

**Lessons From Characters In Old Testament**  
**Jehoshaphat**  
**Lesson 34**

**INTRO:**

- A. Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah, the son of Asa.
1. We are first introduced to him in **1 Kings 15:24** but are told nothing more than he succeeded Asa his father to the throne of Judah.
  2. Later, in **1 Kings 22:42** we learn he was 35 years old when he began to reign and he reigned 25 years (from 873 to 848 BC).
  3. **1 Kings 22** gives a brief account of his reign while **2 Chronicles 17–22** gives a more detailed account.
- B. Jehoshaphat began his reign in a spiritual manner. (**2 Chronicles 17:3–6**)
1. Add to this the fact he sent men throughout the kingdom to teach the people the law of the Lord. (**2 Chronicles 17:7–9**).
- C. From a military standpoint, Jehoshaphat “*built fortresses*” and that was primarily to guard against the northern kingdom of Israel (**2 Chronicles 17:1–3**).
1. The surrounding nations, even the Philistines, feared Judah and brought tribute (**2 Chronicles 17:10–19**).
  2. Let us recall a story we’ve already studied in regards to Ahab, the king of Israel. (**1 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 18**)
    - a. Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to help him attack Syria.
    - b. Jehoshaphat insisted they consult the Lord about the matter.
    - c. Ahab gathered 400 of his prophets who encourage the attack.
    - d. Jehoshaphat recognized they were not the Lord’s prophets and he asked Ahab, “...’*Is there no longer a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?*”
    - e. Ahab answered: “’*There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.*”
    - f. Micaiah is summoned, and the question is asked.
    - g. Micaiah responds: “*Attack and be victorious, . . . for the Lord will give it into the king’s hand.*” This answer irritated King Ahab: “*How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?*”
    - h. It’s then Micaiah tells Ahab the hard truth: (**1 Kings 22:15–18**).
  3. Yet, in spite of the truth, Jehoshaphat joins Ahab in the attack.
    - a. Ahab is killed and Jehoshaphat barely escapes.
  4. When Jehoshaphat returns home, he is rebuked by a prophet of the Lord. (**2 Chronicles 19:2–3**).
- D. Jehoshaphat continued to make reforms, appointing judges throughout the land and charging them to make righteous judgments and to fear the Lord (**2 Chronicles 19:4–11**).
- E. In **2 Chronicles 20**, several nations banded together and decided to march against Judah.
1. Jehoshaphat seeks the Lord and proclaimed all Judah to fast (**v. 3**).
  2. Through Jahaziel, the Lord tells Jehoshaphat He will deliver Judah without a fight (**vs. 14–17**).

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3. Instead, Jehoshaphat went out to battle with singers singing praise to the Lord.
  4. The alliance of nations turned against each other and begin to kill each other (**vs. 22–23**).
  5. The men of Judah spent three days collecting the spoils of war that were abandoned by their enemies (**v. 25**).
- F. Although Jehoshaphat began early in his reign to remove the idolatrous high places, at the end of his reign, there were still high places that had not been taken away (**1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 33**).
1. Jehoshaphat started well but his diligence diminished and idol-worship returned.
- G. **1 Kings 22:41–50 and 2 Chronicles 20:35–37** tells of a ship-building venture Jehoshaphat attempted with the wicked king Ahaziah of Israel, the son of Ahab.
1. Jehoshaphat had already been chastised for the alliance with Ahab and once again he is confronted by a prophet with a warning.
  2. It seems that Jehoshaphat heeded the warning and did not allow Ahaziah's men to sail with the Judah but the judgment still came to pass: the fleet was destroyed and Jehoshaphat's foolish investment with Ahaziah proved vain.
- H. Jehoshaphat is still considered to be a good and godly king but his reign did not end so well.
1. He kept trying to build an alliance with Israel even though the kings of Israel were repeatedly wicked.
  2. Jehoshaphat worshiped the Lord and led his people in seeking the Lord but the hearts of the people were never fully changed.
    - a. They returned to practice idolatry.
  3. Jehoshaphat was unable to 'pass his faith' on to his son Jehoram who reigned after him. (Faith is NEVER transferable!)
    - a. Jehoram started by killing all of his brothers and then made an alliance with Israel by marrying the daughter of Ahab (**2 Chronicles 21:4–6**).
- I. **Lessons From Jehoshaphat. (All these are from 2 Chronicles 20):**
- A. **Seek The Lord! (v.4)**
    1. We, too, would do well to seek the Lord. **Matthew 6:33; 7:7; Acts 17:27**
  - B. **Pray To The Lord! (v. 9)**
    1. Let us also pray. **Matthew 26:41; Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16**
  - C. **Look To The Lord! (v. 12)**
    1. Let us always look to the Lord for our strength and salvation. **Psalms 123:2; Micah 7:7**
  - D. **Be Courageous In The Lord; Depend On His Strength! (v.15)**
    1. We must put on the "whole armor of God" (**Ephesians 6:10-17**)
  - E. **Worship The Lord! (v. 18)**
    1. We too must worship God and do so "*in spirit and truth*". **John. 4:24**
  - F. **Have Faith In The Lord! (v. 20)**
    1. Our faith must be firm and without any doubt on our part. **Isaiah 43:10; Hebrews 11:6**

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- G. **Praise The Lord!** *“And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: 'Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.’” (v. 21)*
  - 1. We would do well to imitate the Psalmist: **Psalms 9:1; 21:13**
- H. **Be Joyful In The Lord! (v. 27)**
  - 1. **1 Thessalonians 5:16; Philippians 2:16**
- I. **Fear The Lord! (v. 29)**
  - 1. **Psalms 34:9; Prov. 1:7; 3:7; 9:10**
- J. **Have Peace In The Lord! (v. 30)**
  - 1. **Psalms 119:165; Prov. 16:7; Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:7**
- K. **Stay Faithful To The Lord! (v. 32)**
  - 1. **1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10**

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. After a reign of 25 years, Jehoshaphat died and was buried in the city of David. (**1 Kings 22:50**)
- B. He had been a righteous king and made many efforts while he reigned to get the people to faithfully serve the Lord.
- C. In those efforts, he succeeded in destroying the outward signs of idolatry but the high places were not destroyed and the hearts of the people were not fully set on serving God.

**LESSON 34**  
**Jehoram (of Judah) and Obadiah**  
2 Kings 8:16-24; 2 Chronicles 21:1-20  
The Book Of Obadiah