

JEHOSHAPHAT, FOURTH KING OF JUDAH

1 Kings 22:41-50, 2 Chronicles 17

The reign of good king Asa had a very good effect on the course of the history of the nation Judah, halting its downward course, and bringing the nation back into favor with God. Read now to discover what happened during the reign of his son, Jehoshaphat:

A. General Description of Jehoshaphat's Reign: Read 1 Kings 22:41-50

1. Who had become king in Israel by the time Jehoshaphat became king of Judah? 1 Kings 22:41

2. How long did Jehoshaphat reign? 1 Kings 22:42

3. Whose examples did he follow? 1 Kings 22:43a, 2 Chronicles 17:3b

4. Therefore, what kind of deeds did he do? 1 Kings 22:43b

5. What special thing did he do which was good? 1 Kings 22:46

B. Jehoshaphat's Early Years as King: Read 2 Chronicles 17:1-9

1. What did Jehoshaphat do when he first became king? 2 Chronicles 17:1b

2. What two things did Jehoshaphat do that were good? 2 Chronicles 17:4
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. What did God do for Jehoshaphat because of the way he lived, and led his people? 2 Chronicles 17:3a, 5a

4. What did his people do for him? 2 Chronicles 17:5b

5. What was the result of the Lord's blessing and people's gifts? 2 Chronicles 17:5c, 18:1a

6. What did Jehoshaphat then do, which he had not done before? 1 Kings 22:43b, 2 Chronicles 17:6b

7. What did he send his princes, Levites and priests to do? 2 Chronicles 17:9a

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8. Notice where they did this: 2 Chronicles 17:9b

C. Jehoshaphat's Relationships to Other Nations: Read II Chronicles 17:10-11

1. What happened to other nations round about Judah during Jehoshaphat's reign? 2 Chronicles 17:10a

2. What was the result of this? 2 Chronicles 17:10b

3. Who brought presents to Jehoshaphat besides his own people? 2 Chronicles 17:11

D. Jehoshaphat's Economic and Military Might: Read 2 Chronicles 17:12-19

1. What happened to Jehoshaphat as he continued to reign? 2 Chronicles 17:12a

2. What did he build in Judah? 2 Chronicles 17:12b

3. What was the status of business during his reign? 2 Chronicles 17:13a

4. How many men of war did he have, besides those who guarded the fenced cities of Judah? 2 Chronicles 17:14b, 15b, 16b, 17b, 18b

5. What is said even of one of Jehoshaphat's soldiers? 2 Chronicles 17:16a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the result to the nation Judah because Jehoshaphat sought the Lord and taught his people to do the same? **2 Chronicles 17:3-4, 5, 10, 11, 12**

2. Am I meeting the conditions for having God bless me and those in my group?

JEHOSHAPHAT'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

2 Chronicles 17:1-2, 18:1 - 19:3, 20:35-37; 1 Kings 22:44, 48-49

Under Asa, the nation Judah began to climb upward from the depths of sin into which it had been led by Rehoboam and his son Abijah; and under Jehoshaphat, this rise continued. Now see what threatened to halt this rise, and pull the nation downward again:

A. Jehoshaphat's First Attitude Toward Israel: Read 2 Chronicles 17:1-2

1. What had Jehoshaphat done as he began his reign? 2 Chronicles 17:1

2. In what two ways had he done this? 2 Chronicles 17:2

a. _____

b. _____

B. Jehoshaphat's Later Relationships With Ahab: Read 2 Chronicles 18:1 - 19:3

1. What did Jehoshaphat later do with Ahab, king of Israel? 1 Kings 22:44

2. Whom did his son Jehoram marry as a result? 2 Chronicles 21:5-6

3. This is commonly called making or joining affinity (relationship by marriage) with another (2 Chronicles 18:1b). Who else had previously made such an alliance or agreement? 1 Kings 3:1

4. When Jehoshaphat later went to see Ahab, what did Ahab ask him to do? 2 Chronicles 18:3a

5. Although Jehoshaphat knew how wicked Ahab was, what did he do? 2 Chronicles 18:3b

6. After he had already agreed to do this, whose advice did he want to seek? 2 Chronicles 18:4

7. Even though God's prophet made it clear that the outcome of this battle would be disaster, what did Jehoshaphat do? 2 Chronicles 18:28

8. What happened to him as a result? 2 Chronicles 18:31a

9. What was the only thing that saved him from death? 2 Chronicles 18:31b-32

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10. Although Jehoshaphat was able to return to his house in peace, who came to meet him as he returned? 2 Chronicles 19:1-2a

11. What question did he ask him? 2 Chronicles 19:2b

12. What did he say would come to Jehoshaphat because of his actions? 2 Chronicles 19:2c

C. Jehoshaphat's Relationships with Ahaziah: Read 2 Chronicles 20:35-37

1. What kind of person was Ahaziah, Ahab's son? 2 Chronicles 20:35b

2. In spite of this, what did Jehoshaphat do? 2 Chronicles 20:35a

3. What was the purpose of their alliance? 2 Chronicles 20:36

4. What did God's prophet tell him after this? 2 Chronicles 20:37a

5. Did his prophecy come to pass? 2 Chronicles 20:37b, 1 Kings 22:48

6. When Ahaziah again asked to be allowed to join Jehoshaphat, what did Jehoshaphat do? 1 Kings 22:49

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do you think Jehoshaphat learned his lesson about making close friends with those who do not love the Lord? But what did it cost him? James 4:4

2. What kind of people do I choose for my close friends? What may happen to me as a result? 1 Corinthians 15:33 ASV, **2 Corinthians 6:14a, 17**

JEHOSOPHAT'S LATER REIGN 2 Chronicles 19:4 - 20:30

Even though Jehoshaphat was unwise in making friends with the enemies of God, he still ruled his people well. Read to see what he did after God's warning to him:

A. Jehoshaphat's Further Reforms: Read 2 Chronicles 19:4-11

1. How far did Jehoshaphat travel in person in his efforts to bring his people back to God?
2 Chronicles 19:4 (Locate these places on the map, page 288)

2. Whom did he appoint to help him with his care of the people? 2 Chronicles 19:5

3. For whom did he tell them they were doing their work? 2 Chronicles 19:6

4. Therefore, what three things should they avoid in their judging? 2 Chronicles 19:7

5. Besides these local judges in each fortified city, who served on the "supreme court"

6. In what three ways did Jehoshaphat tell them they should do their work? 2
Chronicles 19:10b

7. Of what were they particularly to warn those who came to them? 2
Chronicles 19:10b

8. Notice two types of matters they were to judge: 2 Chronicles 19:11

B. The Threat Against Jehoshaphat: Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-2

1. Who came against Jehoshaphat about this time, probably in fulfillment of God's prophecy of wrath? 2 Chronicles 20:1

2. How many of them were there? 2 Chronicles 20:2a

3. Where were they encamped? 2 Chronicles 20:2b (See map, page 2gg)

C. Jehoshaphat's Preparations for Battle: Read 2 Chronicles 20:3-19

1. What two things did Jehoshaphat do immediately? 2 Chronicles 20:3

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- a. (two parts) _____
b. _____

2. Notice how many responded to his plea: 2 Cronicles 20:4

3. As Jehoshaphat began his prayer, of what did he remind the Lord? 2 Chronicles
20:5-9 (especially 7a)

4. What did he ask God to do about the enemy which was come against him? 2
Chronicles 20:12

5. What did ne of the Levites then tell them, by God's Spirit? 2 Chronicles 20:15b, 20:17a

6. What did Jehoshaphat and his people do when they heard this message? 2 Chronicles
20:13

7. What did the Levites do? 2 Chronicles 20:19

D. The Battle and Its Results: Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-30

1. As all Judah went forth singing and praising, what happened even before they arrived
at the scene of battle? 2 Chronicles 20:22-24

2. What was Judah's only task in this battle? 2 Chronicles 20:25

3. What did they do after this? 2 Chronicles 20:26, 28

4. What effect did this battle have on the surrounding nations? 2 Chronicles 20:29-30

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God soften the punishment of Jehoshaphat so greatly? 2 Chronicles 19:2b-3,
20:3, 4, 12

2. Do I seek God at all times, even after I have done wrong in His sight?
