

Jehoshaphat: A Good King, Mostly

September 22, 2019



Open: In what situations might you use the phrase “Jumping Jehoshaphat”?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 17:1-10

1. From verses 1-6, how would you describe the spiritual values of Jehoshaphat? Just as Jehoshaphat removed idols from Judah, are there idols in your life or in the life of your family that need to be taken down? Explain.
2. In verses 7-9, what was the focus of Jehoshaphat? What place does biblical education have in your own life? How do you continue to grow in biblical knowledge? How have you seen this shape your life?
3. What happened as a result of Jehoshaphat’s faithfulness (vv. 5, 10)? How does this encourage your own faithfulness? What biblical promises are given for our faithfulness today?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 20:1-12

4. In verses 1-2, Jehoshaphat is met with crisis. How would you describe his response in verses 3-4? What tends to be your first instinct in times of crisis? Why?
5. How do you see Jehoshaphat bringing about a communal response to this crisis? When and how should we go about including others in addressing challenges in our life?
6. In his prayer, what does Jehoshaphat seek to remind God of? What’s the value of speaking this way to God?
7. What important truths are captured in verse 12? What positive examples can we glean from Jehoshaphat regarding how to deal with crises?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 20:35-37

8. In verses 35-37, how do you see Jehoshaphat make compromises? What are some ways that we may be tempted to make compromises that undermine our relationship with God?
9. Given the descriptions of Jehoshaphat would you describe him as a good king or a bad king or something else? How does his reign leave us still anticipating a better king?

Pray: Pray that God enables us to walk in faithfulness to Him throughout our lives. Pray that as the people of God we would seek him together, encouraging one another toward faithfulness.

2 Chronicles 17:1-10

¹ Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place and strengthened himself against Israel. ² He placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim that Asa his father had captured. ³ The LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals, ⁴ but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel. ⁵ Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor. ⁶ His heart was courageous in the ways of the LORD. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asherim out of Judah.

⁷ 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; ⁸ and with them the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah; and with these Levites, the priests Elishama and Jehoram. ⁹ And they taught in Judah, having the Book of the Law of the LORD with them. They went about through all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

¹⁰ And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, and they made no war against Jehoshaphat. (ESV)

2 Chronicles 20:1-12

¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. ² Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

⁵ And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, ⁶ and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. ⁷ Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸ And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, ⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, 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 affliction, and you will hear and save.' ¹⁰ And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— ¹¹ behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (ESV)

2 Chronicles 20:35-37

³⁵ After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah joined with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted wickedly. ³⁶ He joined him in building ships to go to Tarshish, and they built the ships in Ezion-geber. ³⁷ Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have joined with Ahaziah, the LORD will destroy what you have made." And the ships were wrecked and were not able to go to Tarshish. (ESV)