:9; 14:9; Eph 1:20–21. 2:13: 1 Cor 15:10. 2

2:7 **emptied himself:** The Greek verb *kenōō* means “empty out” or “render void”. The idea is, not that Christ divested himself of divinity when he united himself with humanity, but that he restricted his rightful exercise of certain divine abilities during his earthly life and accepted certain limitations of the human condition. In effect, the Son of God made himself poor in order to make us rich with his grace (2 Cor 8:9) (CCC 472). • Christ emptied himself by compressing the glory of his Godhead within our smallness. What he always was remained perfect and incomprehensible, but what he assumed was in proportion to the measure of our nature (St. Gregory of Nyssa, *Against Apollinarius*).

2:8 **death on a cross:** The ultimate indignity. Death by crucifixion was the most awful and degrading form of criminal execution in the ancient world. The Romans reserved it for slaves and insurrectionists. See note on Mk 15:24.

2:9 **exalted him:** By raising him from the dead, enthroning him in heaven, and clothing his humanity with divine glory. A similar destiny awaits all who humble themselves as Jesus did (3:21; Lk 14:11).

2:10 **every knee should bow:** An allusion to the divine oath in Is 45:23. • Yahweh swore that all peoples, to the very end of the earth, would acknowledge his Lordship and bow before him in homage. Paul moves Christ into the center of this prophecy as the divine Lord destined to be revered by all. **heaven ... earth ... under the earth:** The three principal realms in the world view of ancient Israel (Ex 20:4). Homage will come from all creatures great and small—the angels and saints above, the family of man and beasts spread over the earth, and the dead and the demons of the underworld.

serious that we pur sense of awe at sen the prospect of sinn Encouragement con readers that God's g desire (intention) at 21; CCC 308) (CC “work”, he address and trembling”, he good deeds were th not boast of your g within you (St. Augu

2:15 **perverts** • Deuterono poetic lawsuit that and ingratitude du

*A Thing to Harpagmos (G in the Greek O Occurrences of “robbery”. Its considerable de the leading vi (1) Some, like*

## Prepare

Read the Introduction to 2 Chronicles, paying particular attention to the *Content and Themes* of the book and the *Christian Perspective* on it. What one thing stands out to you, that you would like to remember?

Read the Outline of 2 Chronicles to get an overview of the book. What are its major divisions?

## Pray

Use the following questions to guide your reading of 2 Chronicles, going at a pace that is comfortable to you. Before you begin each new section, pray simply for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit:

*Come, Holy Spirit, open my heart to hear and receive these words as what they truly are, the Word of God. Enlighten my understanding and give me grace to put what I read into practice in my life. Amen.*

## Read and Reflect

Read and reflect on 2 Chronicles as follows:

- Pray before you read
- Read a section of biblical text by itself
- Read the text again, referring to the notes that accompany the text
- For deeper understanding and to aid in applying what you read, answer the questions that follow. The references at the top of each numbered question correspond to particular notes.

At the end of each chapter, review what you have written and linger where you feel drawn, asking the Lord to speak to your heart and into your life. What do you hear? Respond in prayer and ask his help to live what you hear in your attitudes and actions this week.

## Chapter 1



### For Understanding

#### Word Study: *Sought* (2 Chronicles 1:5).

- What does the Hebrew verb *darash* mean?
- Sometimes, what is all that is meant by it?
- In other cases, how is the term connected with the moral and spiritual life?
- In what ways is *darash* almost a technical term in the spirituality of Chronicles?
- What assurance is given to all who seek the Lord?
- How is failure to seek the Lord a disgrace for the kings of Israel?

## **2 Chronicles 1:6**

- How does Solomon act as a royal priest?
- How were the offices of king and priest in Israel ordinarily distinguished?
- To what do the priestly actions of David and Solomon appear to have been linked, and who performed the daily sacrifices and incense offerings?
- To what pronouncement can the prerogatives of David and Solomon to act as priests be traced?

## **2 Chronicles 1:10**

- How does the Chronicler understand Yahweh's gift of wisdom?

## **2 Chronicles 1:12**

- What shows that Solomon has priorities that are in line with God's priorities?
- According to St. John Chrysostom, what two things are required of the person who prays?



## For Application

### **2 Chronicles 1: 3–5**

- Do you have a favorite place to which you like to go in order to seek the Lord?
- What is there about the place that attracts you?
- How do you go about seeking the Lord?

### **2 Chronicles 1:7**

- Why is it significant that God appears to Solomon at night?
- When is your most attentive time of the day?
- If God were to ask you what he should give you, for what would you ask?

### **2 Chronicles 1:12**

- Read the note for this verse, especially focusing on St. John Chrysostom's advice on how to ask in prayer. For what do you typically ask when you pray?

- What does it mean to ask God for what you *ought*?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 2**



### **For Understanding**

#### **2 Chronicles 2:1–18**

- What business deal does Solomon close with Phoenicia?

#### **2 Chronicles 2:6**

- What does Solomon recognize about God in his omnipresence?

- What virtue does the question “Who am I?” express?

## **2 Chronicles 2:10**

- What unit of measurement is a cor?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What unit of measurement is a bath?

## **2 Chronicles 2:14**

- What three reasons explain why the Chronicler lists Hiramabi’s mother’s tribal affiliation rather than her place of residence?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do these parallels imply?



## **For Application**

### **2 Chronicles 2:1**

- When you desire to do “something beautiful for God”, how carefully do you examine your own motives? For example, in a project like building a church or a parish, how much of what you do is for God’s glory and how much for your own gratification?

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- Granted that motives are usually mixed, how do you ensure that the motive primarily favors God?

### **2 Chronicles 2:6**

- Have you ever questioned your own ability to fulfill religious duties or to take up religious responsibilities?
  
- Have you posed that question to yourself?
  
- How do you answer it?

### **2 Chronicles 2:7**

- When it comes to doing work on your home, when do you decide to do it yourself and when do you decide to hire an expert?
  
- What factors do you consider in making such a decision?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 3



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 3:1

- Where is Mount Moriah, and what happened to David there?
- Since Moriah is mentioned only here and in Gen 22:2, what are readers invited to see?
- In Genesis, what did the Lord command Abraham to do there, and what did the site become known as thereafter?

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- To what is construction of the Temple on this elevation thus tied, and why?
  
- Who is Ornan the Jebusite?

### **2 Chronicles 3:4–8**

- Into what three chambers is the interior of the Temple divided, and how is each described in the note?

### **2 Chronicles 3:10**

- What are the cherubim, and how are these distinguished from the ones on the Ark?

### **2 Chronicles 3:14**

- What is the veil and its function?
  
- Where is it hung?



## For Application

### **2 Chronicles 3:1**

- Certain locations seem to be blessed with special spiritual power. What are some traditional ones that you can think of?
  
- Are there such places for you personally?
  
- What makes them significant to you?

### **2 Chronicles 3:5–7**

- Why should a church be beautiful?
  
- Because standards of beauty change over time, how would you describe what our culture regards as a beautiful building?
  
- What is the most beautiful church building you have seen, and what about it appeals to you?

### **2 Chronicles 3:10–13**

- What sorts of statuary does the church have that you regularly attend?

- Whom do the statues represent?
- What purpose do statues of Jesus and the saints serve?
- If your church has no statues, what sorts of artistic representations does it have?

## **2 Chronicles 3:14**

- Many Eastern Catholic churches have an iconostasis, a wall with three doors that separates the sanctuary from the nave of the church, usually adorned with icons. What purposes do these iconostases serve?
- What kinds of separation, if any, should there be between the sanctuary and the nave?
- What does the separation signify?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 4



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 4:1–6

- What stands in the outer courtyard of the Temple?
- Whom does the open expanse of the courtyard accommodate, but what area of it is off-limits to them?

#### 2 Chronicles 4:7

- What are the lampstands, and what do they look like?

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- Together, for what area of the Temple did they provide light?
  
- How many lampstands flickered in the wilderness Tabernacle?

### **2 Chronicles 4:8**

- For what are the ten tables used?
  
- How many tables stood in the Tabernacle?

### **2 Chronicles 4:19**

- What is the golden altar?
  
- Where does it stand?



### **For Application**

### **2 Chronicles 4:1**

- Why do altars in Catholic churches look like a table?

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- What is the altar in your church made of, and what symbols (if any) adorn it?
  
- What do they stand for?

### **2 Chronicles 4:2–5**

- The bronze sea, described in these verses, was for the use of the priests. For what is the largest container of water in your church used?
  
- Why do Catholic churches have holy water fonts near the entrances?
  
- What relationship do they have to the baptismal font or pool?

### **2 Chronicles 4:7**

- Read the note for this verse. Does your church have candelabras that resemble the lampstands described here?
  
- For what are these candelabra used?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 5



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 5:1

- After how many years of construction is the Temple finished?
- What do similar passages describe of the completion?
- What had David dedicated to the Temple?

- What were the treasuries?

## **2 Chronicles 5:2—7:10**

- What do these verses describe, and how long did it last?
  
- What were its high points?
  
- Although the Chronicler follows the account in 1 Kings 8, how does he expand it?

## **2 Chronicles 5:13**

- What does the cloud that filled the Temple signify, and how is it known in rabbinic theology?
  
- What does the event signal?
  
- How does Christian tradition understand the cloud?

## Essay: *Theology of the Temple.*

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- How is the Temple more than an architectural wonder, and from what is this meaning derived?
- How is the theology of the Temple implied first of all in its role as a model of the world created by God?
- How do the Temple's iconography and orientation also call to mind the Garden of Eden, and what do they imply for the meaning of the Temple?
- How does the Mosaic Tabernacle signify the *exclusivity* of the Mosaic covenant whereas the Temple signifies the *inclusivity* of the Davidic covenant?
- According to the New Testament, how is the Temple a prophetic sign that anticipates God dwelling with his people in the person of the Messiah?
- Finally, how does the Temple point beyond creation to something celestial and transcendent?



## For Application

### **2 Chronicles 5:1**

- What do you know about how your parish church was built?
- How involved were parishioners in its design and construction?
- What are the benefits for the parish that parishioners be involved in these things, rather than simply leaving them to an architectural firm?

### **2 Chronicles 5:3**

- Read the note for this verse. What is the holiest month in the Christian liturgical calendar?
- What do we celebrate then?

### **2 Chronicles 5:10**

- What is the purpose of the tabernacle in a Roman Rite Catholic church?
- What is kept in it?

- Why is it reserved there?

### **Reflection on Essay: *Theology of the Temple.***

- The essay says that “the Temple is a spiritual and theological sign.” The same can be said of a Catholic church building. Even if you know nothing of theology, how would you describe a church building as a spiritual sign?
- To what does it point?
- How does it speak of God’s presence among his people?
- How does the shape of your church communicate the relationship between God and the people who worship there?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 6



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 6:14–40

- What two general petitions and seven specific petitions does Solomon offer?
- Basically, for what does Solomon begin by asking?

#### 2 Chronicles 6:18

- What does Solomon affirm about God?

- How does the Lord dwell in the Temple?

## **2 Chronicles 6:20**

- What tradition does the expression “toward this place” begin?
  
- How does the definition of “this place” expand, and what does it include?

## **2 Chronicles 6:32**

- What does Solomon envision regarding foreigners?
  
- Theologically, what spirit does the Temple embody?
  
- What process does his request to heed the prayers of the Gentiles begin?



## **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 6:3**

- Traditionally, members of the congregation stand at some points during Mass, such as at the proclamation of the Gospel, recitation of the Creed, and the blessing at the end of Mass. What is the significance of standing at such points?

- How does standing during worship differ in meaning from sitting?

### **2 Chronicles 6:12–13**

- Gestures with the hands also have significance during worship. For example, what does spreading the hands with palms up signify?
  
- What about joining the palms of the hands together in prayer?

### **2 Chronicles 6:16**

- Notice the “if” in this verse. What condition does Solomon acknowledge that God is making in his promise?
  
- In all the promises that God makes both in Scripture and in the spiritual life, what is the principal condition for their fulfillment?

### **2 Chronicles 6:20, 32**

- The *direction* toward which one faces is important in many religions, including Christianity. Why, for example, are churches supposed to be oriented toward the east, if possible?
  
- Why pray toward the east as opposed to facing west?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 7



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 7:1

- Of what is the fire from heaven a sign?
- What other sacrifices did fire similarly consume?
- What event gives the closest parallel to this event?

- How is the glory of the Lord represented?

## **2 Chronicles 7:8–10**

- With what do these verses deal?
  
- How are the events that take place throughout the seventh month distributed in terms of days?

## **2 Chronicles 7:8**

- What territory does the expression “the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt” cover?

## **2 Chronicles 7:14**

- On what does Israel’s welfare depend?
  
- What else can humbling oneself include?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 7:1–4

- The dedication of a church building is an impressive liturgical ceremony. Even if you have never seen a dedication liturgy, why do you think the opening of the doors of a new church would be an important part of the liturgy?
- Why is the altar anointed with the same chrism used at Baptism?
- What role does incense play in any liturgy?

### 2 Chronicles 7:6

- The note for this verse lists the instruments that would have been used at the dedication of the Temple. What instruments are used for worship at your parish?
- Which instruments would you consider appropriate for fostering worship, and which would be inappropriate? Why?

### 2 Chronicles 7:17–22

- Why do God's promises to Solomon and the kingdom depend so heavily on Solomon's fidelity?

- What moral responsibility does a leader have for the welfare of his country, and how is his personal responsibility different from that of ordinary citizens?

## **2 Chronicles 7:19**

- Read the note for this verse. Does idolatry pose a similar threat to our nation, our land, or our sanctuaries?
  
- What prompts you to agree or disagree?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 8



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 8:1–16

- What follows the completion of the Temple and palace in Jerusalem?
- Of what are public works a sign?

#### 2 Chronicles 8:8

- What is mandated for Canaanite survivors of the Conquest?
- From what kind of service is it distinct?
- Canonically, what is the basis for the enslavement of the Canaanites?

#### 2 Chronicles 8:12–15

- Whose ordinances is Solomon observing?
- For the Chronicler, who are Moses and David?

## **2 Chronicles 8:18**

- By whom is a fleet of merchant vessels manned?
- Why does Solomon initiate maritime trade?
- Where was Ophir probably located, and for what was it renowned in biblical times?



### **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 8:7–9**

- What is a “second-class citizen”?
- What differentiates that class of citizenry from so-called “first-class citizens”?
- What expectations apply to the former that do not apply to the latter?
- Who are the second-class citizens where you live?

## **2 Chronicles 8:11**

- Why did Solomon refuse to let Pharaoh's daughter live in David's palace?
  
- What does holiness mean in relation to a place?
  
- What are your thoughts when you enter a place that is regarded as a holy site, such as a location where Jesus walked or Mary appeared?

## **2 Chronicles 8:13**

- The liturgical calendar is marked by different kinds of celebrations, each with its own liturgical requirements: solemnities, celebrations of mysteries (such as the Trinity), saints' feasts, and ordinary times. What do you notice about changes in the liturgy from one kind of celebration to another?
  
- What most impresses you?
  
- Given the holiness of the Mass, why should one celebration be more important than another?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 9



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 9:1

- Where do many locate Sheba?
- What kind of empire was it in biblical times?
- What is the likely purpose of the queen's historic visit, and what does it underscore about Solomon?

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- Beyond this, how does it serve as a paradigm of Israel's hope for the future?
- According to Jesus, what does the queen of Sheba exemplify, and what does Solomon's wisdom foreshadow?

### **2 Chronicles 9:13**

- If each talent weighs 75 pounds, how much does the annual influx of 666 talents of gold equal?
- What does this figure not include?
- To what might the number 666 in Revelation allude (besides the number of the beast who persecutes the Church), and what would it represent?
- With what else does Revelation connect this number?

### **2 Chronicles 9:15–16**

- What kind of production does Solomon commission?
- In contrast to these decorative items, with what were combat shields normally covered?

## **2 Chronicles 9:17**

- Where is the great ivory throne placed?
  
- How is it decorated?

## **2 Chronicles 9:26**

- Over what does Solomon sit enthroned?
  
- To what does its geographical reach correspond?



## **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 9:3–4**

- Why do heads of state put on great receptions for other visiting heads of state?
  
- How do you prepare when someone you wish to entertain comes to your home?
  
- What kind of impression do you wish to make?

**2 Chronicles 9:5–8**

- According to the queen of Sheba, why does God give Solomon his wisdom (hint: see v. 8)?
  
- Given this understanding, how would you describe his wisdom?
  
- How might such wisdom apply to your own life?

**2 Chronicles 9:13**

- Read the note for this verse, especially about the apparent link in the Book of Revelation between the tonnage of Solomon's wealth and his wisdom. What does it suggest to your mind?
  
- What makes the pursuit of wealth unwise?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 10



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23

- What do these chapters cover?
- By what are these chapters punctuated theologically?
- At the same time, whose needs do they address?

## **2 Chronicles 10:1–19**

- When does the division of Solomon's empire occur?
- What do the northern tribes of Israel do?
- To what does the golden age of the united monarchy give way?
- What are the northern tribes in the eyes of the Chronicler?
- For this reason, to what does he give most of his attention?

## **2 Chronicles 10:10**

- What do these inflammatory words accomplish?
- What may the Hebrew expression mean literally?

## **2 Chronicles 10:15**

- What does the Chronicler assume about his readers?

- Given this backstory, how might the dividing of the kingdom be seen?



## For Application

### **2 Chronicles 10:6–8**

- Why do you think King Rehoboam would forsake the counsel of his father’s advisers and turn to the young men with whom he has grown up?
  
- What does it say about his character?
  
- Have you ever sought the advice of peers and ignored more mature counsel?
  
- If so, what was the outcome?

### **2 Chronicles 10:14**

- How secure in his kingship do you think Rehoboam felt in making such a harsh reply to his people (hint: note v. 18)?
  
- When a new manager takes authority over a group of subordinates, should he start by being stern or by being friendly to them?

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?

## **2 Chronicles 10:16**

- Have you ever been involved in a split in a community, such as a family, a parish, or a group of friends?
  
- How did the split and ensuing separation come about?
  
- How difficult has it been to repair the split?
  
- What does your experience say about the difficulty of repairing the separations among Christian groups such as the Catholic and Protestant communions?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 11



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 11:1—12:16**

- What theme do these chapters highlight?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is an example of how this theme is treated?

#### **2 Chronicles 11:13–17**

- Why does an exodus of northern Israelites stream south into Judah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the Chronicler's interest?

#### **2 Chronicles 11:15**

- What is wrong with the priests Jeroboam appoints?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What are “high places”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What are the satyrs and the calves?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 11:4

- The prophecy of Shemaiah counsels against fighting “against your brethren”. When division and separation occur within a community, what is the attitude one should have toward those who separated?
  
- If Catholics and other Christians are “brethren”, how should we treat one another?

### 2 Chronicles 11:13–14

- Stories frequently circulate about clergy from other Christian communions being received into the Catholic Church, even though such conversions often mean for them loss of friends and livelihoods. What motivates such sacrificial conversions?
  
- How should the Catholic community respond?

### 2 Chronicles 11:16–17

- “Cradle Catholics” sometimes complain about the zeal of converts to the Catholic faith. What might be some of the bases for their complaints?
  
- On the other hand, how do zealous converts strengthen the Catholic faith, including that of “cradle Catholics”?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 12



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 12:2

- Who is Shishak?
- What does he do in Jerusalem?
- What inscription celebrates his campaign in Palestine?

**2 Chronicles 12:5**

- According to a spiritual law of the covenant, what happens when covenant people turn away from the Lord?
- Who is ultimately responsible for incurring the blessings and curses of the covenant?
- How is the possibility of divine withdrawal balanced?

**2 Chronicles 12:7**

- In humbling themselves, what do the people acknowledge?
- What happens as a result?

**2 Chronicles 12:16**

- Who is Abijah?
- What does the Chronicler stress about him?
- How else does his name appear?



## For Application

### **2 Chronicles 12:1**

- How strong is a person's faith likely to be if it is based on need rather than love?
  
- What often happens to it when the need passes?

### **2 Chronicles 12:8**

- Have you ever been the recipient of some "tough love"?
  
- What were the circumstances?
  
- What were you supposed to learn from the experience?
  
- How well did the experience succeed in its objective?

### **2 Chronicles 12:14**

- Many people who depart from Christianity maintain that they do not fear God's judgment because they are good people. How do you answer them?

- What does Scripture say?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 13**



### **For Understanding**

#### **2 Chronicles 13:5**

- In a “covenant of salt”, what does salt symbolize?
  
- What is the basis for this belief about the Davidic covenant?

- How is the same expression used in Num 18:19?

## **2 Chronicles 13:8–12**

- What does Abijah reason that God will do?
  
- What contrast is he making?

## **2 Chronicles 13:8**

- What is the “kingdom of the Lord”?
  
- What are the golden calves?
  
- Though treated as gods, what are they in reality?



## **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 13:4–12**

- Read the note for vv. 8–12. Given that understanding, what does Abijah hope to accomplish with his speech to the enemy soldiers?

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- Why do certain sports figures (such as boxers) taunt their opponents before the fight begins?

### **2 Chronicles 13:14**

- When you feel yourself surrounded by difficulty, what part does prayer play in your response to the situation?
- What form does the prayer take: praise and thanks, repentance and forgiveness, or a panicky prayer for help?
- Is your prayer informed by a sense of trust or an undertone of worry?

### **2 Chronicles 13:18**

- The Chronicler indicates that the men of Judah prevail because they rely on the Lord. When you succeed in overcoming a difficulty, to what agency do you typically credit your success: luck, divine Providence, you own skill, others' mistakes?
- How quickly do you remember to give thanks to God?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 14



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 14:1

- Who is Asa?
- Over all, why does the Chronicler approve of his reign?
- Nevertheless, in what did his lack of trust in God result?

- What is the “rest” mentioned here, and what does it allow?

### **2 Chronicles 14:3**

- To which territory are Asa’s efforts to rid the land of idolatry confined?

- What are the pillars that are mentioned?

- What are Asherim?

### **2 Chronicles 14:9–15**

- When does victory come for Asa?

- What happens when he shifts his focus to human alliances?

- What is the lesson?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 14:3–5

- As king, Asa accomplishes several external religious reforms, including commanding obedience to the Law of God. How difficult would the *internal* reforms be?
  
- What would need to change for his reforms truly to take hold?

### 2 Chronicles 14:11

- St. Paul writes that God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12:9). By confessing his weakness, how would Asa expect God's power to be made perfect in his situation?
  
- How would God's power be made perfect when you are confronted with your own weakness?

### 2 Chronicles 14:14

- According to the note for this verse, the text speaks of a paralyzing fear of the Lord. What kind of fear is the fear of the Lord that Scripture recommends?
  
- Rather than spiritual paralysis, what does a proper fear of the Lord do for you?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 15



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 15:2

- What conviction is central to the theology of Chronicles?
- According to St. Jerome, what are we told in the Scriptures?
- If we could be immersed in the waters of Baptism continuously, what would happen to us?

## **2 Chronicles 15:9**

- Why did some members of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh flee south to Judah?
  
- What happened later to these migrants from the northern tribes?
  
- Why is the southern tribe of Simeon mentioned here?

## **2 Chronicles 15:12**

- In this covenant renewal ceremony, to what do Israel and its king recommit themselves?
  
- Which other kings in Chronicles tried to lead the nation in this way?



## **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 15:2**

- How do you go about seeking the Lord?
  
- How do you know when you have found him?

## *2 Chronicles*

- How far can you trust your feelings in such matters?
  
- What are some better standards of judgment than feelings?

### **2 Chronicles 15:12**

- Of what use is a covenant renewal ceremony?
  
- How often have you renewed the promises of your Baptism or your marriage?
  
- What has been the effect of such renewals on your determination to observe the promises?

### **2 Chronicles 15:14**

- According to CCC 2150–51, why is taking an oath such a serious matter?
  
- What sin does one commit if he fails to keep the promise sworn (see 2152)?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 16



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 16:1

- Why does the number of the thirty-sixth year of the reign of King Asa appear to be problematic?
- Although no definitive solution to this discrepancy has been found, what is one possibility that might explain it?
- Who is Baasha?

## *2 Chronicles*

- What does he hope to do by fortifying Ramah?
- What does the problem of southbound traffic confirm about the Chronicler's report?

### **2 Chronicles 16:7–9**

- Why is King Asa rebuked for his military alliance with Syria?
- Beyond this, how does the king show blatant disrespect for the Lord?
- When are hopes for Asa's repentance dashed?
- In what form does divine discipline follow?

### **2 Chronicles 16:14**

- What is the "very great fire" mentioned?
- What indicates that cremation was not in view? Why?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 16:2-4

- Why is giving or taking a bribe considered immoral?
  
- Of the ten commandments, which does bribery violate?

### 2 Chronicles 16:10

- As you review the career of Asa in this and the preceding chapters, does his treatment of Hanani the seer fit with his character or is it out of character?
  
- What part of Hanani's word infuriates the king?
  
- Why do people become angry when they are confronted with their wrongdoing?

### 2 Chronicles 16:12

- Does the Chronicler imply in this verse that seeking help from doctors indicates a lack of faith in God?
  
- What is Asa's sin, in this case?

- Why are seeking medical help and relying on God for help not contradictory?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 17**



### **For Understanding**

#### **2 Chronicles 17:1**

- As the fourth king of Judah, for what is Jehoshaphat praised?
  
- Despite his piety, for what is he criticized?

- Historically, what does Jehoshaphat probably spend the initial years of his kingship doing?

### **2 Chronicles 17:7–9**

- What does Jehoshaphat commission royal and religious leaders to do?
  
- Why is this needed?
  
- Who are supposed to be the primary instructors in the faith?

### **2 Chronicles 17:9**

- To what book is the “book of the law” probably a reference?



### **For Application**

### **2 Chronicles 17:6**

- In our culture, how might one demonstrate courage in the ways of the Lord?
  
- Why would the practice of the faith require some level of moral courage?

## 2 Chronicles 17:7–9

- Read the note for these verses. How would you describe the need for adult catechesis in our culture?
  
- How do you think that need is being met?
  
- Who is mainly responsible for this catechesis?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 18



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 18:1–34

- What happens with the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in these verses?
- If a political reunion of the tribes is not envisioned here, what is?

#### 2 Chronicles 18:1

- To whom is Jehoshaphat's first-born son, Jehoram, married?
- When will the consequences of this union prove disastrous?
- Who is Ahab?
- For what does Scripture indict him and his wife, Jezebel?
- For what is Jehoshaphat later rebuked?

## 2 Chronicles 18:7

- What is the prophet Micaiah summoned to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why is he imprisoned even though he is the only true prophet among the 400?

## 2 Chronicles 18:18–21

- What is the subject of Micaiah's vision?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- To whom is access to the divine council given?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What does this vision reveal about Ahab's prophets?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why is God himself not guilty of deception?



## For Application

## 2 Chronicles 18:5–6

- Why do you think Jehoshaphat distrusts the word of 400 prophets of Ahab's kingdom and asks for verification from someone else?

- For what kind of prophet is the king of Judah looking?

### **2 Chronicles 18:12–13**

- Have you ever been asked to go along with the majority opinion, despite having a contrary view about a course of action?
  
- What did you decide to do?
  
- Afterward, what did you think of your decision?

### **2 Chronicles 18:18–22**

- Micaiah's parable describes how the Lord directs a lying spirit to deceive Ahab's court prophets. What does that say about Ahab? about his prophets? about the Lord himself?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 19



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 19:3

- What is to King Jehoshaphat's credit?

- What is St. Basil's advice to someone witnessing his neighbor committing sin, and what does that have to do with Jehoshaphat?

#### 2 Chronicles 19:5–11

- How does Jehoshaphat implement legal reforms in line with Deuteronomy?

- Who has primary jurisdiction over religious and civil matters, respectively?

## **2 Chronicles 19:7**

- What is the standard of justice in the courts?
  
- Thus, whom do judges represent, and to whom are they accountable?
  
- What does the name Jehoshaphat mean in Hebrew?



## **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 19:3**

- Read the note for this verse, especially the commentary by St. Basil that is quoted. What do you think of St. Basil's advice?
  
- On what do you dwell when you see people committing what you know is objectively sin?
  
- What are you entitled to judge, and what must you avoid judging?

**2 Chronicles 19:6–7**

- Jehoshaphat commands judges to avoid three things. What are they?
  
- On what basis are judges to give sentence?
  
- If a judge is a Christian, what part does fear of the Lord play?

**2 Chronicles 19:9–10**

- What is the educational function of the law?
  
- What purpose is the instruction supposed to serve?
  
- Who is responsible for exercising it?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 20



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 20:12

- What is Jehoshaphat humbly confessing?
  
- What is one of the virtues that makes Jehoshaphat a model of godly kingship?

#### 2 Chronicles 20:17

- What other incident does Jahaziel's appeal to "stand still and see" resemble?

- What does the Lord become when people place their faith in him?

## 2 Chronicles 20:21

- What is “holy array”?
  
- What do others suggest it describes about the Lord?

## 2 Chronicles 20:26

- What does the Hebrew word *berakah* mean?
  
- For whom is the valley named, and why?



## For Application

## 2 Chronicles 20:12

- How do you approach God when you face a problem or a relationship that you do not know how to resolve?
  
- How difficult do you find it to trust in God at such times?

- What is your prayer like at such times?

## **2 Chronicles 20:17**

- Psalm 46:10 advises us to “be still and know that I am God.” What kind of stillness does the psalm advise?
- How is that stillness an advantage when you face trouble?

## **2 Chronicles 20:22**

- Often, soldiers in ancient armies sang as they went into battle. How would singing affect them in the fight?
- When you are worried or frightened, what can singing to the Lord do for you?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 21



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 21:1–20**

- With what is Jehoram, the fifth king of Judah, charged?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In response, with what does the Lord chastise him?

#### **2 Chronicles 21:7**

- What is the effect of Jehoram's killing spree on the Davidic dynasty?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the only thing that prevents that from happening?

#### **2 Chronicles 21:12**

- In what two respects is Elijah's appearance in this passage unique?

#### **2 Chronicles 21:19**

- What was the fitting punishment for the king's monstrous crimes?

- What honors is Jehoram denied?



### For Application

#### **2 Chronicles 21:3**

- Read Lk 12:13. How do you relate to the brother who complained to Jesus about his brother sharing the inheritance?
- How does your family handle distribution of possessions as an inheritance?
- How well do those entitled to family possessions accept this method of distribution?

#### **2 Chronicles 21:7**

- On what basis does the endurance of the Church to the end of time rest?
- How does that give you hope for her future?

#### **2 Chronicles 21:18**

- Jehoram's incurable disease developed as part of God's judgment. What is the most serious illness you or members of your family have had?

- How do you view God's hand in it?
  
- How does your opinion affect your trust in his love for you?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 22**



### **For Understanding**

#### **2 Chronicles 22:1**

- By what other name is Ahaziah, the sixth king of Judah, known?

- What makes his short reign an evil one?

## **2 Chronicles 22:2**

- What makes Ahaziah's age, given in this verse, possibly a scribal error?
- Who is Athaliah?
- Driven by a perverse ambition for power, what does she try to do?
- What does Chronicles' omission of its customary enthronement and obituary notices for Athaliah imply?

## **2 Chronicles 22:11**

- Who is Jeho-shabeath?
- Who is the sole survivor of David's royal line, and through whose shrewd thinking did he survive?
- When will he come to the throne, and how long will he reign?

- What does Jehoiada the priest orchestrate, and what will he become?



## **For Application**

### **2 Chronicles 22:3**

- From which of your parents did you receive most of your formation in discerning right from wrong?
  
- What were some of the moral principles you were taught?
  
- How united were your parents with each other in your moral formation?

### **2 Chronicles 22:7**

- What seems to be a mere coincidence (Ahaziah's visit to Joram) is viewed by the Chronicler as ordained by God. As you look back on your life, what apparent coincidences proved to be major turning points directed or at least allowed by God?
  
- How did they influence the direction of your life?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 23



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 23:1

- What persons pledge support for Joash?
  
- Who is included in this group?

#### 2 Chronicles 23:11

- Of what is the royal crown a sign?

- To what is the covenant referred?
- What does the anointing symbolize?
- In Israel, for whom is the rite of anointing performed?

## 2 Chronicles 23:17

- What is the house of Baal?
- Who likely commissioned its building?
- On what authority do the people slay the priest of Baal?



## For Application

## 2 Chronicles 23:1

- How does Jehoiada's decision to delay action against Athaliah for six years demonstrate the virtue of patience?

- Have you ever practiced similar patience in your own pursuits?

## **2 Chronicles 23:11**

- Read the note for this verse. What was the purpose of giving the seven-year-old king a copy of Deuteronomy?
  
- When people assume a political or civic office, where do they learn about the duties and limitations of their office?

## **2 Chronicles 23:16**

- Look up Deut 17:14–20. What are the king's responsibilities as enumerated there?
  
- What should the requirement that the king read the law daily say to you about why you should become intimate with Scripture?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 24



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 24:1

- How does Joash, the seventh king of Judah, behave as long as Jehoiada the priest is alive?
- What happens to his reign when the priest dies?
- What does the Lord do in response to this radical turnaround?

## **2 Chronicles 24:4**

- What is needed for Solomon's Temple, which was constructed more than 120 years before Joash came to the throne?
- What are set aside to finance the project?
- Who first undertakes the work of restoration, and what does the king do after a prolonged delay to complete the task?

## **2 Chronicles 24:20**

- Who is the Zechariah named here?
- Who is responsible for his stoning in the Temple?
- What two kinds of act is this execution?
- What was Zechariah's father careful to avoid doing in the Lord's house?



## For Application

### **2 Chronicles 24:5**

- Among the six precepts of the Church enumerated in CCC 2041–43 is the law that Catholics are to “provide for the [material] needs of the Church”. How often does the church in your area request monies for parish or diocesan needs?
- How promptly are these requests met?
- How urgent do you think these needs are?

### **2 Chronicles 24:8–11**

- How does your diocese raise money from various parishes for its needs?
- For what are these collected funds used?
- To what extent are these funds used to help the parishes themselves?

### **2 Chronicles 24:12–14**

- What repairs or remodeling have been completed on your parish church in recent years?

- What do you think is still needed?
  
- How have the completed repairs or remodeling projects influenced the conduct of the liturgy?

## **2 Chronicles 24:22**

- How do Zechariah's last words compare or contrast with those of Jesus on the Cross?
  
- What would you like your last words to be?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 25



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 25:1**

- How is Amaziah, the eighth king of Judah, commended, and for what is he faulted?
  
- What do chronological factors suggest about how he reigned?

#### **2 Chronicles 25:8**

- What makes Israel invincible on the battlefield?

#### **2 Chronicles 25:17**

- What does Amaziah of Judah mean by inviting the king of Israel to come so they can “look one another in the face”?
  
- What is he about to learn?

#### **2 Chronicles 25:23**

- How much of Jerusalem’s north wall is dismantled by Joash of Israel?

- Between which city gates is the breach made?



### **For Application**

#### **2 Chronicles 25:2**

- Note the Chronicler's judgment of Amaziah. What does it mean to serve the Lord with a "blameless heart"?
- If sanctification is the will of God for you (1 Thess 4:3), how do you pursue it within your state of life?
- Where do you look for help in your pursuit of holiness?

#### **2 Chronicles 25:9–10, 13–16**

- Why do you think that Amaziah, who obeyed one prophet, turned away from the Lord and refused to listen to another?
- Why do people sometimes get angry at God?
- Into what other sins can such anger lead one?

## 2 Chronicles 25:20

- How is it God's doing when we refuse to listen to good advice and suffer the consequences?
  
- Does God *cause* or *allow* us to fall victim to our own pride and imprudence and their consequences?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 26



### For Understanding

## 2 Chronicles 26:1

- What kind of king is Uzziah, ninth king of Judah, and so what does the Lord do with him?

## *2 Chronicles*

- However, what brings divine judgment on him and in what form?
  
- Chronologically, with what do the first years of Uzziah's reign overlap?

### **2 Chronicles 26:16**

- In what two ways does Uzziah encroach upon the domain of Israel's ordained clergymen?
  
- For these offenses, how is he stricken, and whom does this recall?
  
- How do the *Apostolic Constitutions* apply this incident as a lesson to Christian laity?
  
- Why no one should dare to thrust himself into the priesthood who has not received that dignity?
  
- Where does the altar of incense stand in the Temple?

### **2 Chronicles 26:21**

- What does the Mosaic Law require regarding lepers in the community of Israel, and where are they barred from going?

- What did this mean for King Uzziah's son Jotham?

## 2 Chronicles 26:22

- Which prophet is Isaiah?
- However, since the canonical text of Isaiah says nothing about the actions or achievements of Uzziah, to what work must the Chronicler be referring?



## For Application

## 2 Chronicles 26:5

- What is the connection between seeking the Lord and prosperity?
- What kind of prosperity does the Gospel promise?

## 2 Chronicles 26:16

- In a dictionary, look up the word *arrogance* and the companion verb *arrogate*. What are the conditions that lead up to Uzziah's arrogance?
- What does he arrogate to himself?

- How might arrogance manifest itself in the spiritual life of people who otherwise honestly seek the Lord?

## **2 Chronicles 26:18–20**

- Why would anyone want to arrogate to himself the functions of the priesthood?
  
- If the penalty for someone who does that is not a physical disease, what might it be?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 27



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 27:1

- Which king of Judah is Jotham?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What happens to him in his major undertakings?

#### 2 Chronicles 27:3

- Why is the upper gate called the Benjamin Gate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is Ophel?



### For Application

#### 2 Chronicles 27:2

- In general, should a leader be held responsible for subordinates' misdeeds?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What conditions or circumstances might excuse the leader from failure to correct them?

## 2 Chronicles 27:3–4

- Building projects seem to be a prime component of a leader’s legacy. What sorts of building should pastors of churches undertake?
- What should be the criteria of their pastoral success?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 28



### For Understanding

## 2 Chronicles 28:1

- As the eleventh king of Judah, how is Ahaz remembered?

## *2 Chronicles*

- What do his most deplorable actions include?
- For what else is he faulted in addition to his religious apostasy?

### **2 Chronicles 28:3**

- Where is Hinnom?
- What kind of sacrifice was practiced in the pagan cult of Molech?

### **2 Chronicles 28:11–15**

- What happens to the war captives from Judah?
- For what does the kindness of the “good Samaritans” provide partial inspiration?
- To what do both Jesus and the Chronicler refer regarding the care of the distressed victims?

### **2 Chronicles 28:24**

- What does Ahaz do to the gates of the Temple and to Mosaic religion?

- In its place, what does he promote?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 28:1

- Read the note for this verse. What might the catalogue of deplorable actions tell you about the personality of someone like Ahaz? For example, how confident of himself does he seem to be?
- What does he hope to gain by resorting to human sacrifice and idolatry?
- What does anyone hope to achieve by exchanging one religion for another?

### 2 Chronicles 28:5–6

- Notice the causality stated in these verses by the words “therefore” and “because”. To what cause does the Chronicler assign these defeats?
- How would a modern secular interpreter evaluate their cause?
- As a Christian, which interpretation do you think is more reasonable, and on what grounds?

## 2 Chronicles 28:9

- Has your anger ever carried you too far in responding to its cause?
- If so, what made you recognize that you had gone too far?
- What did you do about it?

## 2 Chronicles 28:11–15

- Read the note for these verses and compare them with Lk 10:30–37. What episodes in the history of your country can you recall when the military acted in a similar manner toward defeated captives?
- What military or political considerations motivated this treatment?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 29



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 29:1**

- For what does Chronicles applaud King Hezekiah?
- What characterizes his reign?
- With what does Hezekiah struggle at the end of his life?
- Historically, what do the days of Hezekiah bring to mind?
- Chronologically, when would his independent reign have begun?

#### **2 Chronicles 29:12–19**

- What is the subject of these verses?
- Who carries out the task of re-consecration?

## 2 Chronicles 29:17

- What is the Hebrew name of the first month?
- What does cleansing the Lord's Temple at the start of the new liturgical year signify?
- What does it perhaps also recall?

## 2 Chronicles 29:34

- What did Moses appoint Levites to do?
- In Hezekiah's day, what does a temporary shortage of priests necessitate?



### For Application

## 2 Chronicles 29:6

- Notice the language Hezekiah uses about the body in this verse. What does turning one's face to or away from another communicate?
- What does turning one's back to someone usually signify?

## *2 Chronicles*

- In prayer, in what direction does the Church usually ask God to turn his face?
  
- Where should we turn ours?

### **2 Chronicles 29:11**

- How might Hezekiah's address to the Levites be applied to you?
  
- How has God chosen you to stand in his presence in our day and age?

### **2 Chronicles 29:12–19**

- According to the Catechism (CCC 1181–86), what must a church building accomplish in the hearts of worshipers?
  
- When a church that has been desecrated has been restored for worship, why must it be rededicated or re-consecrated?
  
- What is the purpose of the rededication?

## 2 Chronicles 29:34

- The Vatican II document on the Church (*Lumen Gentium* 29) approved the restoration of the permanent diaconate as part of the threefold hierarchy of Orders instituted by Jesus Christ. Why is it inadequate to say that the diaconate alleviates the shortage of priests?
- What does the Catechism (CCC 1570) say about the functions of deacons?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 30



### For Understanding

## 2 Chronicles 30:1–27

- In what way is the great Passover of Hezekiah a theological landmark in the history of the divided monarchy?

- In whose times will all Israel be restored to a common faith and fellowship?

## **2 Chronicles 30:2**

- When does Passover normally fall?
  
- What causes a delay this time?
  
- What provision does the Torah allow for Passover?

## **2 Chronicles 30:17**

- Who normally kills the lamb, and who collects the blood of the sacrifice?



## **For Application**

## **2 Chronicles 30:1**

- What does Passover celebrate?
  
- Why should it be celebrated in groups, either by large numbers or by families?

## Word Study: *Gladness* (2 Chronicles 30:21).

- What does the Hebrew noun *simḥah* mean?
- With what outward actions does it sometimes indicate joy, and with what is rejoicing in this way often associated?
- What can the term also mean as an interior gladness of heart?
- As a recurring theme in Chronicles, how is joy expressed especially in liturgical assemblies?

- What is the “Christian Passover”?

- How does the Church celebrate it?

## 2 Chronicles 30:9

- What has the mercy of God meant to you, personally?

- How have you experienced it?
  
- How have you shared this mercy with others?

## 2 Chronicles 30:18–19

- Contrast these verses with the scene in Mt 22:10–13. What excuses the pilgrims for whom Hezekiah prays but does not excuse the man without a wedding garment in Jesus' parable?
  
- If people approach the Eucharist with a casual attitude about spiritual cleanliness, what is the probable result (see 1 Cor 11:27–29)?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 31



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 31:1**

- How far does Hezekiah's reform extend, and in what way?
- What are the pillars?
- What are the Asherim?

#### **2 Chronicles 31:7**

- What are the third and seventh months like?
- What do they constitute?

#### **2 Chronicles 31:16**

- What happens with children at three years of age?
- For what would distributors of freewill offerings have to account?

- Though textual evidence is lacking, why do some scholars think the number was miscopied during transmission?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 31:1–19

- What was Hezekiah's reform trying to accomplish?
- What should any reform of the liturgy try to accomplish?
- What is the difference between *reform* and *revision*?

### 2 Chronicles 31:4

- St. Paul taught that church leaders have a right to be paid for their work of preaching the Gospel, though he refused payment himself (1 Cor 9:7–11). For the typical parish priest, what does that work involve?
- What might the priest need in order to do that kind of work?
- How much should he be paid for it?

## 2 Chronicles 31:5–6

- What is the purpose of the tithe in these verses (hint: see v. 10)?
  
- What is the purpose of tithing in the modern Church?
  
- Although tithing in the strict sense is not required in the Catholic Church, why is it still a good idea to practice tithing?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 32



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 32:1**

- Who is Sennacherib?
- What does he do in 701 B.C. before threatening to march on Jerusalem?
- What is the purpose of his military assault?

#### **2 Chronicles 32:7**

- In addition to being an encouragement to his people, on what is the king's confidence based?

#### **2 Chronicles 32:9–19**

- In what kind of warfare does Sennacherib engage?
- What do these tactics include?
- What does he hope that Jerusalem will do?

## 2 Chronicles 32:21

- What is the angel sent to do?
- How do the enemy soldiers die?
- When does Sennacherib's assassination take place?

## 2 Chronicles 32:30

- What does Hezekiah do to the waters of the Gihon spring?
- How is the tunnel cut, and how long is it?
- What have archaeologists discovered?



## For Application

## 2 Chronicles 32:7–8

- The Catechism says that “the solicitude of divine providence is *concrete* and *immediate*” (CCC 303). How confident does Hezekiah sound in his message to his commanders in the face of such grave danger?

## *2 Chronicles*

- How confident are you in God's concrete and immediate care for your needs?
  
- To what experiences of it can you point?

### **2 Chronicles 32:9–19**

- According to the note for these verses, what is the objective of Sennacherib's messengers?
  
- What is their fundamental attitude toward the God of Israel?
  
- How is that attitude similar to expressions of contempt for faith that you have heard?
  
- What is your answer to it?

### **2 Chronicles 32:25**

- Of what kind of "return" is the Chronicler thinking?
  
- How can expressions of gratitude to God help protect one from the sin of pride?

## 2 Chronicles 32:31

- What usually seems to happen when God leaves us to ourselves?
  
- How do we make ourselves vulnerable on such occasions?
  
- What ought we to learn about ourselves?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 33



### For Understanding

#### **2 Chronicles 33:1**

- As the thirteenth king of Judah, for what is Manasseh infamous?
- Under his corrupt leadership, what happens in Judah?
- Nevertheless, despite the enormity of his crimes, what does Manasseh experience and try to do?
- What do ancient sources indicate about Judah under the kingship of Manasseh?

#### **2 Chronicles 33:6**

- What does Manasseh do to his sons?
- What are soothsaying and augury?

#### **2 Chronicles 33:12**

- What prayers does Solomon ask the Lord to hear?

- What does the example of Manasseh show about God?
- For whom does the exile and return of Manasseh from Babylon serve as a lesson?

## 2 Chronicles 33:21

- Why is Amon, the fourteenth king of Judah, assassinated?
- What may have been a factor in the coup?



## For Application

## 2 Chronicles 33:4–5

- Some Eastern religious and New Age practices, such as meditation techniques, have attracted a certain Christian interest. What reservations should a Christian have about using them? For example, why should a Christian be wary of practicing yoga?
- What are the ultimate objectives of Eastern prayer practices as opposed to Christian ones?

## 2 Chronicles 33:6

- According to the Catechism (2116–17), why are sorcery and consultation of mediums forbidden?

- What about the type of magic that one sees in stage performances?

## **2 Chronicles 33:10**

- How has the Lord spoken to our culture in this modern era?

- What heed have we given him?

## **4. 33:12–13**

- God sometimes uses danger, distress, and suffering to bring us to repentance. Has he ever used these tools in your life?
- To what extent were your troubles self-imposed, and to what extent were they caused by circumstances?
- At what point did you come to realize your need for the Lord and turn to him?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 34



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 34:1

- How does Scripture remember Josiah, the fifteenth king of Judah?
- What zealous crusade does he sponsor?
- Sadly, despite an exemplary life, what happens to him?

**2 Chronicles 34:5**

- On what teaching is using bones to desecrate cultic objects based?

**2 Chronicles 34:14**

- What is the book of the law that Hilkiah the high priest found?
  
- What probably happened to the scroll?
  
- What do some scholars claim about Deuteronomy without sufficient warrant?
  
- Apart from the silence of the narrator regarding the book's composition, why is this unlikely?

**2 Chronicles 34:24**

- What are the curses spoken of by the prophetess?
  
- How will they be manifest?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 34:3

- Young people in their teens and early twenties are often full of passion and zeal for causes. What causes have most inflamed your zeal?
- In what activities have you engaged to promote them?
- How has your enthusiasm translated into zeal for the gospel?

### 2 Chronicles 34:19

- Hebrews 4:12 says the word of God is living and active. What passages of Scripture have spoken most powerfully to you?
- Which of them have provided needed correction?
- Which have provided the most encouragement?

### 2 Chronicles 34:24–28

- Read the note for these verses. If you were to be told a combination of bad and good news, which would you rather hear first? Why?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 35



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 35:1–19

- What are these verses about?
- Why is it one of the crowning moments of Josiah's kingship?
- Once again, in whom does the Chronicler display a marked interest?

- Why does he admire Josiah?

## **2 Chronicles 35:20**

- Who is Neco?
  
- What does he ride out to do, and what happens when Josiah unwisely interferes?

## **2 Chronicles 35:21**

- Ironically, who acts according to the will of God, and who acts against it?
  
- According to one Jewish tradition, what does the prophet Jeremiah urge Josiah to do?
  
- According to St. Jerome, why are many people called righteous in the Scriptures, despite their faults?
  
- How does this apply to Josiah?



## For Application

### 2 Chronicles 35:1–19

- The note for these verses points to the Chronicler's interest in liturgy. Why should Christians be concerned with liturgy done well?
  
- Why is the Church adamant that no one change the liturgical celebrations on his own initiative (see CCC 1140ff.)?

### 2 Chronicles 35:1

- Read the note for this verse. What is the first month of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church?
  
- Why does the liturgical year begin then?
  
- What is the central feast of that year?

### 2 Chronicles 35:10–15

- What is the largest and most impressive liturgical event you have ever attended?
  
- What made it so impressive?

- Which ministers were involved in this celebration?
  
- What roles did the laity play?

## **2 Chronicles 35:21**

- Read the note for this verse, especially St. Jerome's commentary. Why, in recent years, have certain saints like John Paul II and Junipero Serra been canonized despite criticism of their various faults?
  
- What does the Church primarily look for in the characters of those she proposes for veneration?
  
- What does that standard suggest about their shortcomings?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 36



### For Understanding

#### 2 Chronicles 36:5

- As the seventeenth king of Judah, what does Jehoiakim witness?
- What do the names of Neco's puppet king mean?

#### 2 Chronicles 36:11

- Who is Zedekiah?
- What ensures the demise of Judah and Jerusalem?
- How many of Josiah's sons wore the Davidic crown, and who were they?

#### 2 Chronicles 36:17–21

- How does the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem begin, and how does it end?
- How long a time will Judah spend exiled in Babylon?

## 2 Chronicles

- Since national catastrophe and exile are covenant curses that come with continued defiance of God's Law, what is their aim?
- In the design of Providence, what is the role of Babylon?

### 2 Chronicles 36:21

- The prophet Jeremiah prophesied that Judah would spend 70 years in exile; but since the return from exile began only 48 years after the final collapse of Judah, what do the words of Jeremiah seem to cover?
- To what span of time do some scholars relate the prophecy?
- What does it mean for the land to "enjoy its Sabbaths"?



### For Application

### 2 Chronicles 36:4

- Read the note for v. 5, which mentions the change of the king's name. Why does Jesus change Simon's name to Peter (Mt 16:18)?
- Even if the meaning of the change is slight, as in the case of Eliakim/Jehoiakim, what does it mean when a superior assigns a new name to an inferior?

## **2 Chronicles 36:9**

- The Chronicler's judgment of an eight-year-old king who reigned less than four months seems unduly harsh. Who was more likely doing the evil of which the child king is accused?
- Who is often at least morally responsible when a child commits a serious crime?
- All the same, at what age does the Church believe a person has attained the "age of discretion"?

## **2 Chronicles 36:16**

- In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul urges Christians not to despise prophecy (1 Thess 5:20). Apart from despising the prophetic message, how else can one despise prophesying?
- Why is that easier than despising the prophecy itself?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:



## Review and Respond

To complete your study of 2 Chronicles, prayerfully read it straight through, focusing on the biblical text alone. What stands out to you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. What is your response to him?