

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for July 2:

2 Kings 20:1-22:2:

Chapter 20 tells of the rest of Hezekiah's reign. He became ill to the point of death. Isaiah, the prophet eventually communicated to him the message that God heard the prayers of Hezekiah and lengthened his life by fifteen years. The sign this would take place was the miraculous moving backward of the sun's shadow. Though Hezekiah was a good and godly king, nevertheless, he showed to Babylonian envoys all his treasures. This was out of pride (2 Chronicles 32:25) and was most likely unwise as it not only made Babylon hungry to come and take it, but perhaps even showed them there were treasures they would not have otherwise known. In response, the LORD tells Hezekiah that eventually everything in Jerusalem would be carried away to Babylon.

After Hezekiah died, we learn his son, Manasseh, took the throne by himself. He had become co-regent with his father at age 12 (21:1). Altogether he reigned a long 55 years, yet was a very wicked king (21:1-2). His heinous and idolatrous acts are recorded in the rest of chapter 21. Because of this evil, the LORD makes it clear that He will give Judah into the hands of enemies (21:13-15). Though Manasseh eventually did repent of his evil (2 Chronicles 33:10-20), Amon, his wicked son, never did. Amon's reign is recorded in 21:19-26. His son, Josiah, a very godly king, took the throne next (21:26-22:2). Josiah will be the last good and godly king. Judah is overall on a downward spiral toward destruction and judgment, even though there was great revival under Josiah, as will be seen tomorrow.

Acts 21:18-36:

After Paul's arrival in Jerusalem, the believers glorified God in response to all he reported. Yet, there was concern over rumors about Paul and whether or not he taught Jews to forsake teachings of Moses (for example, telling them not to circumcise sons). To demonstrate this was not so, he was asked to participate in a Nazirite vow (cf. Numbers 6:1-21) and also to pay for four other men under the same vow. Paul did this since he wanted to squelch the rumors. It shows that Paul is willing to go to great lengths not to be a stumbling block or to cause division. He would not compromise the gospel (see Galatians 1:8-10), yet he was willing to make other appropriate compromises.

In Acts 21:27-36 we discover Paul is arrested after an unruly mob threatened to put him to death. This sets the stage for what will happen from here on out in the book of Acts.

Psalms 150:1-6:

The entire collection of Psalms comes to a close with a repetitious and emphatic call for everything that has breath to praise the LORD in all places, in various ways, with great passion for who He is and what He has done. This is a fitting conclusion to the collection wherein over and over again the people of God are called to praise and worship the LORD in spite of whatever they are facing. Truly, the life of the true follower of the true triune God must be a person of praise.

Proverbs 18:9-10:

The person who is lazy is eventually destructive to himself and others. We are also reminded that our true protection is the LORD. Whenever danger or hard times come, those who know the LORD and are truly righteous will run to God and all He is and stands for and find safety. Such people look to God for ultimate help and no where else. Such is the practice of those who have paid attention to the wisdom of the LORD.