

AN OMNI-INTERVENTION

I. [2 Chronicles 20:1-30](#) [Colossians 2:13-15](#) [1 Corinthians 15:56-57](#)

A. Following his father, Asa, Jehoshaphat was King of Judah for 25 years (from 873 to 848 BC). Though none of the kings of Israel were good kings, a few from Judah were. Jehoshaphat was one of them. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. While he had flaws, we'll see in our text today his heart belonged to God...

B. We know reading through the OT, God often brought judgment on His disobedient children. When they turned to the false gods of pagan nations, worshiped their idols, and even sacrificed their children to these false gods, His anger burned. Allowing invasions by enemies was not uncommon. But today's story is different. Today's story is about a test, one where God alone can save His people from impending doom. How will God's people respond? Let's find out...

C. [2 Chronicles 20:1-30](#) (ESV) is how to respond to an invasion...

1) **V1: 1** *After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. (An alliance of 3 nations invade Judah. This invasion was not happening because of Judah's rebellion, it was happening to test the hearts of God's people. God was putting them in a position from which they could not save themselves. Each of us were born into such a crisis as this!)*

2) **V2-5: 2** *Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea (**Dead Sea**); and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). 3* *Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4* *And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. 5* *And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, (**The king leads them in crying out to God!**)*

3) **V6: 6** *and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In Your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand You. (**God is sovereign and all-powerful; that's called omnipotence!**)*

4) **V7-9: 7** *Did You not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend? 8* *And they have lived in it and have built for You in it a sanctuary for Your name, saying, 9* *'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You--for Your name is in this house--and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'* (*i.e. **We are Your Children O God and we're in serious trouble!***)

5) **V10-12: 10** *And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy-- (**Not among the original Canaanite nations.**) 11* *behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of Your possession, which You have given us to inherit. (**i.e. They have no good reason to invade.**) 12* *O our God, will You not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what*

to do, but our eyes are on You.” (Let's paraphrase this prayer: 'We are powerless O God but You are all-powerful! [Omnipotent] We don't know what to do but You are all-knowing! [Omniscient] There's so many of them who've come here but You are ever-present! [Omnipresent] We look to You for help!' 'We're in need of an Omni-intervention!)

6) V13: 13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. (Whole families come together to plead for God's help!)

7) V14: 14 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. (Jahaziel is a Levite, likely a worship leader, and God's word comes to him.)

8) V15-16: 15 And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. **16** Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. (God is all-knowing!) [Omniscient]

9) V17: 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. (God is all-powerful!) [Omnipotent] Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.” (He's all-present [Omnipresent], but He'll be here with us tomorrow!) (Now watch abject humility join with absolute adulation...)

10) V18-19: 18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. **19** And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. (All these postures & gestures reflect hearts that have totally received the Word of the Lord with gratitude.)

11) V20-21: 20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe His prophets, and you will succeed.” (BELIEVE GOD!) **21** And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise Him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, “Give thanks to the LORD, for His steadfast love endures forever.” (Maybe you think Praise & Worship is just for girlie men. But the greatest warriors down thru history were all given to song.)

12) V22-25: 22 And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. **23** For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another. **24** When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped. **25** When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much. (Like going from bankruptcy to winning the lottery!)

13) V26-30: 26 *On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, (i.e. **Blessing**) for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day. 27* Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. **28** *They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. 29* And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. **30** *So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around. (I trust you all realize this is more than just a great story of deliverance...)*

D. Whether or not our nation ever experiences an invasion like Judah is unknown. We dare not boast it could never happen here. (Ukraine is experiencing one right now!) But as a church, or as individual believers, we may find ourselves facing an overwhelming crisis (*one that feels invasion-like*) with multiple challenges all at once. Finding ourselves in a crisis where only God can deliver is more probable than unlikely. Some of us have faced such trials. But turning to the Lord, as we saw Jehoshaphat and God's people do, is a blueprint for humbly crying out to God. And whether or not God chooses to deliver us FROM such a crisis or deliver us INTO His own loving and eternal arms, ultimately doesn't matter. We are in a win-win situation either way...

E. But a greater victory than Jehoshaphat's would come 9 centuries later when the doom we faced was eternal. Jesus' victory over sin and death, won for us on His bloody cross, affirmed by His empty tomb, was the victory of all victories! There's an axis of evil allied against us: *the world, the flesh, and the devil*. Without God's intervention, victory over these battle-hardened foes is impossible. But God has brought forth an omni-intervention. Through His Son He has won our victory. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross has rendered their power broken. They have been defeated, are being defeated, and will one day be defeated forever.

F. Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT) affirms it this way: 13 *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. 14* He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. **15** *In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.*

G. This is the victory that for 2000 years has put people on their faces in abject humility and caused them to rise and sing with shouts of joy and songs of praise! If this victory is not yet yours, receive it! If it is yours, relish every ounce of it! 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (NLT) is really our only adequate response: 56 *For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57* *But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

* Close with Lyrics to "*Some May Trust in Chariots*" by Lynn DeShazo and Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[2 Chronicles 20:1-30 \(ESV\)](#)

1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. **2** Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). **3** Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. **4** And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. **5** And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, **6** and said, “O LORD, God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In Your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand You. **7** Did You not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend? **8** And they have lived in it and have built for You in it a sanctuary for Your name, saying, **9** ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You--for Your name is in this house--and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ **10** And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy-- **11** behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of Your possession, which You have given us to inherit. **12** O our God, will You not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.” **13** Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. **14** And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. **15** And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. **16** Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. **17** You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.” **18** Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. **19** And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. **20** And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe His prophets, and you will succeed.” **21** And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise Him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, “Give thanks to the LORD, for His steadfast love endures forever.” **22** And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. **23** For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another. **24** When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the

horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped. **25** When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much. **26** On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day. **27** Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. **28** They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD. **29** And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. **30** So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. **14** He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. **15** In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (NLT)

56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. **57** But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bonus Goodies

Ambush Satan with Song - John Piper (Sermon Jam)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yrw5roZDWqY>

Jehoshaphat's Victory - John Walsh

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l__erhcNxiE

"Jehoshaphat" - Song by Don Francisco (Live in South Africa)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psfMp46GDs8>

"The Battle is Yours" - Paul Wilbur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfvofKFkQ50>

"Battle is the Lord's" - Rebecca St. James & Brandon Lake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Y3AnfCVAYg

More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras

2 Chronicles 17:1-6 (NLT)

1 Then Jehoshaphat, Asa's son, became the next king. He strengthened Judah to stand against any attack from Israel. **2** He stationed troops in all the fortified towns of Judah, and he assigned additional garrisons to the land of Judah and to the towns of Ephraim that his father, Asa, had captured. **3** The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father's early years and did not worship the images of Baal. **4** He sought his father's God and obeyed His commands instead of following the evil practices of the kingdom of Israel. **5** So the LORD established Jehoshaphat's control over the kingdom of Judah. All the people of Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so he became very wealthy and highly esteemed. **6** He was deeply committed to the ways of the LORD. He removed the pagan shrines and Asherah poles from Judah.

2 Chronicles 19:4-11 (NLT)

4 Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, but he went out among the people, traveling from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, encouraging the people to return to the LORD, the God of their ancestors. **5** He appointed judges throughout the nation in all the fortified towns, **6** and he said to them, "Always think carefully before pronouncing judgment. Remember that you do not judge to please people but to please the LORD. He will be with you when you render the verdict in each case. **7** Fear the LORD and judge with integrity, for the LORD our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes." **8** In Jerusalem, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests and clan leaders in Israel to serve as judges for cases involving the LORD's regulations and for civil disputes. **9** These were his instructions to them: "You must always act in the fear of the LORD, with faithfulness and an undivided heart. **10** Whenever a case comes to you from fellow citizens in an outlying town, whether a murder case or some other violation of God's laws, commands, decrees, or regulations, you must warn them not to sin against the LORD, so that He will not be angry with you and them. Do this and you will not be guilty. **11** "Amariah the high priest will have final say in all cases involving the LORD. Zebadiah son of Ishmael, a leader from the tribe of Judah, will have final say in all civil cases. The Levites will assist you in making sure that justice is served. Take courage as you fulfill your duties, and may the LORD be with those who do what is right."

1 Kings 22:41-50 (NLT)

41 Jehoshaphat son of Asa began to rule over Judah in the fourth year of King Ahab's reign in Israel. **42** Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His mother was Azubah, the daughter of Shilhi. **43** Jehoshaphat was a good king, following the example of his father, Asa. He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight. During his reign, however, he failed to remove all the pagan shrines, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there. **44** Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel. **45** The rest of the events in Jehoshaphat's reign, the extent of his power, and the wars he waged are recorded in The Book of the History of the Kings of Judah. **46** He banished from the land the rest of the male and female shrine prostitutes, who still continued their practices from the days of his father, Asa. **47** (There was no king in Edom at that time, only a deputy.) **48** Jehoshaphat also built a fleet of trading ships to sail to Ophir for gold. But the ships never set sail, for they met with disaster in their home port of Ezion-geber. **49** At one

time Ahaziah son of Ahab had proposed to Jehoshaphat, "Let my men sail with your men in the ships." But Jehoshaphat refused the request. **50** When Jehoshaphat died, he was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. Then his son Jehoram became the next king.

Exodus 14:13-14 (ESV)

13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Ephesians 6:10-13 (ESV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Hebrews 2:14-18 (NLT)

14 Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. **15** Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. **16** We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; He came to help the descendants of Abraham. **17** Therefore, it was necessary for Him to be made in every respect like us, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then He could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. **18** Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested.

Hebrews 10:11-14 (NIV)

11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But when This Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, **13** and since that time He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool. **14** For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Quote by R.A. Torrey

"The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came. Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory."

Quote by Duncan Campbell

"To me, it has been a source of great comfort and strength in the day of battle, just to remember that the secret of steadfastness, and indeed, of victory, is the recognition that "the Lord is at hand."

Quote by Lee Roberson

"Nothing but encouragement can come to us as we dwell upon the faithful dealing of our Heavenly Father in centuries gone by. Faith in God has not saved people from hardships and trials, but it has enabled them to bear tribulations courageously and to emerge victoriously."

Quote by Ray Stedman

"If you want a wonderful experience, take your New Testament and use a concordance to look up the two little words, but God. See how many times human resources have been brought to an utter end; despair has gripped the heart and pessimism and gloom has settled upon a people; and there is nothing that can be done. Then see how the Spirit of God writes in luminous letters, but God, and the whole situation changes into victory."

Quote by Watchman Nee

"Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved. Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full. Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, "in Christ."

Some May Trust in Chariots (Psalm 20:7)

Lynn DeShazo

Some may trust in horses, some may trust in chariots,
but we will trust in the name of our God.

Some may trust in horses, some may trust in chariots,
but we will trust in the name of our God.

In the name of Jesus our salvation lies.
He will hear from heaven to answer every cry.

By the blood of Jesus, sins are washed away.
We sing for joy to God our strength,
His banner we wave, we wave.

by Lynn DeShazo © 1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

Worship As Warfare

2 Chronicles 20:14-30 - The Jesus Bible

Armies from Moab and Ammon came against King Jehoshaphat and Judah. The Spirit came on a Levite named Jahaziel. He told the people not to be afraid because the Lord would deliver them in battle, and the people would not have to lift a weapon. Instead, they were to stand still and watch God save them. Then, something amazing happened. The army held a worship service where singers went out in front of the army praising God for the splendor of His holiness. As they sang praises, God destroyed the enemy army! When Judah's army finally got to the spot, they found only dead bodies, and it took three days to carry away all the plunder.

This victory pointed forward to Jesus Christ. Jesus defeated His people's enemies on their behalf (Heb. 2:14-15; 10:13). And, like the Old Testament saints, believers today engage in worship as warfare against the enemies-- *"not against flesh and blood, but... against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"* (Eph. 6:12). Worship was seen as warfare throughout the Bible. Worship is described in the Old Testament as *"appearing before God,"* which gave the imagery of an army assembling for inspection by the commanding officer. After all, God responded to the prayers of His people by defeating Egypt (Ex. 3:7-10). And, the trumpet-led worship service at Jericho caused the walls to fall down (Jos. 6:20).

In worship gatherings today, the people do not gather at Mount Sinai, but rather they gather spiritually at Mount Zion, surrounded by innumerable angels and the redeemed of all the ages (Heb. 12:22-23). And as they worship the Lord He thunders from heaven, promising that He is in the process of establishing a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. When God talked about His judgment at the end of the age, He pointed to the story of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:1-2, 12-13). The book of Hebrews further confirms the connection between worship and that day of judgment. God--a consuming fire who devours the enemy and rescues His people--will someday go to war in the final judgment in response to the church's worship (Heb. 12:25-26; cf. Rev. 8:3-5).

- Theological note on 2 Chronicles 20:14-30, *The Jesus Bible*, Zondervan, p. 652.

Who Was Jehoshaphat in the Bible?

By S. Michael Houdmann

<https://www.gotquestions.org/King-Jehoshaphat.html>

Question: *Who was King Jehoshaphat in the Bible?*

Answer: King Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah under the divided monarchy, the son of [Asa](#). We are first introduced to him in [1 Kings 15:24](#) but are told nothing more than that he succeeded Asa. Later, [1 Kings 22:42](#) tells us that he was 35 years old when he began his reign and that he reigned 25 years (from 873 to 848 BC). [First Kings 22](#) gives a brief account of his reign with [2 Chronicles 17-22](#) giving a more comprehensive account.

Spiritually, Jehoshaphat began his reign in a positive way. [Second Chronicles 17:3–6](#) gives this commendation: “The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways of his father David before him. He did not consult the [Baals](#) but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel. The Lord established the kingdom under his control; and all Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so that he had great wealth and honor. His heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord; furthermore, he removed the high places and the [Asherah poles](#) from Judah.” In addition, Jehoshaphat sent men throughout the kingdom to teach the people the Law of God ([2 Chronicles 17:7–9](#)).

Militarily, Jehoshaphat fortified his defenses, primarily against the northern kingdom of Israel ([2 Chronicles 17:1–3](#)). The surrounding nations feared Judah and brought tribute ([2 Chronicles 17:10–19](#)).

After making peace with Israel, Jehoshaphat apparently tried to reach out to [Ahab](#), the king of Israel. Ahab was one of the wickedest kings of Israel, and Jehoshaphat could not have been ignorant of his character. [First Kings 22](#) and [2 Chronicles 18](#) relate the following account: Ahab asks Jehoshaphat to help him attack Syria. Jehoshaphat wisely requests that they consult the LORD on the matter. Ahab gathers 400 of his prophets who encourage the attack. Jehoshaphat recognizes that these are not genuine prophets of the LORD, and the exchange that follows between Jehoshaphat and Ahab is almost comical: “But Jehoshaphat asked, ‘Is there no longer a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?’ The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, ‘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.’”

So, [Micaiah](#) is summoned, and the question is posed. Micaiah responds with high irony: “Attack and be victorious, . . . for the Lord will give it into the king’s hand.” This answer exasperates King Ahab: “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?” Micaiah then tells Ahab the hard truth: “I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, ‘These people have no master’” ([1 Kings 22:15–18](#)).

In spite of what seems to be an acknowledgement that Micaiah speaks for the LORD, Jehoshaphat joins Ahab in the attack. Ahab is killed, and Jehoshaphat narrowly escapes. When Jehoshaphat returns home, he is reprimanded by a prophet of the Lord for his collaboration with Ahab: “Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, ‘Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you. There is, however, some good in you, for you have rid the land of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God’” ([2 Chronicles 19:2–3](#)).

Jehoshaphat continues to make reforms, appointing judges throughout the land to handle disputes and charging them to make righteous judgments and to fear the Lord ([2 Chronicles 19:4–11](#)).

In [2 Chronicles 20](#), an alliance of nations decides to march against Judah. Jehoshaphat seeks the Lord and asks all Judah to fast (verse 3). Through a man named Jahaziel, the Lord tells Jehoshaphat that He will deliver Judah without a fight (verses 14–17). Jehoshaphat goes out to battle with singers leading the way, singing praise to the Lord. The alliance of nations turn against each other and begin to kill each other (verses 22–23). The men of Judah spend three days collecting the spoils of war that were abandoned by their enemies (verse 25).

Although Jehoshaphat started his reign by removing the idolatrous high places, at the end of his reign, there were still high places that had not been taken away ([1 Kings 22](#) and [2 Chronicles 33](#)). Jehoshaphat started well, but his diligence flagged, and the idol-worship returned. [First Kings 22:41–50](#) and [2 Chronicles 20:35–37](#) record a joint ship-building venture that Jehoshaphat attempted with the wicked king Ahaziah of Israel. Jehoshaphat, who had already been chastised for an alliance with Ahab, is once again confronted by a prophet with a warning. It seems that Jehoshaphat heeded the warning and did not allow Ahaziah's men to sail with the Judeans, but the judgment still came to pass: the fleet was wrecked, and Jehoshaphat's foolish investment with Ahaziah proved futile.

Jehoshaphat is still considered a good and godly king, but his reign ended rather badly. He kept trying to build an alliance with Israel, even though the kings of Israel were obviously wicked. Jehoshaphat worshiped the Lord and led his people in seeking the Lord, but the hearts of the people were never fully changed. They reverted to pagan practices. King Jehoshaphat was unable to pass his faith on to his son [Jehoram](#) who reigned after him. Jehoram started by killing all of his brothers, and he then made an alliance with Israel by marrying the daughter of Ahab ([2 Chronicles 21:4–6](#)).

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