

Royal Lessons for Life

Jehoshaphat

(Judah)

Jehoshaphat's Biography

- Jehoshaphat inherits the throne from his father Asa at age 35 and reigns for 25 years – I Kings 22:31, II Chronicles 20:31
- He learns from his father's mistakes and begins his reign well – I Kings 22:43, II Chronicles 20:33
- Among his first acts as king was to strengthen his defenses against the Northern Kingdom and Ahab – II Chronicles 17:1-2
- Overall, his reign is prosperous and blessed.
 - He led a religious revival – II Chronicles 17:7-9
 - In this he removed the "high places" of Baal but not the "high places" used to worship Jehovah – I Kings 22:43; II Chronicles 17:6, 20:33
 - He sent teachers of the Law throughout the kingdom – II Chronicles 17:7-9, Deuteronomy 31:9-13?
 - He was blessed financially – II Chronicles 17:10-13
 - He led a strong army of over 1,160,000 men – II Chronicles 17:13-19
- After roughly 70 years of hostility between the two kingdoms, he enters into a treaty with Ahab of Israel – I Kings 22:44, II Chronicles 18:1
 - There is a marriage of his son Jehoram, the crown prince of Judah, to Ahab's daughter Athaliah – II Kings 8:18,25-26; II Chronicles 22:1-2
 - He partners with Ahab against the Syria – I Kings 22:2-40, II Chronicles 18:2-34
 - He is rebuked for this by the prophet Jehu – II Chronicles 19:1-7
 - He partners with Ahaziah, Ahab's son, in an ill-fated sea trading venture – I Kings 22:48-49, II Chronicles 20:35-36
 - He is rebuked for this by the prophet Eliezer – II Chronicles 20:37
 - He partners with Jehoram, Ahab's son, in campaign against Moab – II Kings 3
- God gives him a great victory against an alliance of Moab, Ammon and Edom – II Chronicles 20:1-30
- His son Jehoram (husband of Athaliah) inherits the throne, and may have co-ruled with his father – I Kings 22:50, II Kings 8:16, II Chronicles 21:1
 - A feature of this period is to have both a king and a prince crowned and co-rule.

Lessons from the Life of Jehoshaphat

- His otherwise spotless record is tainted by two faults:
 - His alliances with the wicked house of Omri – II Corinthians 6:14
 - His failure to completely unify worship by removing all high places – II Peter 1:19-21