

2 CHRONICLES 17-24

GODLY AND UNGODLY

Chapter 17-19 Jehoshaphat Shows Strength And Weakness

Summary: Jehoshaphat's strong heart for God (17:1-9) brings forth a strong kingdom from God (17:10-19). But he makes an ungodly alliance with king Ahab of Israel in marriage and in battle with Syria (18:1-3). With both false (18:4-11) and godly (18:12-27) prophecies, defeat comes. Ahab is killed, while Jehoshaphat is spared (18:28-34). Rebuked for his ungodly alliance (19:1-3), Jehoshaphat makes reforms (19:4-11).

Lesson: *Accept God's chastisements and be diligent to serve Him*

Chapter 20 Jehoshaphat Trusts In God

Summary: Threatened by a huge enemy, Jehoshaphat prays to the Lord (1-13). God promises victory (14-17). Praise is offered and the battle is won (18-30). But he again joins Israel, is rebuked, and dies (31-37).

Lesson: *Trust and praise always bring the victory.*

Chapter 21-22 Evil Kings Follow Jehoshaphat

Summary: Jehoshaphat's evil son Jehoram is struck dead by God (21). His evil son Ahaziah dies in battle, succeeded by his mother Athaliah (22).

Lesson: *Ultimately disobedience always brings cursing.*

Chapter 23-24 Joash Begins Well, But Ends Badly

Summary: Ahaziah's son Joash, hidden by Jehosheba and Jehoiada, is crowned king of Judah (23:1-11), and Athaliah is murdered (23:12-15). A covenant is made with God, and Baal's temple is destroyed (23:16-21). Joash rebuilds God's temple (24:1-14). His goodness under Jehoiada's direction is replaced by wickedness when the priest dies. He murders Jehoiada's son (24:15-22) and is murdered by his own servants (24:23-27).

Lesson: *Are we godly on our own, or because of those influencing us?*