A generation of good years

The next up for our discussion is King Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat in the Bible was the fourth king of Judah. He became one of the country's most successful rulers for one simple reason: he followed the commands of God. At age 35, Jehoshaphat succeeded his father, Asa, who was the first good king over Judah. Asa also did what was right in God's eyes and led Judah in a series of religious reforms.

King Asa led Judah for 41 years, and Jehoshaphat led the nation for 25 years. Altogether, they led the nation through sixty-six good years. Especially if you consider the previous 60 years that included the likes of King Solomon (the latter years), Kings Rehoboam and Abijam. King Jehoshaphat experienced the same kind of results as did the good kings of that period.

Consider II Chronicles 20:29-30

King Asa was not completely successful in ridding Judah of the High Places, aka idolatry places, but King Jehoshaphat does clean the land of the remaining high places.

Consider II Chronicles 15:17, II Chronicles 17:1-6

**Life Lesson #67** - Whenever assuming new responsibilities, it is good to study the strengths and weaknesses of people who have had similar assignments. Learning from the past can provide critical insights as to what to do, and what not to do.

King Jehoshaphat wisely continued the good reforms of his father, and even completed King Ahab’s unfinished business.

Calling all Teachers

Among the most notable qualities we see in King Jehoshaphat is his commitment to Spiritual education. He wanted to make sure the people of Judah were taught the truth of their history. The people he selected would have been the local Historians. He sent “princes” and Levites, “…to teach in the cities of Judah.”

It is also noteworthy that he sent them to strategic locations. This decision was more than wise, it was inspired. As the teachers spread out, they were able to do in Judah, what was forbidden to teach in the Northern Kingdom, which was to talk about Yahweh.

Consider II Chronicles 17:7-9, Consider Romans 10:13-15

The classes they would have taught included our books of Genesis through Exodus, and Joshua, and Judges, and the period leading up to the division of the Nation.

King Jehoshaphat also took measures to ensure that there was justice in the land. His appointments were given clean and Godly guidelines to follow during their deliberations.

Consider II Chronicles 19:5-11

Associations

It is interesting that King Jehoshaphat had relationships with the surrounding nations of people. The favor of God on Judah had prompted their enemies to bring presents and tribute to Judah. The result of these presents and tribute moneys caused Judah to be restored financially from the losses they had occurred during the reign of Asa. The windfall that they experienced in II Chronicles chapter 20 would have been an additional windfall for the people.

Consider II Chronicles 17:1-3, 5, 10.

**Life Lesson #68** - God knows how to restore, replenish, and replace. He often uses unusual sources to reposition His people for success.

Consider Proverbs 13:22

Disassociation

In a similar way as with King David and King Solomon, King Jehoshaphat allowed success to cloud his judgment. King Jehoshaphat formed an alliance with the King of Israel, King Ahab. That alliance would prove to be harmful. There is a single verse that tells us all we need to know about King Ahab.

Consider I Kings 16:30

Despite the favor of God that was upon both King Jehoshaphat and Judah, the King still formed this alliance.

There are three reasons why King Jehoshaphat should have disassociated himself from King Ahab:

1. He was an idolater.
2. He was strongly influenced by his wife Jezebel.
3. His attitude and treatment of the Prophets of the Lord.

Consider II Corinthians 6:14

**Life Lesson #69 -** There are times that Saints must disassociate from toxic people before their consequences have an unintended impact on innocent people. Although King Jehoshaphat did not engage in the ungodly behavior of King Ahab, his association with him almost got him killed.

Consider II Chronicles 18:28-34

**Life Lesson #70** - When emergencies arise, remember God knows how to help us when we call on Him. King Jehoshaphat prayed, and God delivered him. (Even though he should not have been there in the first place.)

Has God ever rescued you?

Consider I Corinthians 10:13, II Timothy 2:19, II Peter 2:9

Homework: Read II Chronicles 22-27