

Jehoshaphat - Jehovah Protects Flawed Men

Background information for Jehoshaphat

Asa - good beginnings, a poor finish

Asa, his father, reigned 41 years - 2Chron 16:13

He had 10 initial years of peace - 2Chron 14:1

His Initial Goodness

He did that which was good and right in the Lord's eyes - 2Chron 14:2

He purified the worship of Jehovah and encouraged Judah to seek Him - 2 Chron 14:3-4

His Test & Triumph

Zerah the Ethiopian came against Asa with 1,000,000 men - 2 Chron 14:9

Asa called on The Lord & the Ethiopians were defeated - 2Chron 14:11-15

Azariah's word from The Lord to Asa: The Lord is with you while you be with Him - 2Chron 15:2-7

Asa and Judah's zeal in The Lord - 2Chron 15:8-18

He Stumbles - His Correction

In his 39th year Israel came against Judah and Asa bought Syria's help - 2Chron 16:1-4

The Lord through the prophet Hanani's rebuked Asa - 2Chron 16:7-9

His Bad Ending

Asa imprisoned Hanani and oppressed the people - 2Chron 16:10

Asa had a severe foot disease but did not seek The Lord's help - 2Chron 16:12

Jehoshaphat - background

Jehoshaphat began his reign in Ahab's 4th year - 1Kings 22:41

He was 35 years old when he began his reign - 1Kings 22:42

He reigned 25 years - 1Kings 22:42

His Initial Goodness

He walked in the first ways of David his father - 2Chron 17:3

He sought the LORD God of his fathers - 2 Chron 17:4

The LORD established his kingdom giving him riches and honor - 2Chro 17:5

His heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD - 2Chron 17:6

He sent princes and Levites to teach God's law to the people - 2Chron 17:7-9

The fear of the LORD fell on the kingdoms around - 2Chron 17:10-11

He Stumbles

He made affinity with Ahab, king of Israel - 2Chron 18:1

He went to battle with Ahab, who died in battle - 2Chron 18:2-34

His Correction

He was rebuked by Hanani the prophet (seer) - 2Chron 19:2-3

Unlike his father Asa he instituted revival in Judah when rebuked - 2Chron 19:4

He installed judges and encouraged them to be godly - 2Chron 19:5-11

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2Chronicles 20:1-30 - Jehoshaphat's Test & Triumph

The Test - [1-2]

The nations of Moab, Ammon and others united to invade Judah

Jehoshaphat's Reaction - [3]

He was afraid

He made preparation to seek the LORD

His Preparation - [4-5]

He gathered the nation together

He lead them in prayer before the LORD

His Prayer - [6-12]

Acknowledge Jehovah's Dominion - The LORD, our God, rules

Remind The Lord of His goodness & love - He took special care of His friend Abraham's children

Claim their righteousness - Judah served Jehovah and trusted in Him

Their enemies, whom they didn't harm, seek their hurt now

Their enemies are seeking to remove the blessings He gave to His people

LORD, You judge them

We have no strength

We don't know what to do

We look to YOU

The LORD's Answer - [14-17]

Don't be afraid

It's not your battle but Mine to fight!

Go down to see the battle tomorrow

But you won't have to fight - you'll be spectators.

Get ready to see the LORD's salvation for you!

Don't be afraid - The LORD is with you!

Jehoshaphat and the People's Reaction - [18-19]

They humbly worshiped the LORD

They praised Him with a loud voice

Next Day - the People's Parade - [20-21]

They left early to get good seats for the game!

Jehoshaphat, the cheer leader, encouraged the people.

The singers (the band) lead the way praising Jehovah's holiness and mercy

Next Day - the LORD's Game Plan - [22-23]

The LORD rewires the enemies' allegiance

Mutual self destruction ensues!

Next Day - the Viewing - [24-25]

By the time Jehoshaphat and the people arrive the game was all over!

It took the army and people 3 days to collect and remove all the treasure left.

The Aftermath - [26-30]

The 4th day Judah assembles in the valley to praise and bless the LORD

Jehoshaphat lead the joyful procession home to Jerusalem

On their return they go to the LORD's house to rejoice some more

Jehoshaphat and the nation had peace and rest for their enemies feared the LORD.

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Verses to take away from this study

And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; **The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.** 2 Chronicles 15:2

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. 2 Chronicles 16:9

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.** 2 Chronicles 20:15

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.** 2 Chronicles 20:20

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. 2 Chronicles 20:22

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. James 1:22-25

Lessons from this study

1. The Lord is with His people.
2. He is capable and willing to deliver us in any circumstance.
3. He often sends challenges and tests into our lives.
4. The Lord will send us correction through His ministers.
5. We can be fools or wise men: how we react to correction is key.
6. Those who seek His face, call on and trust in Him are delivered as they obey.