

2 Chronicles 19 - Jehoshaphat Rebuked for Alliance with Ahab; Reforms of Jehoshaphat

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)

(b) In spite of Jehoshaphat's foolish alliance with Ahab of Israel God still delivered Jehoshaphat on account of his reforms (2 Chr 18:1—19:3)

(c) Jehoshaphat's reforms and justice (19:4-11)

2 Chronicles 19

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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, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD, and by doing so *bring* wrath on yourself from the LORD?"

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2 where Hanani's son Jehu, the seer, went out to meet him. He asked King Jehoshaphat, "Should you be helping those who are wicked, yes or no? Should you love those who hate the LORD? Wrath is headed your way directly from the LORD because of this.

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.

- Hanani had earlier given Jehoshaphat's father Asa a similar warning (2 Chr 16:7-9)

3 But there is *some* good in you, for you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you have set your heart to seek God."

3 But there is *some* good in you, for you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you have set your heart to seek God."

3 Nevertheless, a few good things have been found in you, in that you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you have disciplined yourself to seek God."

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.

- The prophet did praise him, though, for his removal of paganism in Judah and his love for the Lord

(c) Jehoshaphat's reforms and justice (19:4-11)

Jehoshaphat put God's kingdom in greater spiritual order than at any time since Solomon.

To insure order, he set "judges" (v5) in place and gave them principles to rule by:

- Accountability to God (v6)
- Integrity and honesty (v7)
- Loyalty to God (v9)
- Concern for righteousness (v10)
- Courage (v11)

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4 So Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem and went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

4 Jehoshaphat continued to live in Jerusalem, but he travelled again throughout the people from Beer-sheba to Mount Ephraim, bringing them back to the LORD God of their ancestors

4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

5 He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city.

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5 and appointing judges throughout the land in all of the walled cities of Judah, city by city. He issued this reminder to the judges:

5 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,

- Jehoshaphat sought to help the upright and to punish the wicked by appointing judges in Judah

— This was likely encouraged by the rebuke of Jehu (v2) for Jehoshaphat's ill-advised alliance with Ahab

6 He said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for mankind but for the LORD who is with you when you render judgment.

6 He said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD who is with you when you render judgment.

6 "Pay careful attention to your duties, because you are judging not only for the sake of human beings but also for the LORD—and he is present with you as you make your rulings.

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 Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; be careful about what you do, for the LORD our God will have no part in injustice or partiality, or in the taking of a bribe."

7 Now then let the fear of the LORD be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the LORD our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe."

7 So let the fear of the LORD rest upon you, be on your guard, and act carefully, because with the LORD our God there is neither injustice, nor partiality, nor bribery."

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.

- Jehoshaphat instructed the judges to remember that they were acting in God's place when they judged, so they needed to be impartial

8 In Jerusalem Jehoshaphat also appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers' *households* of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

8 In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers' *households* of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

8 In Jerusalem, Jehoshaphat also appointed certain descendants of Levi, priests, and family leaders of Israel to render verdicts for the LORD and to decide difficult cases. Their offices were in Jerusalem.

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.

- The judges not only made legal decisions, but they also taught the people in God's ways

— Jehoshaphat followed Moses' example of delegating authority (Cf. Ex 18:17-26)

- As was the case previously in Israel, there were both local judges and a "supreme court" of appeals

9 Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and wholeheartedly.

9 Then he charged them saying, "Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and wholeheartedly.

9 He issued this reminder to them:

"You are to carry out your duties in the fear of the LORD, serving him faithfully with your whole heart.

9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

10 Whenever any dispute comes to you from your countrymen who live in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, you shall warn them so that they will not be guilty before the LORD, and wrath will *not* come on you and your countrymen. This you shall do and you will not be guilty.

10 Whenever any dispute comes to you from your brethren who live in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, you shall warn them so that they may not be guilty before the LORD, and wrath may *not* come on you and your brethren. Thus you shall do and you will not be guilty.

10 No matter what case comes before you from your fellow citizens who live in their own cities, whether it's a dispute between blood relatives or a dispute regarding the Law and the commands, statutes, or verdicts, you are to warn the parties so that they do not become guilty in the LORD's presence and so that anger does not come upon you and your fellow citizens.

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 Behold, Amariah the chief priest will be over you in every matter that pertains to the LORD, and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all that pertains to the king. Also the Levites shall be officers before you. Act resolutely, and may the LORD be with the upright."

11 Behold, Amariah the chief priest will be over you in all that pertains to the LORD, and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all that pertains to the king.

Also the Levites shall be officers before you. Act resolutely, and the LORD be with the upright."

11 Take notice, please, that Amariah the Chief Priest is presiding over all cases that pertain to the LORD, Ishmael's son Zebadiah is presiding as ruler of the household of Judah with respect to all cases that pertain to the national government, and the descendants of Levi will preside over your other civil cases. Serve courageously, and the LORD will be with the upright."

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.

- Over the "supreme court" he selected Amariah the chief priest to oversee religious cases, and Zebadiah (not the same Zebadiah as in 2 Chr 17:8, who was a Levite) to be over civil cases

— The Levites would serve as officers to implement the work of the judges as a whole