

GOD'S COVENANT IN ISRAEL (Southern Kingdom) 2 Chronicles 22–24

Memory Verse: *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it* (1 Cor. 10:13 ESV).

Background Helps:

This week we switch to the southern kingdom of Judah and to a focus on God's covenant with David. You will recall God's promise to David: "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations" (Ps. 89:4 ESV; cf. 1 Chron. 17:10b-14). But in our readings this week, the line of David is almost extinguished. Athaliah, daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel (the northern kingdom), and mother of King Ahaziah of Judah (the southern kingdom), usurped the throne of Judah "and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah" (i.e., David's line)—except for Joash, the infant son of Ahaziah, who escapes (2 Chron. 22:10-12). In Joash's seventh year, Athaliah is executed and the Davidic line is restored: "Behold, the king's son [Joash]! Let him reign, as the LORD spoke concerning the sons of David" (2 Chron. 23:3). This is not the first time that the "lamp of David" was almost extinguished. See 2 Chronicles 21:1-7, 16-20; 22:1.

Lesson Helps:

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn how God saved the royal line of David from extinction, so that they will trust God to be faithful to them.

A few tips for your lesson:

- Review God's promise to David in 2 Chronicles 17:10b-14,
- Briefly highlight earlier events when the "lamp of David" (2 Sam. 21:17; 1 Kings 11:36; 15:4; 2 Kings 8:19; 2 Chron. 21:7) was almost extinguished in 2 Chronicles 21:1-7, 16-20; 22:1. (You might use an oil lamp in class as an object lesson, at first burning brightly, but then turn the knob so that it is almost extinguished—but not quite! But be careful with the flame! A dimmer switch on an electric light would work also.)
- Focus on the story in 2 Chronicles 22-23, how the LORD delivered Joash and saved the Davidic line.
- Remind your students that the royal line of David eventually produced Jesus Christ, "the son of David," and the ultimate fulfillment of God's covenant promise to David.
- Review the memory verse. Show your students how God is faithful and will not allow them to be tempted beyond their ability but will also provide a way of escape. In other words, he will not allow "their lamp" to be extinguished either but will provide a way of escape and deliverance, just as he did for Joash. Consider specific ways in which the Lord delivers us.

Home Assignment:

 Read 2 Kings 17; 18:9-12.

 Memorize Psalm 25:10 ESV.