

2 Chronicles 17:1-19 **Jehoshaphat – a good King of Judah**

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

1 Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel.
2 And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken.

3 Now Yahweh (the Lord) was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, 4 but sought Elohey (the God of) his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel.

5 Therefore Yahweh (the Lord) established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance.

6 And his heart took delight in the ways of Yahweh (the Lord); moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.

Jehoshaphat's Education Program

7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8 And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah — the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests.

9 So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of Yahweh (the Lord) with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.

10 And the fear of Yahweh (the Lord) fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

Prosperity accompanied Peace

11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats.

12 So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah.

13 He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem.

Mighty Men of Valor in Jerusalem

14 These are their numbers, according to their fathers' houses. Of Judah, the captains of thousands: **Adnah** the captain, and with him three hundred thousand mighty men of valor;

15 and next to him was **Jehohanan** the captain, and with him two hundred and eighty thousand;

16 and next to him was **Amasiah** the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself to Yahweh (the Lord), and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor.

17 Of Benjamin: **Eliada** a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand men armed with bow and shield;

18 and next to him was **Jehozabad**, and with him one hundred and eighty thousand prepared for war.

19 These served the king, besides those the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

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Facts Revealed:

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

- ✧ Jehoshaphat son of Asa king of Judah strengthened himself against Israel, placing troops in all the fortified cities of Judah and garrisons in the land of Judah and the cities of Ephraim which Asa had taken from Israel. [2 Chronicles 17:1-2]
- ✧ Yahweh (the Lord) was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought Elohey (the God of) his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. [2 Chronicles 17:3-4]
- ✧ Yahweh established the kingdom in the hand of Jehoshaphat, and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat and he had riches and honor in abundance. [2 Chronicles 17:5]
- ✧ The Heart of Jehoshaphat took delight in the ways of Yahweh, and he removed the high places of Judah and destroyed the wooden images. [2 Chronicles 17:6]
 - ✧ It seems that the people continually replaced the idols after the kings removed them.

Jehoshaphat's Education Program

- ✧ Jehoshaphat established a teaching program where he sent leaders to teach in the cities of Judah.

The leaders were accompanied by Levites and Priests with the Book of the Law of Yahweh so the people would learn the ways of Yahweh. [2 Chronicles 17:7-9]

 - ✧ Teaching the people Yahweh's Laws was the job appointed to the Priests and Levites by Yahweh when He first established them as rulers of the people. Here it seems they needed instruction from the king to do their appointed duty.
 - ✧ The failure of the Priests and Levites is the reason the people so readily forsook the Lord their God and fell into sin.
- ✧ When Jehoshaphat led the people back to Yahweh, The fear of Yahweh fell on all the kingdoms of the lands around Judah and they made no war against Jehoshaphat giving Judah a time of peace. [2 Chronicles 17:10]

Prosperity accompanied Peace

- ✧ Philistines brought Jehoshaphat gifts of silver as tribute.
- ✧ Arabians brought him flocks, 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats. [2 Chronicles 17:11]
- ✧ Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah. [2 Chronicles 17:12]
- ✧ Jehoshaphat had much property in the cities of Judah. [2 Chronicles 17:13]

Mighty Men of Valor in Jerusalem [2 Chronicles 17:13-19]

- ✧ Of Judah
 - Adnah** the captain, and with him three hundred thousand mighty men of valor;
 - Jehohanan** the captain, and with him two hundred and eighty thousand;
 - Amasiah** the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself to Yahweh (the Lord), and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor.
- ✧ Of Benjamin
 - Eliada** a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand men armed with bow and shield;
 - Jehozabad**, and with him one hundred and eighty thousand prepared for war.
- ✧ These served the king, besides those the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.