

## JEHOSHAPHAT REIGNS. 2 CHN. 17. 6/11/23. #62.

Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. <sup>2</sup>And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. <sup>3</sup>Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, <sup>4</sup>but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. <sup>5</sup>Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance. <sup>6</sup>And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah. <sup>7</sup>Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nathanel, and Mithai, to teach in the cities of Judah. <sup>8</sup>And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nathaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. <sup>9</sup>So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people. <sup>10</sup>And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat. <sup>11</sup>Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats. <sup>12</sup>So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah. <sup>13</sup>He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>These are their numbers, according to their fathers' houses. Of Judah, the captains of thousands: Adnah the captain, and with him three hundred thousand mighty men of valor; <sup>15</sup>and next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and eighty thousand; <sup>16</sup>and next to him was Amasiah the son of Ziohri, who willingly offered himself to the LORD, and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor. <sup>17</sup>Of Benjamin: Eliada a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand men armed with bow and shield; <sup>18</sup>and next to him was Jehozabad, and with him one hundred and eighty thousand prepared for war. <sup>19</sup>These served the king, besides those the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

### 1. The entire picture

- 1 Kn. 22 describes Jeh.'s interaction with Asa, but 2 Chr. does not
- 2 Kn. 3 describes Elisha's interaction with Jeh. in the battle against Moab, 2 Chr. does not
- 1 Kn. 22 states that Jeh. didn't take away the high places of idol worship; 2 Chr. 17 says that he did
- 2 Chr. 17 states that Jeh. fortified himself against Israel, but 1 Kn. 22 says that he made peace with Israel (both could be true)
- Did Jeh. take some of the high places, but not all?

### 2. A righteous king

- Jeh. started reign in Judah in 4<sup>th</sup> yr. of Ahab's rule
  - Like his father, Asa, he was righteous
  - He obeyed the commandments of God
- Jeh. did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
  - He kept the Law
  - He took away the high places
  - He sent teachers throughout the towns of Judah to teach the people how to obey the commandments of God
  - He exiled wicked officials his dad kept
  - He shunned idol worship

### c. Jeh. was a wise & practical king

- He fortified the cities of Judah
- He kept a ready large army
- He built a merchant fleet to bring gold from Ophir, but the fleet was wrecked at Ezion-geber (Elah) at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba (1 Kn. 22:48)
- He refused to allow Ahab's men to come on his ships

### 3. God honored Jeh.

- Jeh. was 35 when he became king & ruled 25 years
- God blessed his reign for his godliness
  - The surrounding nations remained at peace with Judah
  - Surrounding kings brought gifts to Jeh.
  - Jeh. gained wealth & fame
  - Jeh. owned much property in various cities
  - The Arabians gave him thousands of animals
  - Some kings brought silver as tribute
- What Solomon sought in greed, Jeh. received as a gift from God
  - Jeh. "delighted" in the ways of God
  - Solomon delighted in his own riches, but in the end they disappointed him
  - Jeh. accomplished spiritual matters that lasts for eternity
  - Solomon built palaces that would crumble
- He who delights in the Lord will receive the desires of the Lord (Ps. 37:4)
- Jeh. 2 great mistakes
  - He went to battle with Ahab against Syria, even though Micaiah warned against it
  - He went with Jehoram, son of Ahab, against Moab & God sent Elisha to save him
- Since Jeh. followed the Lord, all ended well for him
  - Honor among men & reward in heaven
  - Sol. could have avoided his miserable end if he delighted in the Lord rather than self