

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 67 – The Successes and Failures of Jehoshaphat (II Chronicles 17-20)

1. Why was the Lord with Jehoshaphat?

- “(3) *And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; (4) But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. (5) Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. (6) And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah” (II Chronicles 17:3-6).*
- Think about the first ways of David way back when he was willing to take on Goliath (I Samuel 17-31) and after to serve Saul even when Saul wanted to kill him! David was a man after God’s own heart in those days (Acts 13:21-22).
- Any king who pleased God would have the blessings of the Lord (I Chronicles 28:9; 20).
- He did NOT take away ALL of the high places (II Chronicles 20:33).

2. What spiritually minded thing did Jehoshaphat do in the third year of his reign?

- “(7) *Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Ben-hail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (8) And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. (9) And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people” (II Chronicles 17:7-9).*
- We shall see later (II Chronicles 19) that the Lord is not going to be happy with his friendship choices.

3. Why didn’t the lands surrounding Judah want to fight against Judah?

- “*And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat” (II Chronicles 17:10).*
- Again, this is due to the faithfulness of Jehoshaphat (II Chronicles 22:9 and Psalms 119:2).

4. Did Jehoshaphat surround himself with brave men who would fight for him?

- Yes: “(12) *And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store. (13) And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour [bravery], were in Jerusalem. (14) And these are the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand. (15) And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand. (16) And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour. (17) And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand. (18) And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and*

fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war. (19) **These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah**” (II Chronicles 17:12-19).

5. Was Jehoshaphat a poor or wealthy king?

- **Wealthy in spiritual terms as we’ve seen, and in physical terms as well: “Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and he joined affinity with Ahab”** (II Chronicles 18:1).

6. What king in Israel did Jehoshaphat become buddies with?

- **Ahab: “(1) Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and he joined affinity [a marriage alliance; which means their children would marry and they did – II Chronicles 21:1; 5-6; BDB] with Ahab. (2) And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that were with him, and moved him to go up with him to Ramoth-gilead. (3) And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramoth-gilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war”** (II Chronicles 18:1-3).

7. Was Jehoshaphat’s new friend a godly king in Israel?

- **NO (I Kings 16:29-30; 33, I Kings 18:17-18, I Kings 21:24-25, and II Chronicles 21:13)!**

8. When the king of Israel desires Jehoshaphat to battle with him as allies, who does Jehoshaphat want to consult?

- **He asked Ahab to enquire of the Lord: “And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day”** (II Chronicles 18:4).

9. Was the word of four hundred prophets good enough for Jehoshaphat?

- **No: “(5) Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand. (6) But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him”** (II Chronicles 18:5-6).

10. Why did the king of Israel hate Micaiah?

- **“And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so”** (II Chronicles 18:7; cf. John 3:19-21 and Galatians 4:16).

11. What did the messenger who went to call Micaiah ask him to do?

- **“And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good”** (II Chronicles 18:12).

12. Was Micaiah a prophet who was willing to tickle ears?

- Since Ahab hated him for not speak good and since Micaiah said he wouldn't compromise at the servants request, we'd have to say no. Notice: *"And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak"* (**II Chronicles 18:13**).

13. What did Micaiah say unto the king of Israel?

- *"(14) And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand. (15) And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD? (16) Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace"* (**II Chronicles 18:14-16**).

14. What did the king of Israel say regarding Micaiah's prophesy?

- *"And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil"* (**II Chronicles 18:17**)?

15. Who enticed the king of Israel to go to war at Ramoth-gilead?

- *"(18) Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. (19) And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. (20) Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? (21) And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so. (22) Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee"* (**II Chronicles 18:18-22**).

16. What happened to Micaiah because of what he told the king of Israel?

- *"(23) Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? (24) And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. (25) Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; (26) And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace"* (**II Chronicles 18:23-26**).

17. How would they know if the Lord had not really spoken through Micaiah?

- If Ahab returned alive (**II Chronicles 18:27**).

18. Why didn't Jehoshaphat die in the battle when the Syrian targeted him?

- *"(29) And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle. (30) Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the*

king of Israel. (31) And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and **God moved them to depart from him.** (32) For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him” (II Chronicles 18:29-32).

19. Did the king of Israel fall as Micaiah had prophesied?

- Yes: “(33) And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. (34) And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died” (II Chronicles 18:33-34).

20. What fault is found in Jehoshaphat?

- His friendship with Ahab (**James 4:4**): “(1) And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. (2) And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, **Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD**” (II Chronicles 19:1-2).
- Consider: **Psalms 26:5, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 101:3, Proverbs 29:27, Amos 5:14-15, Romans 12:9, and II Corinthians 6:17-18.**

21. Though Jehoshaphat had been disappointing to the Lord, what do we still find good in him?

- “(3) Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God” (II Chronicles 19:3).

22. Did Jehoshaphat try to help the people of Judah to be faithful to God?

- “(4) And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beer-sheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers. (5) And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, (6) And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. (7) Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts. (8) Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem. (9) And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart. (10) And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass. (11) And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters:

also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good” (II Chronicles 19:4-11).

23. Who did Jehoshaphat seek to help him against the children of Moab, the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites?

- *“(1) It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. (2) Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi. (3) And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. (4) And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD” (II Chronicles 20:1-4).*

24. What did Jehoshaphat say when he approached the Lord?

- *“(5) And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, (6) And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? (7) Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? (8) And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, (9) If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. (10) And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; (11) Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. (12) O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. (13) And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children” (II Chronicles 20:5-13).*

25. What message did the Lord reveal through Jahaziel?

- *“(14) Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; (15) And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. (16) To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. (17) Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you” (II Chronicles 20:14-17).*

26. What was the response of the people to the message sent through Jahaziel?

- “(18) And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. (19) And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, **stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.** (20) ¶ And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; **Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.** (21) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, **as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever**” (II Chronicles 20:18-21).

27. Was Judah victorious in the battle against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir?

- God was, so they were: “(22) And when they began to sing and to praise, **the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.** (23) For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. (24) And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, **they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.** (25) And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and **they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much**” (II Chronicles 20:22-25).

28. What was the reaction of other countries to the victory that God gave His people?

- “(29) And **the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.** (30) So **the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about**” (II Chronicles 20:29-30).

29. Were all of the high places removed under Jehoshaphat?

- No, (II Chronicles 20:33).
- Though he did do what was right in the sight of the Lord (II Chronicles 20:32) – for the most part which was a great accomplishment for a king in all of Israel – sadly.

30. Did Jehoshaphat learn about evil companions from his experience with Ahab?

- No: “(35) And **after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:** (36) And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Ezion-geber. (37) Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, **Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish**” (II Chronicles 20:35-37).