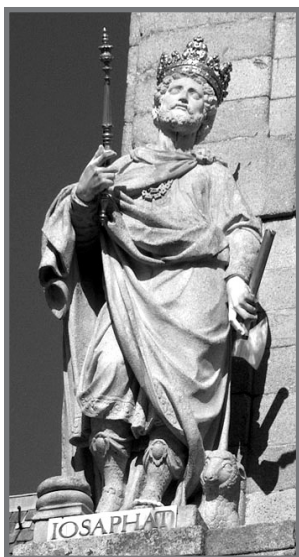

Jehoshaphat

The Power of Leadership



- Jehoshaphat was the 4th king of Judah following the division of the kingdom into North (Israel) and South (Judah) in 931 BC (see: 1 Kings 11:1-13). He reigned over Judah during the years of 870 - 848 BC.

- As a king, Jehoshaphat believed it was very important for the people of Judah to know God and His Word. He sent trained teachers of the Law out into the various cities to teach the people the ways of God (2 Chronicles 17:7-9).

- The Chronicler described Jehoshaphat as a king who “took great pride in the ways of the Lord.” He was greatly honored by his people, and by God, and grew in strength and wealth (2 Chronicles 17:5,6).

- Jehoshaphat, while a God fearing king, nevertheless did pursue alliances with idolatrous nations and kings. One such alliance was sealed by the marriage of his firstborn to the daughter of Jezebel, Ahab’s wicked wife. This alliance was to bring great evil upon Jehoshaphat’s house (2 Chronicles 18:1; 21:4-6).

- In the defining moment of his life, Jehoshaphat demonstrated great trust in God in the face of overwhelming circumstances. His high view of God led to a humble dependence upon Him in prayer even as he led the people to seek the Lord for protection and provision (2 Chronicles 20).

- In Jehoshaphat we see the power of God through the weakness of men. We also see a preview of the great King who would one day come in the power of Heaven, to defeat the enemies of God and deliver all those who trust in Him. We know this great King as Jesus Christ our Lord.

- You can read more about this godly king in the following texts:

1 Kings 15:24; 22:2-51; 2 Kings 3:4-27; 2 Chronicles 17-21:7

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2 Chronicles 17 - 21

Introduction: Jehoshaphat’s story demonstrates that God works His ways through imperfect lives. A godly king with a heart for God and His Word, Jehoshaphat nevertheless “hedged” his bets by entering into unholy alliances with the idolatrous enemies of God. His life is full of lessons about God and Man.

Jehoshaphat: A life in review

2 Chronicles 17 - 21

A great beginning brings honor: 17

An unholy alliance brings shame: 18

A repentant heart promotes justice: 19

A defining event demonstrates true character: 20

A proud heart leaves a tragic legacy: 20, 21

GOD:LIFE LESSONS

ABOUT GOD

He honors those who honor Him.

He is not bound to bless those who go against His heart.

He upholds those who trust in Him

ABOUT US

Our greatest goal must be to know and honor God.

We are prone to forget God most when things are good.

We are at our best when we are most dependent upon God.

JESUS CHRIST:LIFE FOCUS

Jehoshaphat’s life showed what God could do to establish righteousness, and justice through a King who would honor Him. Yet, both Jehoshaphat and his people suffered because of his sinful inconsistency. Today we know that the Perfect King God promised, and the Perfect Savior we needed has come in Jesus Christ, our King.