



# WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

## Only God's Way

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wed., June 16, 2021

### Introduction Summary

Many of us know about how King Jehoshaphat led Israel to a supernatural victory in 2 Chronicles 20. Since the Old Testament was written for our learning, we will look at that account and learn many New Testament lessons. We will discover how to keep ourselves from being backed into a corner with nowhere else to go. Then we will see that when we inquire of the Lord first, He will show us the way that leads to victory.

**Theme:** to inquire of the Lord first, always, and make no league with the ungodly

#### I. Key People and Place:

- A. King Baasha: King of Northern Israel (aka Israel).
- B. King Asa: King of Southern Israel (aka Judah) reigned 41 years.
- C. King Jehoshaphat (Asa's son): King of Judah, reigned 25 years after his father.
- D. King Ahab (Baasha's son): King of Israel.
- E. Macaiah, a prophet of God hated by King Ahab.
- F. King Benhadad: King of Syria.
- G. Ramothgilead, a place held by the King of Syria, but belonged to Israel.

#### II. 2 Chr. 16:1: Israel built a blockade to starve out Judah.

- A. 2 Chr. 16:2-4: King Asa joined with King Benhadad, king of Syria.
- B. 2 Chr. 16:5: King Baasha stopped building when he heard of that alliance.
- C. 2 Chr. 16:6-8: Since Asa joined with Benhadad, the enemy escaped.
- D. 2 Chr. 16:9: Asa should have relied on God, first (Pro. 3:6).
- E. The problem: They made league with the heathen rather than going to God first.
- F. 2 Chr. V10-11: Asa put the prophet in prison and oppressed the people.
- G. 2 Chr. 16:12-14: Asa didn't seek the Lord. He died the 41<sup>st</sup> year of his reign.

#### III. 2 Chr. 17:1-3: Jehoshaphat, becomes king. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the first ways of his father David, who feared the Lord (Psa. 1 and 23).

- A. 2 Chr. 17:4: Jehoshaphat did not walk in the "woke" ways of Israel.
- B. "Woke" is a departure from God's ways.
- C. 2 Chr. 17:5-6: He was rich because he sought the Lord (Pro. 10:22).
- D. 2 Chr. 17:7-9: He sent his priests to teach the Word of God to the people.
- E. 2 Chr. 17:10: The fear of the Lord came on them and God gave them all peace.
- F. 2 Chr. 17:11-19: Men with great armies all waited on King Jehoshaphat.

#### IV. 2 Chr. 18:1: These are the sons of the kings of Israel and Judah who joined.

- A. 2 Chr. 18-3: Ahab brought him gifts.
  - 1. Sometimes people must deal with issues their parents/grandparents caused.
  - 2. Instead of going to God, he gets into league with Ahab.

- B. 2 Chr. 18:4-6: Jehoshaphat asks Ahab if he sought God.
    - 1. Ahab gathered 400 prophets that only say what he wants to hear.
    - 2. 2 Chr. 18:6: Jehoshaphat asks for a prophet of the Lord.
    - 3. 2 Chr. 18:7-12: Ahab hates Micaiah.
    - 4. One by one, the prophets prophesied good things before the two kings.
    - 5. 2 Chr. 18:12: Ahab's messenger told Micaiah to just follow the crowd.
    - 6. 2 Chr. 18:13-14: Micaiah: *I'm saying what the Lord says.*
    - 7. Micaiah agreed with the others, but Ahab doesn't believe him.
    - 8. 2 Chr. 18:15-20: Micaiah prophesies the truth to Ahab.
    - 9. Ahab is not going to follow the Lord. He entices Jehoshaphat for a reason.
    - 10. 2 Chr. 18:23-24: Micaiah is hated because he's going against the wind.
    - 11. 2 Chr. 18:25-27: King Ahab puts him in jail – they were mean to preachers.
    - 12. 2 Chr. 18:28: Jehoshaphat heard all that but still ignores the Word of the Lord.
  - C. 2 Chr. 18:29: King Ahab set up Jehoshaphat, but he was deceived.
  - D. 2 Chr. 18:30-32: Mercy intervened, even though Jehoshaphat messed up.
  - E. 2 Chr. 18:33-34: King Ahab died. He had enticed Jehoshaphat so he could kill him!
- V. 2 Chr. 19:1-2: Jehoshaphat is in danger because he cooperated with the heathen.
- A. If you go with the woke folk don't be surprised if evil comes your way.
  - B. 2 Chr. 19:3: Jehoshaphat made dumb mistakes, but God was merciful.
  - C. 2 Chr. 19:4-7: He told the judges to treat everyone the same.
  - D. 2 Chr. 19:8-11: Notice that wrath comes when judges mess up (Isa. 1:26).
  - E. That was the background of the account we all know (2 Chr. 20:20).
- VI. 2 Chr. 20:1-3: These are the Syrians with whom, King Asa, joined (see II.A).
- A. 2 Chr. 20:3: Jehoshaphat has no other place to go.
  - B. Don't allow yourself to be in a position in which you have nowhere else to go.
  - C. 2 Chr. 4-9: When God forgives, He treats you as though you've never sinned.
  - D. 2 Chr. 20:10-12: Put your eyes on God, not on other people.
  - E. 2 Chr. 20:13-16: God will get you in the right place at the right time.
  - F. 2 Chr. 20:17: You still must do something.
  - G. When you do your part, God will bring you victory.
  - H. You don't have to fight, but you must set yourself. Stand.
  - I. Fear not. People say they're using wisdom, but they're really in fear.
  - J. 2 Chr. 20:18-20: Earlier, Jehoshaphat didn't believe God's prophets.
  - K. 2 Chr. 20:21-27: This is not the end of the story.
- VII. 2 Chr. 20:28-37: God gave Jehoshaphat rest. Yet, he still joined with a very wicked king! He had done the same as his father.
- A. After all that, the people didn't give up all their worldly ways.
  - B. 2 Chr. 20:36: Jehoshaphat went into business with the wicked (1 Tim. 6:10).
  - C. 2 Chr. 20:7: The business failed, and he died. He reigned 16 years fewer than his father.
- VIII. Moral of the story: Always seek the Lord, first, before doing anything.
- A. 2 Cor. 6:14-18: You cannot be in league with the woke movement and be in league with God Almighty at the same time. Make a choice.
  - B. Jehoshaphat lived 16 years fewer than his father (Luke 12:48).

- IX. Seek the Lord in all your ways.
- A. When I preached *Health is God's Way* (4/18/2021), I mentioned what your approach should be regarding the vaccine: Seek the Lord, do your homework, pray, obey God. That is what you do about everything. The bigger the decision, the longer you take to seek God.
  - B. Don't join with the world system.
    - 1. How did that happen to Jehoshaphat? He was a righteous man.
    - 2. You don't know people's hearts and you don't know what they've done. They may be dealing with the generation before them (Exo. 20:5).
    - 3. The curse goes to the fourth generation (Num. 14:18).
    - 4. Blessing also goes to the fourth generation (2 Ki. 10:30).
  - C. How you live affects your children, grandchildren, and others around you.
- X. You may be dealing with what happened in your ancestry line.
- A. There are laws: civil, natural and spiritual laws. They work all the time.
  - B. They will work until something happens to supersede those laws.
  - C. If you cooperate with the world, you open the door to be deceived.
  - D. You continue to spiral downward.
  - E. Examine yourself and decide to always seek God first and follow that way.
  - F. You'll have peace, prosperity and good health (Pro. 10:22).

### **Closing Summary**

Christians must understand that being in league with the world only brings destruction. But when you seek God first, God will lead you through to victory.