

## 12 – JEHOSEPHAT

### (1 KINGS 22:41-50; 2 CHRONICLES 17:1-19; 19:2-20:37)

#### I. Jehoshaphat Becomes King (1 Kings 22:41; 2 Chronicles 17:1-19)

- Jehoshaphat became king over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab's reign in Israel.
- When Jehoshaphat became king after his father Asa, he strengthened Judah against Israel.
- He reinforced the fortified cities of Judah and set up garrisons throughout Judah.
- He also placed garrisons with troops in the cities of Ephraim that Asa had taken from Israel.
- The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he did not seek the Baals and walked in the ways of David.
- He sought after God and refused to walk according to the ways of Israel.
- The Lord established his rule over the Kingdom and Jehoshaphat had riches in abundance.
- Jehoshaphat sent leaders and Levites throughout Judah to teach them the Law of the Lord.
- The fear of the Lord fell on all the surrounding nations and Judah was at peace.
- Jehoshaphat had much property and a large army stationed throughout Judah.

#### II. The Appointment of Judges (2 Chronicles 19:2-11)

##### A. The Rebuke (19:2-3)

- When Jehoshaphat returned safely from his visit with Ahab, he was confronted by a prophet.
- The prophet questioned Jehoshaphat helping those who hated the Lord.
- The prophet proclaimed that the Lord's wrath was upon him.
- However, good things were found in the king since he removed the idols from the land.

##### B. Judges Appointed (19:4-11)

- Jehoshaphat went out among the people of Judah and brought them back to the Lord.
- He appointed judges throughout the land in the fortified cities.
- He told the judges to take heed since they are not judging for man, but rather the Lord instead.
- They were to judge in the fear of the Lord and not by sin or the taking of bribes.

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- He set up a council of Levites, priests and elders to judge the severe cases from Judah.
- Concerning religious issues, the High Priest was over the council.

### III. The Attack Against Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

- After these things, Moab and Ammon, with their allies, came to battle Jehoshaphat.
- News came to Jehoshaphat about the enemy, and he sought the Lord in fear as he called for a fast.
- Judah gathered and sought the Lord as they asked for help from the Lord.
- Jehoshaphat prayed before the assembly at the Temple for the Lord's deliverance.
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon a Levite who proclaimed that Judah should not fear.
- He stated that when they went to meet the enemy on the next day, they would not need to fight.
- He need only position themselves and watch the salvation of the Lord.
- Jehoshaphat and all Judah responded by bowing their faces to the ground in worship of the Lord.
- On the next day, Jehoshaphat and singers lead Judah to face the enemy.
- At the moment of the battle, the Lord caused the enemy to turn on each other.
- Ammon and Moab attacked and utterly destroyed the Meunites.
- After destroying the Meunites, Ammon and Moab attacked each other.
- The slaughter of the battle was so great that Judah could not carry all of the spoil away.
- Jehoshaphat and the Judah returned to Jerusalem rejoicing and singing.
- Fear came upon all the nations because of what the Lord had done to the enemy.
- So, Judah was quiet, because the Lord gave Jehoshaphat peace and rest from the nations.

### IV. The Final Record (1 Kings 22:42-50; 2 Chronicles 20:31-37)

- Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he became king and he ruled Judah for 25 years.
- He walked in the ways of his father Asa, but he did not remove the high places in Judah.
- Jehoshaphat made peace with the King of Israel during his days.
- He finished the removal of the sexually perverted and prostitutes from the land.

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- Jehoshaphat made merchant ships to sail to Ophir for gold, but they did not sail.
- This was because he made a treaty with Ahaziah, king of Israel.
- Through a prophet, the Lord proclaimed that he would destroy his works and the ships wrecked.
- Jehoshaphat died and was buried with his father in Jerusalem.
- His son Jehoram became king and ruled in his place.
- The writer and the chronicler list where the record of Jehoshaphat was written.