



Song of Redemption

Lynn Austin

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As King Hezekiah embraces God's Law, he leads his country into renewed prosperity. But following the will of Yahweh is a perplexing process, requiring unpopular choices--for both his personal life and political career. Now his archenemy's demands for tribute are forcing Hezekiah into a precarious situation.

Jerusha, a young Jewish woman far from home, has seen firsthand what the dreaded invaders are capable of. As the powerful Assyrian army sweeps through the northern provinces, leaving little but devastation in its wake, Jerusha longs to escape. Her desperate will to live could become a link to Jerusalem's survival.

With Assyria on the march, moving closer to the heart of Judah, Hezekiah's decision to follow the everlasting One is about to face the ultimate test.

Song of Redemption Details

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From Reader Review Song of Redemption for online ebook

Becky says

I loved this book. For me, it is a 5-star rating. Why is that? This novel earned my elusive 5-star rating because of the self-examination it stirred within my soul. When I find myself thinking about my own life and evaluating my faith and my convictions long after finishing a book, the author gets the rating. In addition, it sparked some pretty good conversations with my teenage son.

Was the writing perfect? No. However, the author is bringing the Old Testament to life. She doesn't avoid the hard topics, and she handles them well. The Assyrians are involved so this story does involve rape, torture, and death. I felt that she wrote enough to demonstrate how evil they were, but didn't cross the road into glamorization.

Honestly, I have always had a difficult time with Isaiah. I have found him a bit difficult to understand. However, within the context of this story, I have begun to gain a much greater appreciation of him. The author does not use the King James Version, so I find myself rewording certain passages with the text I know. For the first time, they are not merely words on paper.

As others have mentioned, this is a modernized story. I do not find that to be a distraction. Rather, I find that it gives me a greater desire to search out the true historical context.

June says

I have been reading a few books by Lynn Austin for a while now, this is about the second for the year. She is an award-winning author in Christian literature. She writes both historical and contemporary fiction. This is the second book in the Chronicles of the Kings series. This looks at the reign of Hezekiah in Judah in 761 BC. He has decided to trust Yahweh to guide his decisions and live according to the laws of Torah.

It will be hard for me to be distant in this review. This book has been such a timely read. I related well to the struggles of both Hezekiah as he seeks to be a king guided by the laws of Torah and being rational/common sense and those of Jerusha(the other story-line protagonist). At one point, I no longer cared if it was historically accurate, it was well researched by the way or whether it was too modern in speech. The struggle to recognise pride, dealing with the doubts and sin , having good counselors around you became more vital. I wish the book was mine to read again but highlighting all those key promises and verses. And honestly, Lynn Austin is becoming my go-to fictional Christian author to read. She brings alive the story of these people in a way that transcends modern times. Whilst, it can not replace reading scripture, it brings life without being blasphemous. Would recommend to anyone, whether a Christian or not.

Gale says

I could not put this book down! I believe the story is well written. I love how Austin keeps the different story lines and character perspectives going throughout the story. I am hooked and cannot wait to finish the series!

Jeanie says

Faith is getting out of the way. God shows us thru the old testament how man gets in the way without the knowledge of the Lord and his character. How many times we take things in our own hands. The circumstances may not be the same but the results are the same. Gives you a greater understanding of how Faith is about the sovereignty of God.

Andrea Di salvo says

A well-woven second book in a series that truly brings to life the biblical story of Hezekiah. Austin doesn't sugar-coat the characters or make them--or their faith--larger than life. Rather, the struggles they endured in trying to be faithful, the difficult choices they faced, can inspire the reader to stay the course in a sometimes similar environment of doubt and faithlessness. Highly recommend this whole series.

Leann says

Song of Redemption is the second book in the Chronicles of the Kings series about the life of King Hezekiah of Judah, who's story is told in 2 Chronicles, 2 Kings, and Isaiah in the Bible.

I only bought Song of Redemption because Ms. Austin cruelly started a romance at the end of Book 1, and I HAD to see how it panned out. Ironically, the romances in this series are not heavy-handed, and the culmination of the aforementioned romance was not what I expected.

However, the rest of the book was very enjoyable. Maybe this sounds bad, but unlike a couple of other reviewers, I liked the violent aspects of this book because they felt authentic for the time period. And although it's clear what violence occurs, Ms. Austin does not write the violence with as excruciating detail as she could have.

Perhaps my favorite part of this book and the next one in the series is that it made certain parts of Scripture come alive for me like never before. I have spent a lifetime reading the Psalms as metaphorical, and working to apply it to my current day life, things like, "When I'm surrounded by my enemies, the Lord will destroy them all." But to see it in action, to read a well-written story where, when they are surrounded by enemies, and against all logic put their hope in the Lord, that the Lord actually DOES come to their defense... well, that's just cool.

One other thing Ms. Austin does well is to depict the tension that would have occurred among the highest level of government officials when dealing with a crisis. The constant building of pressure, the questioning on what to do, the second guessing of decisions, the desperation, all felt authentic and was well-done.

Ms. Austin did, once again, super-impose today's beliefs onto characters who wouldn't have had them, but this time I barely cared. The titular redemption, and the way the character comes to accept it, is one of the best I've ever seen in Christian fiction.

In short, I really liked it.

Virginia says

Love this book. What Christina wrote is my thinking precisely, so I'll quote what she said: "... this is well-written Christian fiction. I thoroughly enjoyed the biblical timeline and complexity of the characters and their struggles, and I was not disappointed in the writing as I have been with some other Christian fiction series by other authors. The theme of this book could be "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" and the author answers it well, intertwining God's word and works with her story line. I will move on to the third book in this series.... I am looking forward to reading about some of my more favorite parts of Hezekiah's life."

A couple quotes: p. 26: "You pray. And you allow the Lord to be your strength. Remember--the Lord doesn't give you strength, Hezekiah. He is your strength."

P. 108: How to grow in love: "As long as you continue to seek Him, son, your love will continue to grow. And as you express your love for Him through obedience, He'll reveal more of himself to you."..."The only way to grow in faith is to put your faith to the test. You must place yourself in His hands and let Him prove Himself faithful. Unless you make up your mind to trust Him, you'll never know that Yahweh is faithful." "I know that your ordeal was unbearable, but look around you! Are you still a slave? The Holy One has raised you from the dead! You're back from the grave in answer to your dear father's prayers You have life again, and love, but you refuse to see it... You're robbing God of the glory that is due Him."...P. 317: "she suddenly remembered how her beautiful, perfect baby had been created through rape and pain....Was it possible to create beauty from suffering? She raised her head and gazed around the room as if seeing it or the first time. Hilkiah was wealthier than Abba had ever dreamed of being..."

Kathryn says

There were some great concepts in this - especially the idea of giving God a part of ourself, but not surrendering all aspects of our lives.

I didn't start keeping track of quotes straight away, but these were 2 I liked once I did start noting them down:

"...it had never occurred to him to call on Yahweh for help. He had shut God out of his life, living his own way, on his own strength. And that was arrogant pride."

"He had tried to trust in God yet control his own life at the same time, trying to reconcile the two sides of himself: his self-reliance and his faith in God. And he suddenly remembered that his grandfather had once warned him that he could never do both."

I am enjoying reading a fictional account of Hezekiah's life and will definitely continue on with the next one.

Oliver says

couldn't put it down; could feel the characters emotions. much easier to visualize 7th century Jerusalem.

Karen says

I started this book on Saturday, I'm almost finished. I am loving this series. They are very exciting and I love the separate stories of each character. Some people have commented on how modern the language is for being a biblical fiction. I love that the language is modern, to me, it is so much easier to read - I know it isn't how they talked back then, but if I read it in that language I would constantly be trying to determine the meanings. I love how I can completely understand the story, relate to the conflict, mourn with the characters or rejoice with them and feel like I totally get what they are saying.

I really liked one readers comments that said "very relatable human beings faced with one of mankind's oldest conflicts -- the choice between faith and fear". Yes, this book is full of those choices between faith and fear. While back then the "fear" was probably much more than we could bare today in these times, back then choosing to do what they know is right comes with angering those who can just beat you to death, or worse. Today we face those same choices but it is probably more like choosing between what you know is right and risk losing friends, or risk feeling alone or foolish, or facing some taunting or teasing. I feel strength from the characters in standing up for what they believe is true and right. I love how King Hezekiah is such a great King, yet he too loses faith, or struggles with despair, or mourns and questions God about why a loved one was lost. In fact, all the characters in this book have faced great adversity and have had moments of losing faith, some of them fall, and some of them regain thier faith and press forward and are stronger. Life's challenges come to everyone, its a matter of how we deal with them and will we ultimately stand up for what is good.

Oceana says

A great sequel! It lagged in the beginning for me but by the middle and end I couldn't stop reading! So suspenseful. Greatly written to show the grace and power and glory of God.

Kellie says

This is still my favorite series along with Francine Rivers "Mark of the Lion" Trilogy. This will open up the Old Testament period to you, and guys will enjoy it just as much! LOVE it! I've read it over and over.

Mae Clair says

The second entry in Lynn Austin's Chronicles of the Kings series, this page-turner is every bit as gripping as the first. King Hezekiah has replaced his father Ahaz on the throne of David, tearing down all the shrines and altars his father erected to idols in Judah.

Hezekiah leads his people in returning to worship the God of Israel, and in so doing, Judah prospers. But he must also face the threat of the mighty Assyrian army that continues a reign of terror and slaughter, annihilating all who oppose them. Ahaz turned Judah into a vassal nation under his rule, paying yearly

tribute to Assyria, but Hezekiah resists, believing God will protect him and his people.

In addition to Hezekiah's test of faith, and the looming threat of destruction at the hands of the Assyrians, there is a secondary plot involving a young girl named Jerusha, who is abducted by the Assyrians early in the novel. For much of the book we see their cruelty through her eyes. Eventually, her life will intertwine with those in Hezekiah's inner circle, bringing the plot threads and this story to a very satisfying ending.

What I like best about these books is the vivid way in which Ms. Austin brings the Old Testament to life. From the people, to the customs and setting, it's like stepping back in time. The message at the heart of each novel speaks to the soul--through trial and tribulation, God is true.

Joanie Standridge says

Wow! Very good fictional account of a true history story. I got to visit Israel in 2012 and again in 2013. In 2013, the group I traveled with, Aglow International, made Hezekiah's Tunnel one of our visit stops! It was really neat walking from one end of the tunnel to the other. The water was very cold, indeed enough to numb your feet and calves, just like the characters experienced. :). The water went up to just below knee level and sometimes near mid-thigh level. At times, as we were all filling through the tunnel in our large group, I got a bit concerned and wondered if there were any living creatures in the water! The only light we had was the few people who carried flashlights. I was very glad I wasn't walking through the tunnel alone. When Eliakim had fear and anxiety issues in the tunnel, it was definitely realistic and I could relate. The author really told this sorry well and in a memorable way. It was definitely a walk to remember when I visited it. The way that two crews worked on the tunnel and ended up meeting in the middle is absolutely amazing--it truly is a miraculous accomplished feat! :) I've got the next in the series lined up and ready to dig into...

Kim says

The thing I love about these books, is that Mrs. Austin does a masterful job of bringing the Kings to life.(as well as the other characters) I know for me, when I read my Bible, I don't think much about the day to day struggles the people in any particular book faced.

Lynn Austin has made me realize that these people had struggles and issues just like all of us! In this book, there are times King Hezekiah is conflicted, and trying to do what is right, but the situation seems hopeless. You will see his struggles as he tries to stay true to God's laws. I know I don't think of the Biblical characters sometimes as feeling emotion, but Lynn Austin has made me think about that as well. I caught myself a couple of times saying "NO! What are you thinking??" when one of the main characters took advice that would ultimately get her into trouble. I cried along with King Hezekiah at times, laughed, felt compassion, even though this is "Just a book" I love when an author can make me feel as if I am right there, watching it all unfold!

You will want to make sure to keep the next book close at hand. I only had to wait two days for the third book to come, but it felt like an eternity!
