

2 Chronicles 20:1-37 **Final victories & Death of Jehoshaphat**

Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir come to war against Jehoshaphat

1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek Yahweh (the Lord), and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from Yahweh (the Lord); and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek Yahweh (the Lord).

Jehoshaphat's Prayer

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord), before the new court,

6 and said: "O Yahweh Elohey (Lord God) of our fathers, are You not Elohiym (God) in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?"

7 Are You not Eloheynu (our God), who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us — sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine — we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir — whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them —

11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

12 O Eloheynu (our God), will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before Yahweh (the Lord).

Yahweh's answer

14 Then the Spirit of Yahweh (the Lord) came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says Yahweh (the Lord) to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but Elohiym (God)'s.

16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

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

Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir defeated

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before Yahweh (the Lord), worshiping Yahweh (the Lord).

19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel) with voices loud and high.

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in Yahweh Eloheykm (the Lord your God), and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to Yahweh (the Lord), and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

"Praise Yahweh (the Lord), For His mercy endures forever."

22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, Yahweh (the Lord) set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

26 And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed Yahweh (the Lord); therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for Yahweh (the Lord) had made them rejoice over their enemies.

28 So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord).

29 And the fear of Elohiym (God) was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that Yahweh (the Lord) had fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for Elohay (his God) gave him rest all around.

The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign (1 Kings 22:41-50)

31 So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

32 And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of Yahweh (the Lord).

33 Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to Elohey (the God) of their fathers.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

Foolish Alliance with Wicked Ahaziah king of Israel

35 After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly.

36 And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber.

37 But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Maresah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "**Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, Yahweh (the Lord) has destroyed your works.**" Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

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Facts Revealed:

Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir come to war against Jehoshaphat

✧ Because Jehoshaphat had allied himself with wicked Ahab and joined him in war against Ramoth Gilead, on his return home Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat,

"Should you help the wicked and love those who hate Yahweh (the Lord)? Therefore the wrath of Yahweh (the Lord) is upon you. love those who hate Yahweh (the Lord)? Therefore the wrath of Yahweh (the Lord) is upon you." [2 Chronicles 19:1-2]

✧ Then Yahweh allowed the people of Moab, Ammon, and others with them to come to battle against Jehoshaphat. [2 Chronicles 20:1]

✧ When Jehoshaphat heard about it he feared, set himself to seek Yahweh, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. [2 Chronicles 20:2-3]

✧ So Judah gathered together to ask help from Yahweh (the Lord); and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek Yahweh (the Lord). [2 Chronicles 20:4]

Jehoshaphat's Prayer [2 Chronicles 20:5-13]

✧ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord), before the new court, and said:

✧ Jehoshaphat clearly identified Yahweh Elohey as God of our fathers and as the Elohiym of Heaven who rules over the kingdoms of men in whose hand there is power that no man can withstand. He is the Elohiym who drove out the inhabitants of the land and gave it to His people Israel the descendants of Abraham forever. [2 Chronicles 20:5-7]

✧ Jehoshaphat looked to the prayer of Solomon at the time the temple was dedicated prayed Solomon's words to Yahweh that, **'If disaster comes upon us — sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine — we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'** [2 Chronicles 20:8-11]

✧ Here we see that Jehoshaphat, like Solomon, was focused on the Temple as representing the presence of Yahweh, more than Yahweh's answer to Solomon's prayer. This is one of the conditions included in Solomon's prayer. [1 Kings 8:22-53, 2 Chronicles 6:12-42]

✧ God's answer was: **If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.** [2 Chronicles 7:14]

✧ All Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before Yahweh (the Lord), Jehoshaphat then acknowledged their deep dependence on Yahweh in the present crisis. [2 Chronicles 20:12-13]

Yahweh's answer [2 Chronicles 20:14-17]

- ☆ Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek Elohiym (God)." [2 Chronicles 19:3]
- ◇ Yahweh had recognized the good part of Jehoshaphat and made it a special exception.
- ◇ Now that Jehoshaphat and Judah so fully set their hearts to seek Yahweh; the Lord heard their pray and sent the Holy Spirit through Jahaziel with a message of encouragement, promising that the battle is His and all they needed to do was to go down against the enemy, position themselves, and **stand still and see the Salvation of Yahweh.** [2 Chronicles 20:14-17]

Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir defeated [2 chronicles 20:18-30]

- ◇ Jehoshaphat along with all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before Yahweh to worship Levite singers stood up to praise Yahweh Elohey Yisrael. [2 Chronicles 20:18-19]
- ◇ As they went out the next morning, Jehoshaphat charged them to believe in Yahweh Eloheykm and believe His prophets. Then he appointed those who should sing to Yahweh and those who praise in the beauty of holiness. [2 Chronicles 20:20-21]
- ◇ When they began to sing and praise, Yahweh caused the enemy to turn on each other so they killed all the invading forces. [2 Chronicles 20:22-23]
- ◇ When Judah came within sight of the enemy they found them all slain fallen on the earth. [2 Chronicles 20:24]
- ◇ It took three days to collect the spoils because of its vast abundance. [2 Chronicles 20:25]
- ◇ The fourth day they assembled in the valley of Berachah and blessed Yahweh. [2 Chronicles 20:26]
- ◇ They returned with Jehoshaphat to Jerusalem rejoicing with harps and trumpets to Beit Yahweh. [2 Chronicles 20:27-28]
- ◇ The fear of Elohiym fell on all the kingdoms when they heard that Yahweh had fought against the enemies of Israel. [2 Chronicles 20:29]
- ◇ The realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet because Elohay gave him rest all around. [2 Chronicles 20:30]

The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign (1 Kings 22:41-50) [2 Chronicles 20:34]

- ◇ Jehoshaphat reigned twenty five years from age thirty five to sixty in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of Yahweh as did Asa his father and David.
- ◇ The high places were not taken away because the people had not directed their hearts to Elohey and kept replacing them when Jehoshaphat removed them. [1 Kings 22:13-14, 2 Chronicles 17:6, 20:34]
- ◇ The rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat are recorded in the books of Jehu and the book of the Kings of Judah.

Foolish Alliance with Wicked Ahaziah king of Israel [2 Chronicles 20:35-37]

- ◇ Jehoshaphat had a great desire to see Israel and Judah united and did not learn from his experience with Ahab king of Israel so he allied himself with Ahaziah son of Ahab king of Israel to make ships in Ezion Geber to go to Tarshish. [2 Chronicles 18:1-34, 19:1-3, 20:35-36]
- ◇ Ezion Geber is the place where Solomon built his ships. [1 Kings 9:26, 2 Chronicles 8:17]
- ☆ But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, **"Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, Yahweh (the Lord) has destroyed your works." Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.** [2 Chronicles 20:27]
- ◇ Yahweh still is displeased when His Saints ally themselves with the wicked.