

Day 59 – Apr. 20

This section of the history, which chronicles the reigns, genealogies, and major events of each king's life, has always felt much like the book of Judges to me. The opening of each section is back to formulaic; "_____ ruled in _____ for _____ years, was the _____ of _____ <insert ancestry here> and <choose one> obeyed the Lord/did evil in the Lord's sight."

The events of the king's lives draw me to the concept of legacy. Rehoboam is remembered for Egypt's attack and plundering of the temple. Abijam is remembered for, well, being David's descendant. Asa was remembered for religious reform and his treaty with the Aramites. And without *The Book of the History of the Kings of Judah*, we know precious little else.

Richard Rohr has written often and extensively on his idea of life as two journeys. The First journey is the beginning of our life where we are building ourselves. This includes building a marriage, a family, a job, a career, a reputation. We are concerned with success and self, with how we appear and achieving our goals. He likens this journey to the building of the vessel of ourselves.

But eventually, as we mature, we move on to the second journey. This journey is where we decide how to use this vessel we've built, what to do with our lives. We are far less interested in reputation and success and more interested in impacting the world and doing good for good's sake rather than our own. Many never enter the second journey and die still trying to achieve success and reputation.

So where does legacy fall? Is legacy about us, about our reputation and fame after we have died? Or is legacy about making a lasting impact on this world? As we build our vessel, we often think of enduring impact, but we also want this world to be a better place when we leave it than when we entered it.

What do you want your legacy to be? Do you have something you want written on your tombstone so others will remember you? Do you want a foundation to be in place to continue to serve this world whether people know your part in it or not? If, like the kings of Judah and Israel, only one paragraph can be written about you, what do you want it to say?