

JHOSHOPHAT WARNED. 2 CHN. 19. 6/18/23. #01

Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem. ²And 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? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you. ³Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God." ⁴So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD God of their fathers. ⁵Then he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, ⁶and said to the judges, "Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. ⁷Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes." ⁸Moreover in Jerusalem, for the judgment of the LORD and for controversies, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the chief fathers of Israel, when they returned to Jerusalem. ⁹And he commanded them, saying, "Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart: ¹⁰Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and your brethren. Do this, and you will not be guilty. ¹¹And take notice: 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 will be officials before you. Behave courageously, and the LORD will be with the good."

1. God's anger

- a. Jehu the prophet met Jeh. when he returned from battle against Syria while allied with Ahab
 - a1. God was angry with Jeh. for loving a man (Ahab) who hated the Lord
 - a2. If Jeh. did not have a desire for the Lord, God would have severely judged him
- b. 2 Cor. 6:14-18 we cannot fully love the Lord while fellowshipping with evil people
 - a1. Jeh. was a peer people pleaser which made him a double-minded man (Jm. 1)
 - a2. He would fall into the same sin when he joined Jehoram, Ahab's son, in battle
- c. We must recognize & guard against our blind spots where we can fall (Gen. 4:7-8; Jm. 1:15)
- d. Since Jeh. took away the high places, God allowed him to continue to reign & God blessed him

2. Jehoshaphat's reforms

- a. Despite Jeh.'s weakness, he did seek to honor

a2. He sent teachers throughout the land to teach the people the Law & not to sin

b1. They were warned against violating God's Law

b2. Jeh. warned about the wrath of God

c. The king gave a particular warning to the judges & priests as to how they are to do their jobs

a1. They are teaching in judging for the Lord

a2. God will hold both the judges & the teachers to account for what they did

d. God is not the God of bribes

a1. He is the God of justice & righteousness

a2. Each case that comes before the judge must be decided based upon truth

a3. Judgment must not be based upon social status, privilege, or political consequences

e. Jeh. commands priests to behave courageously

a1. Pressure to make decisions based upon the powerful or popular must be resisted

a2. The guiding principle of judgment is fear of the Lord

3. Stewards of Almighty God

a. Key principles of leadership & position

a1. 1 Cor. 10:31 everything must be done for the glory of God

a2. We are stewards for God in all we do

a3. We will give an account before God for what we do

a4. Only in the fear of the Lord will we stay humble & focused on doing His will

a5. Eccl. 8:11 accounting may not come immediately, but it will eventually come

b. Jeh. understood the concept of accountability to the Lord, but ignored it in interaction with Ahab

a1. We need to fear the Lord in all areas of life

a2. Compartmentalization of what we want to