

## The Hearts of the Kings of Judah

Each king of Judah had his own attitude toward God and serving Him. Their attitudes toward God, and his will, helped determine whether God was pleased with them and blessed them.

We started our study with Solomon. He began to serve God, (II Chr. 1: 8 ó 11), but he let his wives turn his heart from Jehovah, (I Kings 11: 2- 4, 9). The kingdom divided as a result of his sin.

In the kingdom of Judah, Solomon's son, Rehoboam, suffered because of this bad influence. He was evil because he did not prepare his heart to seek God, ( II Chr. 12: 13 ó 14).

The son of Rehoboam, Abijah, did not have a heart willing to do God's will either ( I Kings 15: 1 ó 3 ).

Asa, however, was a righteous man who did right in the sight of God and commanded Judah to seek the Lord ( II Chr. 14: 1 ó 4). God was more important than family ties to him ( I Kings 15:3).

Unfortunately, Asa did not keep his heart right with God all of his life. Even before his death he relied on the king of Syria in battle with Baasha, and turned to the physicians instead of God with his diseased feet. This shows us that if we are not diligent our hearts can change.

Jehoshaphat, Asa's son, was a righteous man who looked to God and did His commandments ( II Chr. 17: 6). He was ready to look to God for guidance in every situation that arose ( I Kings 22: 5, 7 ; II Kings 3:11). God blessed Jehoshaphat with riches and honor, but he was not wise concerning his friends. He made an alliance with Ahab, king of Israel, that became the downfall of Judah ( II Chr. 19: 1 ó 3).

Because of the influence and alliance with Ahab, Jehoshaphat's son , Jehoram, was evil. He even murdered his own brothers (II Chr. 21: 2 ó 4). When he died, no one regretted his death ( II Chr. 21:20).

Jehoram had a son named Ahaziah, and he was evil also ( II Kings 8: 26 ó 27). Ahaziah also had an alliance with the king of Israel, Jehoram. He was killed while in a battle with Jehoram of Israel ( II Kings 9: 27).

When Ahaziah's wicked mother, Athaliah, saw that he was dead, she put herself in power. Her heart definitely was not with God. The first thing she did as ruler was to kill her own children and grandchildren ( II Chr. 22: 9 ó 12).

Providentially, one son, Joash, was not killed and was put on the throne as a child.

Although he was only seven years old, he was taught God's ways by Jehoida the priest, and did right before God as long as Jehoida lived. (II Kings 12:2).

Can you see that each man's own heart determined whether he was in obedience to and blessed by God or not? Each man had to decide for himself what his heart would be like. A man with a good heart, willing to obey God, was blessed by God. He was protected by God. He also was a good influence on his children and future generations.

Men whose hearts did not seek God were not blessed, and they had a great influence for evil upon their children. Their eternal fate was determined by their actions, and to a great extent determined the fate of their children also.

**APPLICATION:**

Did each king determine his own attitude toward God and doing His will? \_\_\_\_\_

Do WE determine OUR attitude toward God and doing His will? Matt. 5: 8; Matt. 6: 19  
6 21\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of things did each good king do to insure they were following God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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What kind of things can WE do to insure that we are following God? Eph. 6:1; II Tim. 2:  
15; Acts 17:11 ; Phil. 4:8 ; Acts 9: 36; Matt. 20:20, 26 ó 28 ; James 1:27 ; Acts 15: 36;  
Matt. 25: 35 ó 36 ; Phil. 4:6 ; Matt. 12: 34 ó 35\_\_\_\_\_

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What things does God hate? Prov. 6: 16 ó 19\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Write YES by the statements that show a right heart toward God. NO by the ones that do not.**

- \_\_\_ I realize that doing God's will ( i.e. study, Bible lesson, prayer, attendance) is MY responsibility before God, not my parent's.
- \_\_\_ When there is a new person visiting my classroom at church, I make a point to meet them and make them feel welcome.
- \_\_\_ I repeat bad things I have heard about my acquaintances at school.
- \_\_\_ I was so busy this week that I did not get my Bible lesson.
- \_\_\_ When I am reprimanded by my parents I roll my eyes and make disrespectful remarks to them.
- \_\_\_ I try to allow myself enough time every day for Bible study.
- \_\_\_ I missed Wednesday night services to attend a school function.
- \_\_\_ I helped my mother prepare food for a sick or bereaved person at church.
- \_\_\_ When reprimanded by my parents or teachers I make disrespectful faces or gestures toward their backs.
- \_\_\_ I make unkind remarks to my friends at school and church.
- \_\_\_ I am concerned about a friend who is doing wrong and talk to them about it.
- \_\_\_ I invite my friends to church services, and try to teach them the truth.
- \_\_\_ I watched a movie at my friend's house that I know my parents would not allow me to watch.
- \_\_\_ I use curse words and profanity at school.
- \_\_\_ I think about the Lord's death when I partake of the Lord's Supper.
- \_\_\_ My parents don't approve of my friends, but I don't care because I want to be with them anyway.
- \_\_\_ I put off doing whatever my parents ask me to do until I want to do it.

**DO YOU HAVE A HEART THAT IS RIGHT TOWARD GOD?**