

II Chronicles 17-20 – 4 December 2025

“Jehoshaphat’s Pursuit Of God”

Introduction

- *Today we see Judah’s 4th king, Jehoshaphat
- *These 4 chapters cover his reign from start to end
- *Considered a good king, this is a time to look at his dedication to implementing godliness all around

Today, we look at 4 disciplines of God’s servants

#1 – Teach the Word to everyone (Chap 17)

Read Vs 17:1-4

1. Jehoshaphat is generalized as a good king but this doesn’t mean he did everything completely
2. To have the Lord’s presence & guidance, we must simply seek him

Read Vs 5-6

1. He took away high places from Judah but didn’t finish throughout the land (I Kings 22:43)

Read Vs 7-9

1. Changin the human soul will always be based on instruction from the Word of God
 - a. Joshua read the whole Law to Israel (Jos 8)
 - b. Ezra taught it publicly – Ezra established exposition (reading & explaining)
2. Many things can be service to God, but none can be done correctly or completely w/o knowing God's Word

Read Vs 10-19

1. Judah became a highly respected nation
 - a. As the Word went out, it changed lives
 - b. The people became a well-balanced body
 - c. Amasiah even volunteered for mission
 - d. Money can put a man into a vocation, but it's the Bible that can put a vocation into a man
2. We offer the Word & pray that the person turns to the Holy Spirit to apply it into their life

#2 – Apply the Word that you hear (Chap 18)

Read Vs 18:1

1. Ahab was the powerful yet wicked Israeli king

Read Vs 2-3

1. Ahab stirs Judah to go with him to battle Syria to win back this Israeli city
2. It's worthy task, but he's working w/ a bad man

Read Vs 4-8

1. Jehoshaphat is careful to hear from the Lord before acting, good for him (Achan from Joshua 7)
2. Question is – are they calling on the Lord from a sense of religion ritual or with a mind to obey?
3. When a person speaks for God, don't think is it “good or bad”, think is it “true or false”

Read Vs 9-13

1. You're either driven by self-will & self-preservation or by God's will & preserving the truth
 - a. They don't always go the same direction
2. God's Word has no effect in our life just from taking it in
 - a. It must be accepted, applied & actioned

Read Vs 14-17

1. Micaiah sarcastic at first, tells then the truth of the disaster of this battle
2. Ahab 1st says he's not given the truth, then when given the truth, he complains he doesn't like the truth
 - a. Fleshly men will always complain & have excuses why God's Word is difficult or bad

Read Vs 18-22

1. Micaiah further prophecies he was told about the lying spirit that would come to Ahab's prophets
2. All God needs to do is to withdraw His hand & allow Satan and his angels to act
3. Men can be directed by the Lord, by their flesh, or even by demonic powers

Read Vs 23-28

1. When someone stands against God's Word w/ lies, expect that God will rebuke them...in time
2. Circumstances will prove God is truth

Read Vs 29-32

1. Seems Ahab intended this to hide his kingship as a measure of protection that he wouldn't die
2. It seems Ahab believed God's Word thru Micaiah after all – He just didn't live by it
 - a. Trust that when we send out the Word, it's having its effect, even if we can't see it

Read Vs 33-34

1. What seems like a random act of violence in war was actually known ahead by God Almighty
2. We cannot thwart the will of God
 - a. How much better to simply go His way & be blessed

#3 – Grow from chastisement (Chap 19)

Read Vs 19:1

1. Returned 'in peace' means safely, not calmly
2. This is God's great grace
3. He got involved w/ ungodly men against God's will & should have died, yet he cried out to God

Read Vs 2-3

1. Jehu the son of Hanani, prophets
 - a. Hanani has previously rebuked Jehoshaphat's father Asa in II Chr 16
 - b. Jehu has already been used to speak against Israeli kings in the north
 - c. Now here the Lord uses this prophet author to send course correction to Jehoshaphat
2. Whom the Lord loves He chastens, so what's the correction?
 - a. You personally want to seek & serve the Lord, great, but don't join with the ungodly
 - b. At worse, the ungodly lead us into harm, at best, they cloud our ability to hear from God

Read Vs 4

1. So he restricted himself to staying among the godly and promoting godliness - AMEN

Read Vs 5-11

1. So judges are appointed over spiritual & material matters separately

2. The charge is to be unbiased and fear God, for they represent God
3. So Jehoshaphat is reinvigorated to grow godliness around the country

#4 – Grow thru the trials of our faith (Chap 20)

Read Vs 20:1-4

1. Jesus also told us of the spiritual power of prayer and fasting
 - a. Designed to focus ourselves without distraction on receiving insight from the Lord
2. Notice Jehoshaphat sets the example himself and also calls the nation to join him
 - a. This is how we lead others into godliness
 - b. Show them our godliness in the hard times

Read Vs 5-12

1. He begins w/ acknowledgement that God is ruler over this whole situation

2. When Temple was dedicated, they committed themselves to the Lord with the words of vs 9
 - a. God accepted their dedication w/ approval
3. In vs 10 he says, You're the one that set this up
4. In vs 12, there's humility & utter dependance on God
 - a. We're empty, but our eyes are on you

Read Vs 13

1. Bring your family along on faith's hard parts

Read Vs 14-15

1. In the midst of the everyone gathered, the Lord spoke to and raised up one man to speak to all
 - a. Give the church time to exercise their gifts
2. When you've done all things right to honor God, & conflict arises, then..."the battle belongs to the Lord"
 - a. Not just that He's there, but that He owns it

Read Vs 16-17

1. Go do our part, as feeble as it may seem and wait on the Lord to act & do His part

2. This is step by step faith (when hard & unknown)

Read Vs 18-19

1. They received this by faith as from God
2. They didn't praise Jahaziel, but God
3. Some never pray & fast to even get to this point
4. Some pray & fast but when the answer comes, they don't believe God to do it

Read Vs 20-21

1. When God speaks shows acts of belief
2. Send praise ahead, send praise first
 - a. Judah (meaning praise) marching in the wilderness under Moses first of the twelve
 - b. Paul & Silas worshipped God, b4 change
 - c. Praise God around the walls of Jericho
3. If we belief, we will act differently

Read Vs 22-30

1. God knew that these 3 nations would turn against each other before ever attacking Judah

2. Not only did they not have to fight, but they gained the loot
3. God blesses faith, He brings riches when it seems that only poverty could come
4. God brings joy when it seems that only despair could come
5. This is the life of faith

Read Vs 31-37

1. How quickly we return to allying with wicked men just to “earn a dollar”.
2. God had blessed his faith even financially and he’s doing it again
3. We simply cannot be in fellowship and contract with unbelievers to prosper God’s work
4. Our interactions with the world are confined to leading them to the Lord not for mutual aid

Conclusion

So which of these Christian disciplines is the Lord calling us to change today?

1. **Are we teaching & giving out the Word?**
2. **Are we actually applying the Word to ourselves?**
3. **Are we able to receive & change during times of chastisement?**
4. **Are we receiving trials as an opportunity to grow our faith & reap the blessings thereof?**

As we receive God's Word in this way, we cannot help but come closer to our great God

1. We're thankful for the blessings God gives
2. We're in awe at the work of Christ's cross
3. We're put into action by the power of the Holy Spirit