

2 Chronicles 17 - King Jehoshaphat's Good Reign in Judah

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(D) Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 17:1—20:37)

(a) Jehoshaphat's orthodox worship cause God to bless him with the mighty army striking terror into the hearts of the surrounding national leaders (17:1-19)

2 Chronicles 17

(D) Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 17:1—20:37)

(a) Jehoshaphat's orthodox worship cause God to bless him with the mighty army striking terror into the hearts of the surrounding national leaders (17:1-19)

1 His son Jehoshaphat then became king in his place, and he proved himself strong over Israel.

1 Jehoshaphat his son then became king in his place, and made his position over Israel firm.

1 Asa's son Jehoshaphat succeeded him as king, and he consolidated his authority over Israel

1 And Jehoshaphat his [Asa's] son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

- The Chronicler's account of Jehoshaphat's rule shows that God was actively leading His people at this time

— These were years of alliance with Israel, and Ahab was ruling the northern kingdom

— The story of Jehoshaphat's rule (2 Chr 17-20) reads similar to Asa's rule (2 Chr 14-16)...a series of contrasts that teach the same lessons: the importance of depending on Yahweh by seeking His help, and the importance of being loyal to Him by obeying His Word.

Both Asa and Jehoshaphat followed similar patterns of reform, experienced victory in battle, and sinned. Both of them suppressed but also failed to suppress the high places (Cf. 14:2-5; 17:6). Both enjoyed prosperity, conducted great building programs, and experienced victory in battle because of their obedience. Both made foreign alliances, and

both are mentioned together as the standard of piety to which Jehoram (21:1) failed to attain.

2 He placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and placed garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which his father Asa had captured.

2 He placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had captured.

2 by placing troops in all of the fortified citadels through Judah and by establishing garrisons throughout the land of Judah and in the cities that his father Asa had captured.

2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

- Jehoshaphat prepared the nation militarily, particularly from the northern kingdom

3 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals,

3 The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals,

3 The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example set during his ancestor David's preliminary years by not pursuing the Baals.

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 the God of his father, followed His commandments, and did not act as Israel did.

4 but sought the God of his father, followed His commandments, and did not act as Israel did.

4 Instead, Jehoshaphat sought the God of his ancestors and obeyed his commands, unlike Israel.

4 But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.

- Jehoshaphat did right because he followed David's godly example (v3) and remained faithful to Yahweh by obeying His law rather than worshipping Baal...

5 So the LORD established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah gave tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor.

5 So the LORD established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor.

5 Therefore the LORD secured Jehoshaphat's kingdom under his control, with all of Judah paying him tribute, and Jehoshaphat became very wealthy and greatly respected.

5 Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

- Because of his obedience, God blessed his reign by giving him riches and honor

6 He took great pride in the ways of the LORD, and again removed the high places and the Asherim from Judah.

6 He took great pride in the ways of the LORD and again removed the high places and the Asherim from Judah.

6 He remained committed to following the LORD, and he removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah.

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.

- Jehoshaphat removed the high places, according to this verse, but other passages indicate that he did not remove them (Cf. 1 Kings 22:43; 2 Chr 20:33) because the people had not yet directed their hearts to God

— Apparently he did remove them, but when the people restored them he did not remove the restored high places

— Other kings of Judah who did not remove the high places were Joash (2 Kings 12:3), Amaziah (2 Kings 14:4), Azariah (2 Kings 15:4), and Jotham (2 Kings 15:35).

— Ahaz sacrificed at the high places (2 Kings 16:4), perhaps ones he restored. Those were then removed by Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:4), rebuilt by Manasseh (2 Kings 21:3), and demolished again by Josiah (2 Kings 23:8,13,15,19).

Jehoshaphat Institutes Teaching Programs

7 Then in the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah;

7 Then in the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah;

7 During the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent his officials Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah to teach throughout the cities of Judah.

7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8 and with them the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, the Levites; and with them the priests Elishama and Jehoram.

8 and with them the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah and Tobadonijah, the Levites; and with them Elishama and

Jehoram, the priests.

8 They were accompanied by the descendants of Levi, including Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah. These descendants of Levi were accompanied by the priests Elishama and Jehoram.

8 And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

9 They taught in Judah, *having* the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; and they went throughout the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

9 They taught in Judah, *having* the book of the law of the LORD with them; and they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

9 They taught throughout Judah from a copy of the Book of the Law of the LORD that they took with them as they passed through all the cities of Judah, teaching among all the people.

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.

- Jehoshaphat made three strategic moves:

(1) He obeyed the Lord (v3-6)

(2) He removed false worship (v6)

(3) He sent out teachers who taught the people the Law of the Lord (v7-9)

- By sending out these teachers, he fortified the nation spiritually as well as physically

— God blessed this effort by putting the fear of the Lord in Judah's enemies (v10-11)

Jehoshaphat's Military and Economic Stability

10 Now the dread of the LORD was on all the kingdoms of the lands which *were* around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

10 Now the dread of the LORD was on all the kingdoms of the lands which *were* around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

10 Because they were afraid of the LORD, none of the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah dared go to war against Jehoshaphat.

10 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.

11 Some of the Philistines brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat; the Arabians also brought him flocks, 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

11 Some of the Philistines brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat; the Arabians also brought him flocks, 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

11 Some of the Philistines brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat, and Arabians brought him flocks of 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.

- Jehoshaphat's three-tiered strategy worked...it invoked God's blessing and protection, much as it did with Abijah (2 Chr 13:2-20) and Asa (2 Chr 14:9-15)

- Again we see Gentiles bringing gifts to the Davidic king who walked in the ways of the Lord, as in Solomon's day (Cf. 9:14; 26:8)

12 So Jehoshaphat grew greater and greater, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah.

12 So Jehoshaphat grew greater and greater, and he built fortresses and store cities in Judah.

12 As a result, Jehoshaphat grew more and more powerful, and built up fortresses and storage centers throughout Judah.

12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.

13 He had large supplies in the cities of Judah, and warriors, valiant mighty men, in Jerusalem.

13 He had large supplies in the cities of Judah, and warriors, valiant men, in Jerusalem.

13 He placed a large amount of supplies into storage throughout the cities of Judah and stationed soldiers—all of them valiant men—in Jerusalem.

13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem.

- The nation accumulated massive wealth under God's divine blessing

— Jehoshaphat strengthened Judah by building its cities and equipping its military forces with supplies

14 This was their muster according to their fathers' households: of Judah, commanders of thousands, Adnah was the commander, and with him three hundred thousand valiant warriors;

14 This was their muster according to their fathers' households: of Judah, commanders of thousands, Adnah was the commander, and with him 300,000 valiant warriors;

14 Here's how they were mustered, listed according to their ancestral houses and listed by commanders of thousands: Adnah commanded 300,000 elite forces.

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 Johanan the commander, and with him 280,000;

15 and next to him was Johanan the commander, and with him 280,000;

15 Near him was Johanan, commander of 280,000

15 And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.

16 and next to him Amasiah the son of Zichri, who volunteered for the LORD, and with him two hundred thousand valiant warriors;

16 and next to him Amasiah the son of Zichri, who volunteered for the LORD, and with him 200,000 valiant warriors;

16 and next to him was Zichri's son Amasiah, who had volunteered to serve the LORD. He commanded 200,000 elite forces.

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 valiant warrior, and with him two hundred thousand armed with bow and shield;

17 and of Benjamin, Eliada a valiant warrior, and with him 200,000 armed with bow and shield;

17 There was also Eliada from Benjamin, himself a valiant soldier. He was accompanied by 200,000 expert archers bearing shields.

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 to him Jehozabad, and with him 180,000 equipped for war.

18 and next to him Jehozabad, and with him 180,000 equipped for war.

18 Near him was Jehozabad, who was accompanied by 180,000 soldiers equipped for warfare.

18 And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war.

19 These are the ones who served the king, apart from those whom the king put in the fortified cities throughout Judah.

19 These are they who served the king, apart from those whom the king put in the fortified cities through all Judah.

19 These men served the king, and there were others whom the king garrisoned inside fortified cities throughout all of Judah.

19 These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.