

**I. JEHOSHAPHAT'S FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WICKED HOUSE OF AHAB**

**A. After Solomon, the kingdom divided into two: Israel in the N. and Judah in the S.**

1. Israel's kings were ALL wicked, none of them were from the house of David, and all of them worshipped idols (either the CGs or Baal).
2. Judah's kings were ALL of the line of David? Why? Because God had promised to keep the line of David until Christ would come. But not all Judah's Kings were good, in fact, many were wicked.
3. We cannot look at all the kings individually so we look at the more famous ones.

**B. The family of Jehoshaphat and friendship with the house of Ahab.**

1. **J's father was Asa, he was a godly king.**
  - a. He hated idols so much that when he found his own grandmother worshipping idols he removed her from being queen and destroyed her idol.
  - b. When 1 Mi soldiers from Egypt came against Asa, he cried to God and God saved him.
  - c. But later when he was attacked he did not trust God, and a prophet rebuked him. Asa was angry and cast the good prophet in prison.
  - d. Later, when Asa was sick in his feet, he did not trust God but looked to the doctors.
2. **Jehoshaphat like his father was a good king**
  - a. He sent men throughout his kingdom to teach the people God's Law, and when his enemies attacked him, he prayed to the Lord and the Lord gave a great victory.
  - b. But J had a weakness – he became friends with the kings of Israel, Ahab and his family.

**C. Friendship with Ahab**

**1. Friendship through marriage**

- a. Jehoshaphat's son was Jehoram and Jehoshaphat and Ahab organized a royal wedding. Perhaps Jehoshaphat thought that in this way he could influence Israel for good and maybe even win back Israel to God. THAT NEVER HAPPENS! When an unbeliever becomes friends with a believer, usually the unbeliever CORRUPTS the believer.
- b. Ahab and Jezebel had a daughter, Athaliah; the Bible tells us that she was wicked and worshipped Baal (and we shall see later how very wicked she was).
- c. Apply: Why must we never date or marry unbelievers or people from apostate churches?

**2. Friendship through fighting a common enemy**

- a. Several years after the marriage of Jehoram to Athaliah Jehoshaphat visited Samaria. Ahab asked his new friend a favor: Ahab wanted to get Ramoth-Gilead back from the Syrians and he needed the help of Judah's army. "*Wilt thou go with me to R-G?*" (II Chron. 18:3).
- b. Jehoshaphat should have refused but instead he said, "*I am as thou art and my people as thy people and we will be with thee in the war*" (II Chron. 18:3).
- c. But then Jehoshaphat asked Ahab to ask the LORD (Jehovah) about this. Would God's blessing be on such a war? So Ahab called his 400 prophets and asked them. The 400 prophets said "*Go up, for God will deliver it into the king's hand.*"
- d. But Jehoshaphat was still not sure, so he asked Ahab, "Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides that we might enquire of him?" (II Chron. 18:6). Ahab said, "O yes, there is one more prophet called Micaiah but I hate him for he never prophesies good concerning me only evil." Then Ahab fetched Micaiah – the one prophet of the LORD from prison!!
- e. Micaiah had a different message for Ahab and Jehoshaphat: he said that the 400 prophets were liars because *the LORD had put a lying spirit in the mouths of Ahab's prophets* and that God had said that *Ahab would die in battle*. But despite this message Ahab and Jehoshaphat prepared for battle and Micaiah was sent back to prison!

**3. Jehoshaphat's friend Ahab is killed**

- a. So Jehoshaphat had heard the word of the LORD. He should have said to Ahab. I will not go to R-G and Ahab heard the word too but he had a plan to avoid being killed. His plan was to disguise himself but J should wear robes. He hoped the Syrians would kill Jehoshaphat instead!
- b. The Syrians only wanted to kill the king of Israel and when they saw Jehoshaphat dressed in his royal robes they thought he was Ahab but Jehoshaphat cried out and the LORD saved him.

- c. But Ahab could not escape the judgment of God: Ahab had worshipped idols, he had persecuted God's people and he had refused to repent. A Syrian soldier drew a bow at a venture and shot Ahab and he bled to death and later when they washed his chariot the dogs licked his blood.
- d. When Jehoshaphat returned from the battle a prophet was there to meet him, "*Shouldst thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord?*" (II Chron. 19:2).

**D. Although he did repent from his sin of friendship with Ahab, Jehoshaphat had other friendships with Ahab's sons.**

**1. Jehoshaphat was friends with Ahaziah, who was king of Israel after Ahab.**

- a. Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah built ships together so that they could get gold from far off lands but God was displeased and sent a prophet: "Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works" (II Chron. 20:37). Their ships were destroyed.
- b. Later when Ahaziah asked Jehoshaphat to do that again, he said no. Had he learned his lesson?
- c. Ahaziah himself died when he fell through the window and asked Baal-Zebub instead of God.

**2. Later he made a friendship with Jehoram, another son of Ahab:**

- a. Again he went to war with Jehoram but the battle nearly ended in disaster when the kings (of Israel, Judah and Edom) almost died of thirst, but God rescued them because of Jehoshaphat!
- b. LESSON: When one is friendly with t/ wicked it is very difficult to say no and to end friendship.

**II. THE CONSEQUENCES**

**A. For Jehoshaphat's family**

**1. Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, brought up by a godly father, married a wicked woman.**

- a. The first thing he did when he became king was to murder all his brothers!
- b. Jehoram was king for 8 years and God punished him: all of his children except one were captured, he got a letter from Elijah that he would be sick with horrible bowel disease & he died.

**2. With the death of Jehoram, Jehoshaphat's grandson Ahaziah became king.**

- a. He followed the wickedness of his mother Athaliah but was king for only one year.
- b. When he helped his uncle Jehoram of Israel he was killed when Jehu killed the house of Ahab.

**B. For Judah (Athaliah seized the throne)**

**1. When Athaliah saw that her husband and her son were both dead she made herself queen.**

- a. She killed all the family of David in Judah, or, so she thought. What would have happened if she had succeeded? No line of David, no Christ!
- b. But one little baby boy escaped. His name was Joash. His aunt – Ahaziah's sister, Jehosheba and wife of the priest – rescued him and hid him until he was 7 years old.
- c. Then the priest Jehoiada made Joash king when he was 7 years old. When Athaliah heard the people rejoicing in the temple and came to see she was killed and then the temple of Baal was torn down.

**2. Joash himself was not godly:** he was faithful while Jehoiada the priest was alive but when Jehoiada died at age 130 he started worshipping idols: when God sent a prophet (Jehoiada's son) to warn him he stoned him to death. God sent the Syrians against Joash and Joash was killed by his servants and was not even buried in the sepulchers of the kings.

**C. One of the worst kings was Ahaz**

- 1. He worshipped all the idols of the heathen. He even sacrificed his own son to the idol gods.
- 2. But God would not destroy Judah because He made a promise to David.

The Kings of the Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah, [Athaliah], Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah