

# 2 Chronicles 20 - Ammon, Moab, Mount Seir Defeated; End of Jehoshaphat's Reign

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)

(d) His military victory over Moab and Ammon and apostasy (20:1-37)

## 2 Chronicles 20

(d) His military victory over Moab and Ammon and apostasy (20:1-37)

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1 Sometime after these events, the Moabites and the Ammonites, accompanied by some other descendants of Ammon, attacked Jehoshaphat and started a war.

1 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

- Moab & Ammon were descendants of Lot

- "...Meunites" - lived near Petra, southeast of the Dead Sea (Cf. 26:7; 1 Chr 4:41)

2 Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Aram; and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)."

2 Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)."

2 Jehoshaphat's military advisors came and informed him, "We've been attacked by a vast invasion force from Aram, beyond the Dead Sea. Be advised—they've already reached Hazazon-tamar, also known as En-gedi."

2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.

- They came down the east of the Dead Sea (east of the mountains, so they weren't visible), and around the south end of the Dead Sea as far north as En Gedi

3 Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD; and he proclaimed a period of fasting throughout Judah.

3 Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

3 In mounting fear, Jehoshaphat devoted himself to seek the LORD. He proclaimed a period of fasting throughout all of the territory of Judah,

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

4 So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

4 and the tribe of Judah assembled together to seek the LORD. People came from all of the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

### **Jehoshaphat Prays and the People Wait**

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD in front of the new courtyard;

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court,

5 Jehoshaphat stood among the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the LORD's Temple in the vicinity of the new court

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

- Jehoshaphat had the correct spiritual response to the impending invasion. He:

- Proclaimed a fast throughout Judah, including children (v13)
- Prayed for the nation
- Appealed to God's promises, glory and reputation
- Acknowledged God's sovereignty (v6)

— Acknowledged God's covenant (v7)

— Acknowledged God's presence (v8-9)

— Acknowledged God's goodness (v10)

- Acknowledged God's possession (v11)
- Acknowledged their utter dependence upon Him (v12)

6 and he said, "LORD, God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.

6 and he said, "O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.

6 and said:

"LORD God of our ancestors, you are the God who lives in heaven, are you not? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, don't you? In your own hands you grasp both strength and power, don't you? As a result, no one can oppose you, can they?

6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

7 Did You not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land from Your people Israel, and give it to the descendants of **Your friend Abraham** forever?

7 Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

7 You are our God, who expelled the former inhabitants of this land right in front of our people Israel, aren't you? Then you gave it to your friend Abraham's descendant forever, didn't you?

7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

- "...Your friend Abraham" - Is 41:8; 2 Chr 20:7; James 2:23

8 They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

8 They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying,

8 They lived in it and have built there a sanctuary for your name, where they said,

8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, *or* judgment, or plague, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house), and cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear and save *us*.'

9 'Should evil come upon us, the sword, *or* judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in

our distress, and You will hear and deliver *us!*

9 'If evil comes upon us, such as war as punishment, disease, or famine and we stand in your presence in this Temple (because your Name is in this Temple) and cry out to you in our distress, then you will hear and deliver.'

9 If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

10 Now behold, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whom You did not allow Israel to invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (for they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),

10 Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),

10 Now therefore look! The Ammonites, the Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir, whom you would not permit Israel to attack when they arrived from the land of Egypt— since they turned away from them and did not eliminate them—

10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

11 see *how* they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance.

11 see *how* they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance.

11 Look how they're rewarding us! They're coming to drive us from your property that you gave us to be our inheritance.

11 Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

12 Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

12 Our God, you are going to punish them, aren't you? We have no strength to face this vast multitude that has come against us, nor do we know what to do, except that our eyes are on you."

12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

- A classic expression of trust in the Lord (Cf. 1 Sam 17:47)

### **The Prophetic Response of Jahaziel**

**13** All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives, and their children.

**13** All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives and their children.

**13** All of Judah was standing in the LORD's presence, along with their little babies, their wives, and their children.

**13** And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;

14 Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Zechariah's son Jahaziel, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a descendant of Levi from the descendants of Asaph in the middle of the assembly, and he said:

**14** Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

- The Lord responded immediately, sending a message of confidence through the prophet Jahaziel

15 and he said, "Listen, all *you of* Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat: This is what the LORD says to you: '**Do not fear** or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

15 and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

15 "Pay attention, everyone in Judah, in Jerusalem, and you, too, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Stop being afraid, and stop being discouraged because of this vast invasion force, because the battle doesn't belong to you, but to God.

15 And he said, Hearken 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.

- "...Do not fear" - occurs 365x in Scripture, one for every day of the year (Cf. v17)

16 Tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.

16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.

16 Tomorrow you are to go down to attack them. Pay attention, now—they'll be coming up near the ascent of Ziz. You'll find them at the end of the valley that looks out over the Jeruel wilderness.

16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 You *need* not fight in this *battle*; take your position, stand and watch the salvation of the LORD in your behalf, Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow, go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."

17 You *need* not fight in this *battle*; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."

17 You won't be fighting in this battle. Take your stand, but stand still, and watch the LORD's salvation on your behalf, Judah and Jerusalem! Never fear and never be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, since the LORD is with you.'"

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

- God essentially told them to not fear, but rather just observe the victory that God would give them

**18** Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

**18** Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

**18** Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the assembled inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem fell face down in the LORD's presence and worshipped the LORD.

**18** And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

19 The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and from the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

19 The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

19 Descendants of Levi from the descendants of Kohath and from the descendants of Korah stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel in a very loud voice that ascended to heaven.

19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

### **Jehoshaphat's Instructions the Next Morning**

**20** They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of **Tekoa**; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: Put your trust in the LORD your God and you will endure. Put your trust in His prophets, and succeed."

**20** They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed."

**20** The army got up early the next morning and headed out into the wilderness of Tekoa. Jehoshaphat stood up and addressed them. "Listen to me, you inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem," he said. "Have faith in the LORD your God and you'll be established! Have faith in his prophets and you'll succeed!"

**20** 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.

- "...Tekoa" - 10 miles S of Jerusalem

21 When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who **sang to the LORD** and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His faithfulness is everlasting."

21 When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting."

21 After he had consulted with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed some choir members to sing to the LORD and to praise him in sacred splendor as they marched out in front of the armed forces. They kept saying

"Give thanks to the LORD,  
because his gracious love is eternal!"

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

- "...sang to the LORD" - they may have sung Ps 136

22 When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were struck down.

22 When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed.

22 Right on time, as they began to sing and praise, the LORD ambushed the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who had attacked Judah, and they were defeated.

**22** 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.

23 For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, completely destroying *them*; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

23 For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying *them* completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

23 The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the inhabitants of Mount Seir, destroying them, and after they had finished with the inhabitants of Mount Seir, they worked on destroying one another!

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

**24** When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they turned toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* corpses lying on the ground, and there was no survivor.

**24** When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped.

**24** When the army of Judah arrived at the remotest watchtower in the wilderness, they looked around at the invasion force, and to their surprise, there were dead bodies lying all around on the ground—not one had escaped!

**24** And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

- As He did with Gideon (Judges 7:15-23), God caused confusion among the enemy, and they mistakenly turned upon themselves and slaughtered each other

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoils, they found much among them, *including* goods, garments, and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were taking the spoils for three days because there was so much.

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, *including* goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much.

25 Later on, when Jehoshaphat and his army arrived to collect the spoils of war, they discovered there were far more goods, garments, and other valuable items to collect than they could carry off in a single day. There was so much material that it took three days to finish their collection efforts.

**25** And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

### **A Victory Celebration in Beracah Valley**

26 Then on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of **Beracah**, for they blessed the LORD there. Therefore they have named that place "The Valley of Beracah" until today.

26 Then on the fourth day they assembled in the valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore they have named that place "The Valley of Beracah" until today.

26 Three days later, they assembled together in the Beracah Valley, where they blessed the LORD, which is why the name of that place is called Beracah Valley to this day.

26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

- "...Beracah" - "the place to praise the Lord"

27 Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned, with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had helped them to rejoice over their enemies.

27 Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

27 Then they all returned with joy to Jerusalem, every soldier from Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat at the head of the procession, because the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

28 They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres, and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

28 They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the LORD.

28 They proceeded directly to the LORD's Temple, carrying lyres, harps, and trumpets.

28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

29 And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

29 And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

29 Fear of God seized all of the kingdoms in the surrounding territories when they heard that the LORD had battled Israel's enemies.

29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

- This is the second time during Jehoshaphat's reign that the nations were afraid of Judah (2 Chr 17:10); similar to the stories of the Israelites exodus from Egypt (Ex 23:27; Num 22:3; Joshua 2:9-11; 9:9-10)

30 So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

30 So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

30 As a result, Jehoshaphat's kingdom enjoyed peace, because his God had provided rest for him all around.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

### **A Summary of Jehoshaphat's Reign (Cf. 1 Kings 22:41-50)**

**31** Now Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. And his mother's name was

Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

**31** Now Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

**31** Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah, having become king at the age of 35. He reigned in Jerusalem for 25 years. His mother's name was Azubah, the daughter of Shilhi.

**31** And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: he was thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

32 He walked in the way of his father Asa and did not deviate from it, doing right in the sight of the LORD.

32 He walked in the way of his father Asa and did not depart from it, doing right in the sight of the LORD.

32 He followed the example of his father Asa and never departed from it, practicing what the LORD considered to be right.

32 And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD.

33 The high places, however, were not removed; the people had not yet directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

33 The high places, however, were not removed; the people had not yet directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

33 However, the high places were not removed, since the people had not yet directed their hearts to the God of their ancestors.

33 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

- The high places not being removed seems to contradict 17:6

— Perhaps when the people rebuilt the high places that Jehoshaphat destroyed earlier in his reign, he failed to tear them down again

— Another view is that he tore down the better known high places, but let stand those at which many of the common people worshipped (Cf. 1 Kings 22:43)

— In not removing the high places, Jehoshaphat fell short of the complete obedience required for God to establish his throne forever (Cf. 17:11-14)

**34** Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first to last, behold, they are written in the annals of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

**34** Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first to last, behold, they are written in the annals of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

**34** The rest of Jehoshaphat's accomplishments, from first to last, are recorded in the annals of Hanani's son Jehu, which appears in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

**34** Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

### **Jehoshaphat's Evil Alliance with Ahaziah**

**35** After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel. He acted wickedly in so doing.

**35** After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel. He acted wickedly in so doing.

**35** Sometime later, King Jehoshaphat of Judah entered into a military alliance with King Ahaziah of Israel, acting wickedly by doing so.

**35** And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:

36 So he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion-geber.

36 So he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion-geber.

36 He also agreed with King Ahaziah to build ships to sail toward Tarshish, which they built in Ezion-geber.

36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." So the ships were wrecked and could not go to Tarshish.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." So the ships were broken and could not go to Tarshish.

37 But Dodavahu's son Eliezer from Mareshah prophesied in opposition to Jehoshaphat, "Because you have entered into an alliance with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your efforts." So the ships were destroyed and were never able to sail for Tarshish.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

## **Conclusion**

Jehoshaphat died after a reign of 25 years at 60 years of age. Although he did have a couple instances of compromise (his alliance with Ahab [18:1-3; 1 Kings 22:3-4] and his failure to destroy all of the high places [20:35]), he had this testimony, that "he sought the Lord with all his heart" (2 Chr 22:9). The kingdom of Judah was never more prosperous than under his reign. The kingdom was left to Jehoram, who inaugurated the beginning of his reign by causing the massacre of his brethren.