

THE LINE OF THE KING Matthew 1:6-14

Every child of David was a potential Messiah...generation after generation went by, and yet the Messiah did not come. It was only after a long wait that Jesus was born at last... and those who had been waiting saw him and rejoiced at his coming.

-James Montgomery Boice

I. A Line of Failure

- Rehoboam

-Manasseh

-Jechoniah

II. A Line of Faith

- Jehoshaphat

- Uzziah

- Hezekiah

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What is your middle name (if you choose to reveal it). Is there any special significance to it?

Into the Bible

2. In Deuteronomy 28, God lays out the blessings that come with obedience to his covenant and the consequences that come from disobedience. List some of the specific events from the reigns of the three good kings of Judah (Jehoshaphat, Uzziah and Hezekiah). How do they demonstrate God's faithfulness to the terms of the covenant? Do the same exercise for the three bad kings (Rehoboam, Manasseh, and Jeconiah). How do the events during their reigns and the eventual exile of Judah to Babylon also demonstrate his faithfulness to that covenant?

3. Read 2 Chronicles 10:1-19. In his first week as king, Rehoboam managed to split his kingdom in two and lose almost everything that David and Solomon had worked eighty years to secure for him. List some of the things that he did in his folly. Where could he have looked to find wisdom to tell him how a king ought to behave?

Application

4. Go back to the story of Manasseh in 2 Chronicles 33. Read verses 10-17. After all the evil in the early part of his reign, Manasseh repented and God restored him to his throne. But in verses 16-17, we learn that the people didn't give up their worship on the high places. What lesson can we learn for our lives about being whole-hearted in our worship of God?

5. The history of Israel shows a constant falling away from God into idolatry, followed by repentance, restoration, and more idolatry. Why does God continue to extend mercy to his people even after they turn away from him? What does this mean to you as a New Testament believer?

For Families

6. Were you raised by godly parents? If so, talk with your children this week about the legacy that they gave you and how you plan to pass it on to the next generation. If not, talk with your children about what your family can do now to start a godly legacy and pass it on.