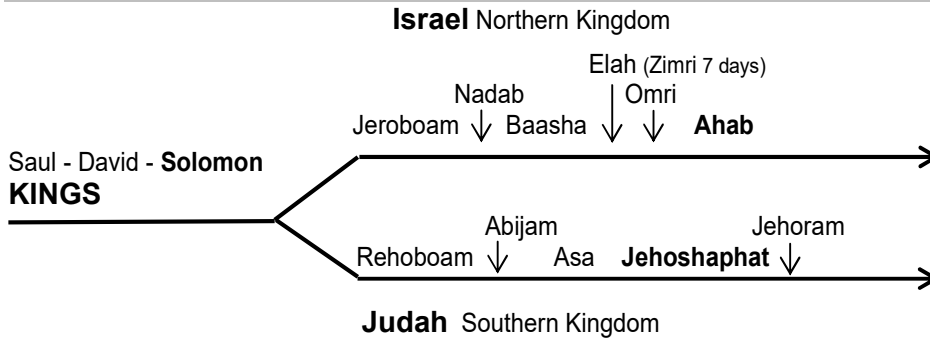


The BATTLE is NOT Yours ~ 2 Chron. 17-20

→ **Scripture Reading**- 2 Chron. 17:3-4, 6, 10 and 20:15, 20

INTRODUCTION



Chronicles was written to... HOTC

- teach WHY the EXILE had taken place
- to teach Real Life LESSONS from the lives of the Kings of Judah
- show the LINE of Kings leading to the Messiah
- show that the Messiah King of Israel was Desperately NEEDED

Deeply Committed to the LORD ~ 2 Chron 17:1-7

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. (NLT)

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. (NLT)

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. (NLT)

Jehoshaphat...

- followed the Good EXAMPLE of his Father vs 3
- did NOT worship Baals vs 3
- SOUGHT after God vs 4
- OBEYED God's Commands vs 4
- DEEPLY Devoted to the Lord vs 6
- REMOVED the places of Idol worship vs 6

⁷ In the third year of his reign Jehoshaphat SENT his officials to TEACH in ALL the towns of Judah. These officials included Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah. ⁸ He sent Levites along with them, including Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobagonian. He also sent out the priests Elishama and Jehoram. ⁹ They took copies of the Book of the Law of the LORD and traveled around through ALL the towns of Judah, teaching the people. (NLT)

¹⁰ Then the FEAR of the LORD fell over all the surrounding kingdoms so that none of them wanted to declare war on Jehoshaphat. ¹¹ Some of the Philistines brought him gifts and silver as tribute, and the Arabs brought 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats. ¹² So Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful and built fortresses and storage cities throughout Judah. ¹³ He stored numerous supplies in Judah's towns and stationed an army of seasoned troops at Jerusalem. (NLT)

IMPLICATION

⁴ He SOUGHT his father's God and obeyed His commands...

1 Chronicles 22:18-19 Now determine in your mind and heart to SEEK the LORD your God.... (HCS)

It is a Conscious Choice to direct the heart and mind toward God. JP

Colossians 3:1–3 (NIV) ¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **SET your HEARTS** on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² **SET your MINDS** on things above, NOT on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

This setting of the mind is the OPPOSITE of mental coasting. It is a Conscious Choice to DIRECT the heart toward God. JP

IMPLICATION

^{17:7} In the third year of his reign Jehoshaphat SENT his officials to TEACH in ALL the towns of Judah.

^{17:10} Then the FEAR of the LORD fell over all the surrounding kingdoms so that none of them wanted to declare war on Jehoshaphat.

Back on TRACK ~ 2 Chronicles 19:1-11

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.” (NLT)

It makes no sense to teach everybody to obey divine law and then not to enforce it. Remember that there was more to the law than sacrifices and personal righteousness; it also included instructions for the people of God on how to function as a community. HOTC

⁹ These were his instructions to them: “You must always act in the fear of the LORD, with faithfulness and an undivided heart. (NLT)

¹¹ ...Take courage as you fulfill your duties, and may the LORD be with those who do what is right.” (NLT)

Very, Very BAD News ~ 2 Chronicles 20:1-37

³ Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the LORD for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting... (NLT)

⁶ He prayed, “O LORD, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against You! (NLT)

¹² O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are LOOKING to YOU for HELP.”

¹⁵ ...This is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's...

¹⁷ ...you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then STAND STILL and watch the LORD's victory.

²⁰ Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, “Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be able to stand firm... ²¹ After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising Him for His holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the LORD; his faithful love endures forever!”

IMPLICATION

If God is FOR US - WHO can be AGAINST us?

TAKE AWAY ??

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

² Let us **FIX our eyes on** Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ **CONSIDER Him** who endured such opposition from sinful men, SO THAT you will not grow weary and lose heart.

To **set our minds** towards God in ALL our experiences, to direct our minds and hearts toward Him through His Word. This is what seeking God means. JP