

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 59

II Chronicles 17 - Jehoshaphat

INTRODUCTION: Recently we discussed important chapters in the Bible which tell us of men who were good men; yet, they backslid. Such was the case in the life of Jehoshaphat, one of the best kings who ever ruled over Judah. Let us notice several things about Jehoshaphat.

- I. JEHOSHAPHAT WAS GOD'S ANOINTED KING OVER JUDAH. He was a descendant of King David and, therefore, was in the holy line to whom God promised the kingdom of Judah forever. II Samuel 7:16, "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever."
- II. THE LORD WAS PLEASED WITH HIM IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY, AND HE BLESSED HIM AND PROSPERED HIM AS KING. II Chronicles 17:1-5.
 1. He "walked in the first ways of his father David."
 2. He "sought not unto Baalim."
 3. He "sought to the LORD God of his father."
 4. He "walked in his commandments."
 5. He walked "not after the doings of Israel."
 6. He "had riches and honour in abundance."

In other words, Jehoshaphat was a man of fine breeding and was in God's favor.

- III. JEHOSHAPHAT LED IN A GREAT REVIVAL. II Chronicles 17:6-9.
 1. His "heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD."
 2. He "took away the high places and groves out of Judah." These groves were worship centers where idolators and heathen would practice their pagan worship.
 3. He sent out princes to teach the Bible in the cities of Judah. In other words, he sent evangelists and Bible teachers throughout the entire country to teach the Bible to the people. II Chronicles 17:9, "And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people."

He led in a great revival. Probably only two other revivals in all the history of Judah were as great. One of these was under Hezekiah, and the other was under Josiah. In other words, Jehoshaphat was a wonderful king who did obeisance to the Lord.

- IV. JEHOSHAPHAT THEN COMPROMISED AND YOKED UP WITH THE ENEMIES OF GOD. God had plainly taught His people that they should not yoke up with the pagan people. Jehoshaphat, however, thought it was right to do right, but he was ruined, not because he was a wicked man, but because he ran with wicked men; not because he himself was a vile sinner, but because he ran with vile sinners; not because he himself was a heathen, but because he ran with heathen people and yoked up with them.
 1. He joined Ahab to fight the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead. II Chronicles 18:1-3. So Jehoshaphat joined Ahab. It was light joining with darkness. It was the temple of God joining with idols. It was an unequal yoke. It was the ox and the ass teaming together. It was mixing seeds in the same vineyard. It was a garment made of linen and wool. All of these things were forbidden in the law. Notice in verse 3 what Jehoshaphat said unto Ahab: "I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war." This was a step in Jehoshaphat's downward trend.
 2. Jehoshaphat joined in business with King Ahaziah, son of Ahab. II Chronicles 20:35-37. Jehoshaphat had been sternly rebuked for his alliance with Ahab; but, in spite of this, he joined in a business venture with Ahaziah to build the ships at Ezion-gaber and send them on voyages. They hoped to receive riches which came to Solomon—gold, silver, ivory, precious stones, etc. Again Jehoshaphat continued his downward trend because he yoked up with heathen people.
 3. Jehoshaphat yoked up with Jehoram in a war against Moab. II Kings 3:1, 6 and 7. When Jehoshaphat did this, Elisha immediately reproved this unholy alliance.

II Kings 3:13, 14, “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.” Elijah replied sternly! “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.” God’s man had warned him. However, he continued to run with the wrong crowd.

V. THE RESULTS OF JEHOSHAPHAT’S COMPROMISING.

1. He lost the blessings.
2. He lost God’s fellowship and favor.
3. His son married a heathen girl. His son, Jehoram, married the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Jehoram suffered greatly because of the sin of Jehoshaphat, his father.
4. His sin continued to the third generation. We will not go into the tragic story, but there is a definite teaching in the Word of God that for three generations people suffered because of him.

CONCLUSION: Bear in mind that Jehoshaphat was a good man; he just went with wrong people. God punished him for it. Not only did Jehoshaphat suffer, but so did his entire nation and his entire family.