

GOD REMEMBERS

God's Mercy (2 Chronicles 10-36)

Memory Verse: "Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all." 1 Chronicles 29:11



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- God's mercy does not ignore our sin; it repeatedly calls us to repentance, provides a way back to Him, and ultimately points us to His greatest act of mercy in Jesus Christ
 - Israel's cycle, and ours, makes God's mercy necessary: God blesses → God's people rebel → God warns → God's people suffer → God's people cry out → God shows mercy
 - Chronicles ends with a foreign king, Cyrus of Persia, showing mercy to Israel by allowing them to return and rebuild.
1. God's mercy warns before His judgement (2 Chronicles 10-20)
 - 2 Chronicles 10:7
 - Rehoboam rejects godly counsel (mercy); counsel is only as good as it is heeded
 - 2 Chronicles 11:2-4
 - God warns Rehoboam, even when he didn't listen previously (mercy)
 - 2 Chronicles 15:2
 - Asa learns that mercy must be followed with obedience, or judgment comes
 - Hebrews 3:15
 2. God's mercy calls rebellious people back to relationship: Mercy Calls and Disciplines (2 Chronicles 20-35)
 - 2 Chronicles 20:12,15
 - Jehoshaphat confesses that he cannot do it on his own, he needs God...so do YOU!
 - 2 Chronicles 21:7
 - God shows mercy to the lineage of David, even though they deserved removal; be willing to accept mercy, even for others, when it doesn't seem fair
 - 2 Chronicles 30:9, 18-20
 - Hezekiah is a clear example of mercy from God to His people, even a king
 - 2 Chronicles 33:10-13
 - Even a wicked king can repent through mercy being shown in judgment
 - 2 Chronicles 34:27
 - Josiah shows us how to respond to God's mercy: conviction → humility → repentance → reform

- 3.** God's mercy remains faithful even when judgment comes: Mercy Restores (2 Chronicles 36)
- 2 Chronicles 36:15-17
 - God sent many messengers, but the people continued to mock Him
 - Romans 2:4
 - 2 Chronicles 36:22-23
 - God shows His mercy, even through a Gentile king. His mercies are new every morning, great is His faithfulness!
 - Ephesians 2:4-5
 - Titus 3:5-7
 - Mercy is the avenue for life in the exile. Israel was allowed to return their earthly land, and we are allowed to enter our heavenly land. Don't waste mercy!

Questions:

- 1.** Read 2 Chronicles 36:15–16; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 2:4; Hebrews 3:12–15. Have we mistaken God's patience for God's approval? God repeatedly warned Judah before judgment came. What are some ways people today can mistake God's patience for permission to continue in sin? What warning from God's Word have you been tempted to ignore? Why is repentance itself evidence of God's mercy? What would it look like for you to respond to God's warning today rather than later?
- 2.** Read 2 Chronicles 30:1–9; 33:10–16; 34:26–33; Psalm 51:1–17; Luke 15:11–24; Acts 26:20. What does genuine repentance actually look like? Compare Hezekiah's call for Judah to return, Manasseh's repentance, Josiah's response to God's Word, David's repentance in Psalm 51, and the prodigal son's return. What common characteristics do you see? Where does your life currently need shûv—a genuine turning back to God? What specific action will demonstrate that repentance?
- 3.** Read 2 Chronicles 33:10–13; Proverbs 3:11–12; Hebrews 12:5–11; James 1:2–4. How can God's discipline actually be an expression of His mercy? Manasseh's suffering ultimately brought him to humility. How should Christians distinguish between: God's judgment, God's discipline, consequences of sinful choices, and ordinary suffering? How might God use difficult circumstances to expose something in your heart that otherwise might remain hidden? Instead of merely asking, "How can I get out of this?" what would it look like to ask, "Lord, what are You trying to accomplish in me through this?"
- 4.** Read 2 Chronicles 28:8–15; 30:18–20; Matthew 18:21–35; Ephesians 4:31–32; Colossians 3:12–13. How should receiving God's mercy change the way we treat other people? Judah repeatedly experienced God's mercy, yet God's people were sometimes unwilling to extend mercy to others. Why is it possible to receive God's mercy while becoming judgmental and unforgiving toward others? Who is someone toward whom God may be calling you to demonstrate the mercy you have received from Him? What step will you take this week?