

Things that Leaders Do

Second Chronicles 17–20

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 9, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jackson Meyer – Second Chronicles 16.13–14

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

Persuasion:

I. Second Chronicles 17.1–2 • A Leader Strengthens His Position

- A. Israel continued to be a threat to the kingdom of Judah.
- B. The new king, Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, in wisdom knew
 - 1. that he had to be strong to prevent an attack from Israel.
 - 2. Remember that many were leaving the northern kingdom because
 - a) they recognized the error of Israel and
 - b) the righteousness of Judah.
- C. Therefore, he put troops in the fortified cities of Judah and
 - 1. he put garrisons throughout the land, and
 - 2. in particular the cities of Ephraim that Asa had captured.

II. Second Chronicles 17.3–6 • A Leader Seeks the Lord

3 Now 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 the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. 5 Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand... 6 And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD...

- A. This says it all:
 - 1. Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of David.
 - 2. He did not seek the Baals.
 - 3. He sought God, which meant:
 - a) Walking in God's commandments, and
 - b) not doing according to the ways of Israel.

B. The result:

1. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat.
2. The Lord established the kingdom in Jehoshaphat's hand.

III. Second Chronicles 17.7–9 • A Leader Appoints Teaching

7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders...to teach in the cities of Judah... 9 So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them...

A. He did not do all the work or all the teaching.

B. Those he sent out had the Book of the Law of the Lord, for

1. that is what they taught.
2. They knew it was sufficient for whatever the people needed in their lives.

IV. Second Chronicles 17.10–13 • A Leader Promotes the Fear of the Lord

A. Since Jehoshaphat followed the commandments of God, and

1. since he imitated the righteous ways of David, and
2. since the Lord was with the king as a result,
 - a) the fear of the Lord fell upon Judah's neighbors and
 - b) they dared not fight him.

B. Instead they all brought him presents.

V. Second Chronicles 17.14–19 • A Leader Attracts the Valiant

A. From the tribe of Judah:

1. Adnah had 300,000 mighty men of valor.
2. Jehohanan had 280,000.
3. Amasia had 200,000 mighty men of valor.

B. From the tribe of Benjamin:

1. Eliada had 200,000 armed with bow and shield.
2. Jehozabad had 180,00 prepared for war.

C. Thus, King Jehoshaphat had an army of 1,160,000!

VI. Second Chronicles 18.1–4 • A Leader Can Make a Bad Alliance

1 Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab... **3** So Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?” And he answered him, “I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war.” **4** Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire for the word of the LORD today.”

A. God blessed Jehoshaphat because

1. he followed the Lord and
2. rejected idolatry.

B. Why then did he join himself with Ahab,

1. one of the most wicked kings of the north?
2. Verse 1 shows the problem:
 - a) He married Ahab’s daughter.
 - b) Was this a political maneuver?
 - (1) Did he truly love her?
 - (2) Did she believe as he did?

C. From this, Ahab wanted Judah to join him in a battle at Ramoth Gilead.

1. Jehoshaphat agreed to join forces with Ahab, but then
2. he wanted to know what the Lord said about the battle.

VII. Second Chronicles 18.5–7 • A Leader Can See Through Flattery

A. Ahab proceeded to put together 400 yes-men, I mean prophets,

1. who would tell Ahab just what he wanted to hear.
2. Therefore, they told him:

5 “Go up, for God will deliver it into the king’s hand.”

B. However, Jehoshaphat saw right through them and asked:

6 “Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?”

C. Ahab confirmed that there was one man, but

1. Ahab said that he hated the prophet, because
2. the prophet never said anything good about him.

D. Jehoshaphat tried to calm him down, saying that Ahab should not speak that way.

VIII. Second Chronicles 18.8–11 • A Leader Wants the Truth

A. Ahab ordered an officer to retrieve the prophet, Micaiah.

B. In the meantime, one of the 400 false prophets gave a sign,

1. using iron horns to say
2. that with such Ahab would gore the Syrians.

C. The rest of the 400 agreed.

D. As King Solomon once said:

**12 If a ruler pays attention to lies,
All his servants become wicked.**

– Proverbs 29.12

IX. Second Chronicles 18.12–13 • A Leader Speaks God’s Word

12 Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, “Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Therefore please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement.” 13 And Micaiah said, “As the LORD lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak.”

A. As a preacher,

1. I have had people speak to me,

2. just as that messenger did to Micaiah!
- B. However, as a preacher,
1. I love Micaiah's response.
 2. I preach because I love to proclaim whatever God says.
 - a) Do not ask me to be like the smooth talkers who tell me what they want to hear, because
 - b) as the Lord lives,
 - (1) whatever my God says,
 - (2) that I will speak!

16 ...woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

– 1 Corinthians 9.16

X. Second Chronicles 18.14–22 • A Leader Uses Sarcasm

14 Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?" And he said, "Go and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand!" 15 So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

A. Micaiah used sarcasm

1. to get Ahab to demand that the prophet speak the word of God.
2. That was brilliant.

B. Then Micaiah went on to declare

1. that he saw a vision of the Lord, and
2. the Lord had sent a lying spirit into the mouths of the false prophets.

XI. Second Chronicles 18.23–24 • A Leader Is Fearless

23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?" 24 And Micaiah said, "Indeed you shall see on that day when

you go into an inner chamber to hide!”

A. As all false prophets and teachers,

1. Zedekiah truly believed that he spoke for the Lord, but
2. he would find out that he spoke against the Lord.

XII. Second Chronicles 18.25–27 • A Leader Warns

A. Ahab then ordered Micaiah to be thrown into prison and

1. given only bread and water, and
2. that he was to continue in prison on such a diet
 - a) until Ahab returned.

B. However, the vision had declared that Ahab would die at Ramoth Gilead, and

1. so if he returned in peace,
2. that meant that the Lord had not spoken by him.

C. Then the prophet directed his attention to the people, warning them.

XIII. Second Chronicles 18.28–32 • A Leader Cries Out to God

A. Ahab decided to disguise himself and go into battle.

B. However, the king of Syria told his soldiers

1. that they were to find Ahab and
2. focus on him and kill him.

C. When they saw Jehoshaphat in royal apparel,

1. they thought it was Ahab.
2. After the Syrians surrounded Jehoshaphat,
 - a) he cried out to God and
 - b) God delivered him.

D. The Syrians quit chasing after the king of Judah.

XIV. Second Chronicles 18.33–34 • A Leader Learns from Others

33 Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, “Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded.” 34 The battle increased that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening; and about the time of sunset he died.

- A. Those are sad words that did not have to be.
- B. The Lord had determined to bring down Ahab and
 - 1. Ahab could not even escape an arrow shot at random.
 - 2. He did not die immediately,
 - a) the Lord being gracious, but
 - b) Ahab never repented.

XV. Second Chronicles 19.1–3 • A Leader Has Good Things in Him

- A. Jehoshaphat went back to Jerusalem to his house.
- B. However, the Lord sent a prophet to meet him:

2 And 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 the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you. 3 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 God.”

- 1. Jehoshaphat did many good and right things, but
- 2. for some he thought that helping the wicked would produce fruit.
 - a) It did not.
 - b) He did receive a rebuke from the Lord.

XVI. Second Chronicles 19.4–11 • A Leader Brings People Back to the Lord

4 So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim, and brought them back to the

LORD God of their fathers.

A. To judges that he appointed, he said:

6 “Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. 7 Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes.”

1. I wish that our presidents and other leaders
2. would say the same thing to our judges.

B. To the Levites and priests, he said:

9 “Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart: 10 Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and your brethren... 11 ...Behave courageously, and the LORD will be with the good.”

1. Is that not how we should address cases that come to us.
2. I do not hear brethren saying enough, “What does the Bible say?”

XVII. Second Chronicles 20.1–12 • A Leader Depends on the Lord

A. The nations of Moab, Ammon, and some others

B. joined forces to fight King Jehoshaphat.

1. He feared and
2. did what we should do when we fear:
 - a) He set himself to seek the Lord and
 - b) he asked for his people’s help,
 - (1) by asking them to fast,
 - (2) thereby appealing to God.

C. Then Jehoshaphat explained to God

1. what his enemies were doing, and
2. he ended his prayer with a powerful plea to the God of heaven and earth:

12 O 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."

- a) He asked God to judge them.
- b) He confessed
 - (1) Judah's lack of power to confront the problem, and
 - (2) that they did not know what to do.
3. However, he let the Lord know
 - a) that he believed the Lord could take care of the situation.
 - b) He looked to God for leadership.
 - c) He looked to God for what to do.

XVIII. Second Chronicles 20.13–17 • A Leader Knows that the Battle Is the Lord's

- A. All Judah, including the children, appeared together before the Lord.
- B. Then the Lord had Jahaziel speak to Judah and King Jehoshaphat,
 1. telling them not to fear, because:

15 "... the battle is not yours, but God's."

2. After telling where they should go, he continued:

17 "... Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

- a) Moses also told the people at the Red Sea:

13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no

more forever.

– Exodus 14.13

- b) Whatever battle you face,
 - (1) you do not face them alone.
 - (2) You might be alone from other humans, but
 - (a) you are not alone.
 - (b) The battle is the Lord's and
 - i) you just need to watch and wait
 - ii) to see what he will do.
- C. Don't get frustrated.
 - 1. Don't become impatient.
 - 2. Just watch him fight.

XIX. Second Chronicles 20.18–19 • A Leader Worships God

- A. The response to such a prophecy,
 - 1. the response to the word of God and
 - 2. its proclamation
 - a) is to do what the king and Judah did.
 - b) This was before the Lord fought the battle.
- B. They worshiped God.
- C. They praised him “with voices loud and high.”

XX. Second Chronicles 20.20 • A Leader Encourages Belief in the Lord

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 the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”

- A. Jehoshaphat's words to Judah are my words to you.
- B. That is why I delivered the message that I did this morning.
- C. A good way to remember this passage: It is 20/20 vision.

XXI. Second Chronicles 20.21 • A Leader Consults, then Appoints

- A. As the army went out,
- B. Jehoshaphat appointed some
 - 1. to sing to the Lord,
 - 2. to praise the beauty of his holiness, saying:

**“Praise the LORD,
For His mercy endures forever.”**

XXII. Second Chronicles 20.22–24 • A Leader Places Matters in the Hand of the Lord

- A. It happened as the Lord through that prophet had said.
- B. What he was, he caused the three nations
 - 1. that had gathered against Judah
 - 2. to fight one another.
 - a) They beat each other up and
 - b) Judah arrived and just saw bodies all over the place.

XXIII. Second Chronicles 20.25–30 • A Leader Enjoys the Spoils of War

- A. Not only did they not have to fight, but
- B. it took them three days to carry off all the plunder!
 - 1. They did not forget the Lord, but
 - 2. blessed him and
 - a) he made them great in the eyes of the other nations.

XXIV. Second Chronicles 20.31–33 • A Leader Does What Is Right in the Sight of the Lord

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

A. Reigned as king for 25 years,

B. dying when he was 60 years old.

1. In all the ways that his father Asa walked after the Lord,

2. Jehoshaphat did the same.

C. Unfortunately, the high places were not taken away, because:

33 ...as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

XXV. Second Chronicles 20.34–37 • A Leader Should Not Ally Himself with the Wicked

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. 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 Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

A. Jehoshaphat did not learn from becoming an ally of Ahab and

B. did the same thing with another wicked king of Israel.

1. So the Lord destroyed his works

2. that he did with Ahaziah.