

Cover to Cover: (King Jehoshaphat)

Aug 12

Watch: Kings & Chronicles

Confused? Keeping track of all of the kings, good and bad, along with all of the prophets, can be a challenge. Check out the chart on the back for a helpful guide.

Context: We are now well into the story of the kings of Israel/Judah, the good, the bad and the ugly. This is told first in 1–2 Kings and then retold later in Chronicles. While in today's readings we could dwell on several kings, we'd be remiss if we didn't look at Jehoshaphat, one of the good kings of Judah. Today's study will consider his early reign and character. We'll consider him again this coming Lord's Day a.m.

First let's think about Rob McFadden's sermon from this past Lord's Day on Rehoboam and God's sovereignty (1 Ki 12:1–20).

Sermon Recap:

- Who did Rehoboam not look to for wisdom?
- Despite this, what wisdom related to servant leadership was given him by the elders?
- Why did Rehoboam listen to the young men?
- Who brought about the affairs in v. 15?
- As a Christian, how does a belief in God's sovereignty help us have peace/trust in difficult times?

Reading: 2 Chr 17

Questions:

- After two so-so kings, Asa and then his son Jehoshaphat become kings of Judah. From the outset (v. 2) we see the tension that continued to exist between Israel and Judah. To strengthen his hand militarily he ultimately turned to the LORD.
- Jehoshaphat means Jehovah is judge or judged. How does he lives up to his name? (see 2 Chr 22:9b; 1 Ki 22:43a).

- V. 3a- Just as many kings are likened to Jeroboam for their evil, what phrase or standard is used to speak of good kings?
- Who did he seek and what did he follow (v.4a)? What does this teach us about living righteously?
- The northern kingdom of Israel had at this time begun to worship, not simply the mixed-religion of Jeroboam, but the Baals (hence their mention in v. 3b). How is Jehoshaphat's godliness such a refreshing contrast in the face of such evil?
- Because of His faith, Jehoshaphat becomes the recipient (v. 5) of the covenant blessings (Dt 28–9). What are some of these?
- How does v. 6a describe him? What does this mean?
- In what two ways was he courageous? (v. 6 and v. 7). How were these examples of godly heroism? On the first, how was he only partially successful? (1 Ki 22:43b and v.46). Why?
- Great detail is given to the second of these. He sent out officials/princes as representatives of the king, along with Priests and Levites. What was one role of these groups in the Law (Dt 6:6–9)? Why did people need teaching if worship was to be pure?
- Teaching, or sound doctrine (1 Ti 1:10, 6:3; Tit 1:9, 2:1), can often been downplayed, however, what did Jesus say that places teaching at the heart of discipleship? (Mt 28:19–20).
- As a result of his growing greatness (v. 12) what did he do? How, in ch.18:1, does this lead to a temptation? What must we beware of if greatly blessed?

KEEPING FOCUSED= How does this passage point or speak of Jesus? (Lk 24:27)

