

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat Matthew 1:8

Lesson 11

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

- 1. What ministered to you most from the life of Asa?
- 2. Even godly people can make foolish choices. These choices do not disqualify them from God's grace or the lineage of Jesus. In fact, God will often use these wrong choices to get us back on the right path, teach us *not to lean on our own understanding*, and leave us with a greater dependency on God. This was certainly the case with Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was a godly king, but he made some foolish choices that resulted in calamity. However, God never forsook King Jehoshaphat. Rather, God taught this king utter dependency on Himself. This complete reliance on God resulted in amazing victories.

Instead of condemning ourselves over foolish choices, we need to learn from those choices the lesson of greater dependency on God. Use the excerpts below to highlight the exceptional godliness of King Jehoshaphat:

- a. 2 Chronicles 17:3-6; 18:4, 6, 31
- b. 2 Kings 3:11, 14
- c. 2 Chronicles 19:3-4
- d. 2 Chronicles 20:3, 18, 20
- 3. Ask God to teach you greater dependency on Him.

And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD. 2 Chronicles 17:6

SECOND DAY: Taken from 2 Chronicles 17 and 18

- 1. According to 2 Chronicles 17:1–2, Jehoshaphat the son of Asa *reigned in his place and strengthened himself against Israel*. Use 2 Chronicles 17:3–6 to cite Jehoshaphat's source of strength.
 - a. What do you find most compelling about this?
- 2. According to 2 Chronicles 17:8–9, what did Jehoshaphat command the Levites to do?
 - a. What was the result? 2 Chronicles 17:10
- 3. Although Jehoshaphat was a godly king, what foolish thing did he do when he met with wicked king Ahab? 2 Chronicles 18:1–3
- 4. What did Jehoshaphat request? 2 Chronicles 18:4, 6
 - a. Why do you think he made this request?
- 5. Ahab persuaded Jehoshaphat to go to war against the warning of God through the prophet Micaiah (2 Chronicles 18:12-27). Document the disastrous consequences of that decision from 2 Chronicles 18:28-31.
 - a. What happened when Jehoshaphat cried out? 2 Chronicles 18:31
 - (1) How do you see God's grace in this?
- 6. What wisdom do you glean from today's study?

THIRD DAY: Taken from 2 Kings 3

- 1. Under the reign of Ahab's son Jehoram, the kingdom of Israel again planned to go to battle. Use 2 Kings 3:4–6 to summarize the cause for this battle.
- 2. From 2 Kings 3:7 remark on the following:
 - a. Jehoram's actions and request
 - b. Jehoshaphat's response
- 3. Describe the kings' predicament. 2 Kings 3:9
 - a. Contrast the king of Israel's reaction with that of Jehoshaphat. 2 Kings 3:10-12
- 4. Use 2 Kings 3:13–26 to comment on:
 - a. Elisha's reaction (verses 13-15)
 - b. Elisha's prophecy (verses 16-19)
 - c. fulfillment of Elisha's word (verse 20)
 - d. the Moabites' reaction (verses 21-23)
 - e. the victory (verses 24-26)
- 5. What lesson do you think Jehoshaphat learned from these events?

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Chronicles 19

- 1. After his battle with Ahab against the Syrians, Jehoshaphat *returned safely to his house in Jerusalem*. However, what rebuke did he receive from *Jehu the son of Hanani the seer*? 2 Chronicles 19:2
 - a. Link this with Psalm 1:1 and Ephesians 5:11. Share your thoughts.
- 2. Nevertheless, how did Jehu commend Jehoshaphat? 2 Chronicles 19:3
- 3. Observe Jehoshaphat's actions after receiving this word from the LORD. 2 Chronicles 19:4
- 4. According to 2 Chronicles 19:5, Jehoshaphat *set judges in the land*. What awareness did Jehoshaphat want these judges to have? 2 Chronicles 19:6–7
- 5. Who did Jehoshaphat appoint for the judgment of the LORD and for controversies? 2 Chronicles 19:8
- 6. Remark on Jehoshaphat's exhortation to these men in 2 Chronicles 19:9–11 concerning:
 - a. their conduct (verse 9)
 - b. their responsibility (verse 10)
 - c. their leadership (verse 11b)
 - (1) Link this with 1 Corinthians 6:2 to underscore the importance of godly judgment.
- 7. What do Jehoshaphat's reforms convey about him?

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Chronicles 20:1–30

- 1. In 2 Chronicles 20:1–2 *the people of Moab with the people of Ammon and others came to battle against Jehoshaphat*. Comment on Jehoshaphat's reaction. 2 Chronicles 20:3–4
- 2. Use 2 Chronicles 20:5–12 to remark on Jehoshaphat's prayer concerning:
 - a. God's power (verse 6)
 - b. God's relationship with His people (verses 7-9)
 - c. Judah's predicament (verses 10–11)
 - d. Jehoshaphat's dependency (verse 12)
 - (1) What stands out the most to you from Jehoshaphat's prayer?
- 3. As all Judah *stood before the LORD*, the *Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel* (2 Chronicles 20:13–14). From 2 Chronicles 20:15–17 comment on God's instructions concerning:
 - a. their attitude (verse 15)
 - b. God's battle plan (verses 16-17)
- 4. According to 2 Chronicles 20:18–19 what was:
 - a. Jehoshaphat's response (verse 18a)
 - (1) What does this convey to you about Jehoshaphat?
 - b. The people's response (verse 18b)
 - c. The Levites' response (verse 19)

- 5. Record the king's instruction as they went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. 2 Chronicles 20:20b
 - a. What do you find compelling about this instruction?
- 6. What did Jehoshaphat do after he *consulted with the people*? 2 Chronicles 20:21
 - a. Remark on the subject of their:
 - (1) song
 - (2) praise
- 7. Use 2 Chronicles 20:22–23 to explain what happened *when they began to sing and to praise.*
- 8. From the following verses in 2 Chronicles 20, briefly cite some of the results of this victory:
 - a. verse 24
 - b. verse 25
 - c. verse 26
 - d. verse 27
 - e. verse 28
 - f. verse 29
 - g. verse 30
- 9. Share a way the events of 2 Chronicles 20 minister to you in your circumstances.

SIXTH DAY: Read 2 Chronicles 20:31-37; Review

- 1. Although Jehoshaphat was a godly king, he made mistakes. However, what was his overall legacy? 2 Chronicles 20:31–32
 - a. How does this minister to you?
- 2. Note and highlight what stands out to you from the prophets' word regarding Jehoshaphat's decisions:
 - a. Jehu 2 Chronicles 19:2
 - b. Elisha 2 Kings 3:13–14
 - c. Jahaziel 2 Chronicles 20:14–17
 - d. Eliezer 2 Chronicles 20:37
 - (1) Share a lesson you have learned through your mistakes.

You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you. 2 Chronicles 20:17