

# Living for God in "Interesting" Times

*The fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not make war with Jehoshaphat. Some Philistines brought Jehoshaphat gifts and silver as tribute, and the Arabs brought him flocks: seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred goats. Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful; he built forts and store cities in Judah and had large supplies in the towns of Judah. He also kept experienced fighting men in Jerusalem.*  
2 Chronicles 17:10-13

## From King Jehoshaphat: Push Past Distraction

2 Chronicles 17:1-13

2 Chronicles 17:1- *Jehoshaphat his son succeeded him as king and strengthened himself against Israel.*  
2- *He stationed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah and put garrisons in Judah and in the towns of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured.*  
3a- *The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways his father David had followed.*

3b- *He did not consult the Baals*  
4- *but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel.*

5- *The LORD established the kingdom under his control; and all Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so that he had great wealth and honor.*  
6- *His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.*

7- *In the third year of his reign he sent his officials Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel and Micaiah to teach in the towns of Judah.*  
8- *With them were certain Levites- Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah and Tob-Adonijah- and the priests Elishama and Jehoram.*

Background and overview of the Kings of Judah (Dates from Leon Wood's A Survey of Israel's History):

### Unified Kingdom:

Saul-	1043-1011 BC	(The first king, called for by the people, but without a heart for God)
David-	1011-971 BC	(Anointed by Samuel- the man after God's own heart)
Solomon-	971-931 BC	(Oversaw expansion of the nation- asked for wisdom yet drifted from God)

### Divided Kingdom begins (Rulers of the southern tribe of Judah):

Rehoboam	931-913 BC	(Son of Solomon- presided over division of the kingdom.)
Abijam	913-911 BC	(Considered a bad king- reigned only three years.)
<u>Asa</u>	911-870 BC	(The first of Judah's eight "good kings"-men who were approved by God.)
<u>Jehoshaphat</u>	873-848 BC	(The second "good king"- God honoring. He overlapped his father's reign.)
Jehoram	853-841 BC	(Bad king who murdered six of his brothers and was struck dead by God.)
Ahaziah	841 BC	(Bad king murdered by Jehu who also murdered King Jehoram of Israel.)
Athaliah	841-835 BC	(Wife of Jehoram, mother of Ahaziah, sister of Jezebel of Samaria. She had her grandchildren murdered in order to ensure her reign. She was cruel, wicked and ultimately was murdered by the army)
<u>Joash</u>	835-796 BC	(The third good king- Grandson of Athaliah- rescued from his grandmother as a child. Reigned well as long as his advisor, the high priest Jehoiada, was his mentor)
Amaziah	796-767 BC	(Son of Joash- the fourth good king.)
Azariah(Uzziah)	791-739 BC	(The fifth good king. He ruled longer than any prior king in either kingdom-52 years. He served as co-regent with his father(24 years) and with his son (12 years). He was struck by God with leprosy when he inappropriately took on the priest's role.)
Jotham	750-731 BC	(The sixth good king. He is the fourth God approved leader in a row, representing over 100 years of spiritual focus and health. Though not the golden age under David this was the last long God-honoring time before the Babylonian captivity.)
Ahaz	743-715 BC	(Son of Jotham, served as co-regent for a time with his father. He aligned with the King of Assyria and religiously honored Baal and 'did evil in the sight of the LORD'.)
<u>Hezekiah</u>	728-686 BC	(Seventh good king- one of the most honorable in the sight of God. Given great praise as acting in a manner similar to King David.)
Manasseh	697-642 BC	(Served as co-regent for 11 years with his father, the fifth consecutive prince to begin his rule this way. He did not imitate his father in devotion to God and both he and the nation suffered.)
Amnon	642-640 BC	(His servants, repulsed by his life and idolatry conspired to kill him in his own home.)
<u>Josiah</u>	640-609 BC	(The eighth and final good king in Judah. Began ruling at eight years of age. His 31 years were among the happiest in Judah's history- full of political peace, personal prosperity and religious reform.)
Jehoahaz	609 BC	(One of Josiah's three sons who each ruled over Judah, and all failed to follow God.)
Jehoiakim	609-597 BC	(Ignored God's prophet Jeremiah, squandered the treasury and despised by Judah.)
Jehoiachin	597 BC	(18 year old son, served three months- taken captive to Babylon)
Zedekiah	597-586 BC	(Jehoiachin's uncle and Josiah's third son. Unsuccessfully revolted against Babylon's control. His sons were murdered before his eyes, he was blinded by the Babylonians and carried away in captivity. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.)

The Northern ten tribes had 19 Kings from 931 to the Assyrian captivity in 722BC. Not one was considered God honoring.