

**The Kings of Judah**  
**Jehoshaphat: Begins His Reign**  
**2 Chronicles 17:1**  
**Lesson I**  
*Written: May 4, 1986*

SCRIPTURES 2 Chronicles Chapters 17,18,19,20.

1 Kings 15:24

1 Kings 22:1-50

2 Kings 3:6-27

And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

1 Kings 15:24

And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria? And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses. And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah. And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them. And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the king's hand. And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak. So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

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And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee. But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle. But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel. And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out. And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake. Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead. And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places. And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he shewed, and how he warred, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king. Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber. Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not. And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

1 Kings 22:1-50

And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel. And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses. And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom. So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them. And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab! But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand. And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones. And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water. And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border. And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood: And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil. And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country. And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kirharaseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it. And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not.

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Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

2 Kings 3:6-27

First, 1 Kings 22:41 Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, began his reign in the 4th year of Ahab king of Israel. It was the year 915 B.C.

And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

1 Kings 22:41

In 1 Kings 22:42 there facts are stated. He was 35 years old when he began to reign. He reigned for 25 years. His mothers name , Azubah (means forsaken). His grandfather on his mother's side was Shilhi (Jehovah has sent) Did his mother feel foraken? She named her boy "Jehoshaphat" which means "whom Jehovah judges." Perhaps her text was Genesis 18:25, "the Judge of all the earth will do right." Although I have felt forsaken, God will do right by my son.

Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

1 Kings 22:42

1 Kings 22:43 Jehoshaphat walked in all the ways of Asa his father doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. 1 Kings 22:44 Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel. Remember, that was Ahab. 1 Kings 22:46 The remnant of the sodomites ,which remained in the days of Asa, he took out of the land (Of Judah). 1 Kings 22:48-50 Before his death, he made a business deal that failed. We also observe. He began his reign during the days of Elijah. He was on the throne when Elijah was translated. 2 Kings chapter 2.

His reign continued during the days of Elisha. . At a glance, you can see that Jehoshaphat lived in an exciting time in Israel's history.

And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

1 Kings 22:43

And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

1 Kings 22:44

And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

1 Kings 22:46

Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber. Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not.

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And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

1 Kings 22:48-50

2 Chronicles 21:1-2, Jehoshaphat had seven sons. It is evident that Jehoshaphat was the greatest king since Solomon. God did not recognize Ahab as Israel's king. He calls Jehoshaphat "king of Israel."

Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead. And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

2 Chronicles 21:1-2

Mc Gee says: "He was a good ruler. He was a good man. A remarkable man. A wonderful man."

Parker:

Man of reverence. Man of strength. Man of foresight. Man with an honest heart.

## SECOND CHRONICLES SEVENTEEN.

### 1. 2 CHRONICLES 17:1-5 HIS REIGN BEGINS.

**Verse 1** And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

**Verse 2** And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. **Verse 3** And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; **Verse 4** But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. **Verse 5** Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

2 Chronicles 17:1-5

1. Verse 1 He strengthened himself against Israel. When Jehoshaphat came to the throne, the Nation of Judah was prospering. As we have noticed, Ahab was King of Israel and Jezebel was the queen. We read about Ahab in 1 Kings 16:30-33.

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

1 Kings 16:30-33

"Ethbaal the father of Jezebel had been the priest of Astoreth. "Astarte" greek for a Canaanite goddess. "The female god of fertility or agriculture and the goddess of sensual love. Licentious worship was conducted in her honour" (Wycliffe History and Geography)

1 Kings 11:5, Solomon went after Astoreth, the goddess of the Zidonians. We read that without knowing how sensual it was. 1 Kings 11:33 To worship Astoreth was to forsake the Lord. Ethbaal, Jezebel's father became King of Tyre and Sidon. 1 Kings 16:31.

Jezebel married Ahab King of Israel and she introduced Baal worship into Israel. "Baal" singular. "Baalim" plural. "Astoreth" was the female goddess. "Baal" was the male god. "Baal" means "lord" and like Astoreth, he was a fertility god. Worshipping Baal led to the worship of the sun.(Which we will read about later).

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

1 Kings 11:5

Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

1 Kings 11:33

And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

1 Kings 16:31

Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah, later marries Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat and Athaliah introduces Baal worship into Judah. In the days of Ezekiel, before the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem, Ezekiel describes what was going on.

Read Ezekiel 8:16-18. Baal worship was finally brought right into the Temple of God!

And of course, judgment soon fell on the nation.

And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Ezekiel 8:16-18

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Baal worship involved human sacrifices, sacramental sex, chambers for sexual intercourse. And when the sacred prostitutes were paid for their services, the money, the pay, was given as a sacrifice to Aphrodite. Jezebel was a shameless woman. She murdered Naboth. 1 Kings chapter 21. And she encouraged the cult of Baal to be freely practiced in Israel.

Music, sports and politics were all linked to pagan ritual. So much so, that even in the early days of the Church (Rev. 2:20) "accommodation to paganism was very tempting to those who wished to remain completely acceptable members of society. Christianity would have disappeared if it had not stood out in opposition to the popular beliefs and customs of the day."

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Rev. 2:20

Do you see something of the same in our day? The Church wants to be acceptable to the world, the society. The Church wants to be popular with the world. So what is the temptation? Put on programs that will attract the world. Lower our standards to the level of the world's standards. Tell the world we have a "god" of fertility. You know, join us and you will all have material prosperity. Our god is a God of prosperity. And are you observing that many of those who fall in line with this teaching seem to fall in line with the next step in Canaanite religion, next is sexual immorality.

Behind the whole system of worship was the "love of money." And the principle stands. "they that will be rich FALL...for the love of money is the root of all evil."

Back up and read 1 Kings 18:17-18. Ahab blamed the prophet for being a trouble maker in Israel. And it seems to me, to preach as your pastor preaches and teach as I do in these classes, numbers us with being "meddlers" and "troublers" in the Church of today, where everybody seems to want "religious unity" at all costs.

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

1 Kings 18:17-18

But look at Elijah's answer in 1 Kings 18:18. The prophet states, "I am not the troubler, Ahab you and the followers of Baal are the troublers. That has not changed to this hour.

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

1 Kings 18:18

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