



2 Chronicles 20

If you have followed my Wednesday Bible studies at all you would see a small side theme. Many of the events and stories with God include him saying yes. However, you will also see the human side of those asking. In the annals of Jewish kings, Jehoshaphat is considered a good king. He reigned for around 25 years. Just a side note. It is not standard that a good king reigned longer than a bad one. Sometimes however, the distance before and after a king's reign means something. Let me explain.

Jehoshaphat was a generally good king. He did however do some pretty dumb things. King Ahab as an evil king. His wife was even worse. They did not follow in the ways of God. Jehoshaphat started his reign at 35 years old. He was not some dumb child. However, he decided to align himself with Ahab in battle. The Prophet Micaiah said Ahab would die and he did. I found this verse in 2 Chronicles 18:16.

Then Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said, 'These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.'"

Jehoshaphat survived the battle and went home. In verse 1 of chapter 19 it says "And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem." What Micaiah predicted did happen. Even the King Jehoshaphat went home in peace. Let me add one other

verse. Let's skip a head to 2 chronicles 20:33 *"The high places, however, were not removed, and the people still had not set their hearts on the God of their ancestors."* Jehoshaphat felt the call of God. He decided to change his ways towards God. He re-instated the priests and put God first in his life. However, he neglected to take down all the idol worship to other Gods. I bring it all up because doing right in the eyes of the Lord is good. yet, just because God appears to shine on you does not mean all is well.

After Ahab dies Jehoshaphat experiences a brief period of peace just as Micaiah said would happen. Then forces rose up that threatened the kingdom once again. Jehoshaphat gives a stunning speech to his people and God. It is a very famous prayer. One of the best parts is this verse 2 chronicles 20:12 *"Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."* God then says yes.

This is cool. God tells the king to stay back. God will fight the battle for him. The next morning Jehoshaphat urges the people to wait on the Lord. Finally, they march to the battle only to find bodies everywhere. God defeated them during the night. Some of this is similar to a Joshua battle. Yet, at that time God asked them not to take plunder. This time the people took all the plunder for three days.

God did answer Jehoshaphat's prayer with a yes. God had supplied peace and victory. Yet, swirling in the background was unfaithfulness to God. The idol poles were still there. The people plunder a nation that had idols and wicked ways. What did they plunder? Jehoshaphat did listen to God. He did pray. Yet, he allowed wickedness to fester within his borders.

Yes, is good, but keeping near God is better. Right after Jehoshaphat died, his son Jehoram took over. Look at verse 6 of chapter 21 “He (Jehoram) followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.” This nation went right back to idol poles and evil ways of the previous king. Just remember, asking for yes is only ok if your ok. God did grant them victory. However, God also granted them the grace to fail. It’s so important to check your heart before you ask God to say yes.