

Aim:**Refer:** 2 Kings 11-12, 14-15; Great Controversy chapter 9

Ulric Zwingli was born around the same time as Martin Luther, in a herdsman's cottage in the Alps of Switzerland. His father wanted him to have a good education and while studying at Basel he was introduced to the truth of God's grace by a teacher of ancient languages who had found God while studying Greek and Hebrew. Zwingli's first job was as a priest to a church near his boyhood home and he studied the scriptures faithfully, realising the scriptures must explain themselves. When he heard Luther was preaching the same truth he praised God saying, "...the Spirit of God is in unison with itself, since both of us, without collusion (planning together) teach the doctrine of Christ."

In 1516 Zwingli was invited to preach in the convent in Einsiedeln. People travelled there from all over to visit a statue of the Virgin Mary, believing this would forgive their sins. Many found Zwingli's message of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus difficult, but others accepted it and the number of visitors to the shrines dropped causing a reduction in offerings and thus income for Zwingli, but he didn't care.

In an effort to gain control, the authorities of the church called him to work at a Cathedral in Zurich where they instructed him to assign the preaching to a cleric and concentrate on collecting offerings and payments. Zwingli however said that he would preach the gospel of Christ and no one could change his mind.

Two great forces came to Switzerland next: An Italian named Samson was given the right to sell forgiveness from sins in Switzerland like Tetzel was in Germany and at the same time a man named Lucian came, selling Luther's books. Luther's books with Zwingli's preaching greatly reduced Samson's success. In fact when Samson came to Zurich he couldn't sell a single pardon there!

The church leaders in Rome saw what was happening in Switzerland and sent three deputies to the council in Zurich seeking to stop Zwingli, but the council supported Zwingli because the Gospel had made Zurich a peaceful city. Next the church leaders invited Zwingli to participate in a debate to take place in the city of Baden. Seeing this invitation as a trap, Zwingli's supporters arranged for representatives to go in Zwingli's place and students wrote down what had been said each day and delivered it to Zwingli and returned his response to his representatives.

The church leaders eventually declared themselves winners of the debate but since Zwingli was not physically present, they could not arrest and kill him as had been their plan. As a result of the debates, two other towns in Switzerland declared that they would support the Reformation.

Review the chart of kings from last week and then add the follow kings to the bottom of Judah.

2 Kings 20:21 – 21:2 (Hezekiah's son Manasseh was evil)

Something interesting happened to Manasseh. Read 2 Chronicles 33:10-13

2 Chronicles 33:21-25 (Amon → Josiah)

2 Chronicles 35:20-22

Josiah was hit by a arrow during the battle and died.

2 Chronicles 36:1-6 (Jehoahaz a prisoner in Egypt and Eliakim/Jehoiakim made king then later taken as to Babylon)

2 Chronicles 36:9-13 (Jehoiachin to Babylon then Zedekiah rebels)

2 Chronicles 36:19-20

Zedekiah rebelled so Nebuchadnezzar returned and destroyed Jerusalem and took the people who survived the battles back to Babylon as prisoners.

Discuss: Martin Luther and Ulric Zwingli lived about the same time in different countries, they never met and they were already preaching the gospel before Zwingli even heard about Luther yet they preached the same things.

They both had access to the Bible and were willing to be led by God.

Ask: What sort of Bible did they have back in the days of the kings of Judah and Israel?

They didn't have one complete book of the Bible, nor did everyone have a copy. They had the writings of Moses, David, Solomon and the prophets which we now have in the Old Testament of our Bible; I don't know how many copies there were but I believe most people probably learnt by memorising. Elijah had started the Schools of the Prophets and at least in Jesus time, the Synagogues had schools too.

So when the King loved God, it was much easier for the people to learn about God. But at some point, during one of the times when an evil king had closed the temple, some of the scrolls had been lost.

Do we have that excuse for not knowing what the Bible says?
How many Bibles do you have? How many ways can you access the Bible?

Discuss: How do you feel about your Bible study habits? What can you do to improve them?

Read 2 Kings 23:24

One of the things that King Josiah did after he read the Book of the Law was to remove the mediums and spiritists.

Do you know what a medium or spiritist is? They are basically a prophet for Satan and God wants us to have nothing to do with them.

You might not know any people who claim to be a medium or spiritist but things of Satan are still all around us today.

Have you ever heard of stories or TV shows with:

- Pixie dust
- The Force
- Chants, spells,
- Magic, wands

Here are some examples:

- The Harry Potter Movies
- A lot of the Disney movies for example: Cinderella, Aladdin, Peter Pan, The Little Mermaid, Lego
- Star Wars
- I Dream of Jeanie
- Bewitched
- Sabrina
- Charmed
- Medium

What about toys? Would God want us using toys from movies with magic in them?

What about clothes?