

2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
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 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
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 - c. Imagine Peter stepping out onto the water – *to walk on it!* (Mt. 14:28-29)
 - d. Is your faith simply belief in certain facts **OR** trust in the Almighty God?
4. The LORD came through: ²³ "...they all helped to destroy one another."

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- What could have happened to Jehoiada? _____
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1. Since Joash, *the new king*, was only seven, and since Jehoiada was so instrumental in him becoming king, it seems that Jehoiada was somewhat reigning through Joash – *especially in his younger years*.
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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
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 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
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1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
 - a. Whenever we are troubled or afraid, *let us seek the LORD!*
 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
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1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

- Therefore, the LORD communicated this to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet: ¹⁴ "...behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day." (ESV) Then enemies of Judah took his possessions, wives, and sons – *all but one*. (17) ¹⁹ "...at the end of two years, his bowels came out...and he died in great agony... ²⁰ with no one's regret."

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- A summary: Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram & Athaliah, ♦reigned only one year, ♦walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, and ♦did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. Note how the foolish marriage alliance led to much evil for Jehoram—who killed all his brothers (21:4) and for Ahaziah—who went to war with Jehoram (*also the name of the king of Israel*) against Syria; events related to that war eventually ended his life.
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- How did the mother of Ahaziah begin to reign? ¹⁰ "Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah." Dictatorial, "cruel, and iron-willed, Athaliah did not shrink from killing her own grandsons, fearing they could challenge her usurpation of power." (TLSB, 696)
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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
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 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
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 - c. Imagine Peter stepping out onto the water – *to walk on it!* (Mt. 14:28-29)
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1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

- Therefore, the LORD communicated this to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet: ¹⁴ "...behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day." (ESV) Then enemies of Judah took his possessions, wives, and sons – *all but one*. (17) ¹⁹ "...at the end of two years, his bowels came out...and he died in great agony... ²⁰ with no one's regret."

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- The family tree: Jehoshaphat > Jehoram (who married Athaliah—daughter of Ahab, the king of Israel; 18:1) > Jehoahaz / Ahaziah.
- A summary: Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram & Athaliah, ♦reigned only one year, ♦walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, and ♦did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. Note how the foolish marriage alliance led to much evil for Jehoram—who killed all his brothers (21:4) and for Ahaziah—who went to war with Jehoram (*also the name of the king of Israel*) against Syria; events related to that war eventually ended his life.
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- How did the mother of Ahaziah begin to reign? ¹⁰ "Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah." Dictatorial, "cruel, and iron-willed, Athaliah did not shrink from killing her own grandsons, fearing they could challenge her usurpation of power." (TLSB, 696)
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2. ^{18b} “And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.” *[So their sin brought God’s wrath!]* ¹⁹ Yet *[the LORD did not destroy them; instead,]* he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.” Even today, when God’s truth is proclaimed, God gives those who hear the ability to repent:
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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
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2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
 - a. Whenever we are troubled or afraid, *let us seek the LORD!*
 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
 - b. What if Judah has to battle the "great horde"?
 - c. Imagine Peter stepping out onto the water – *to walk on it!* (Mt. 14:28-29)
 - d. Is your faith simply belief in certain facts **OR** trust in the Almighty God?
4. The LORD came through: ²³ "...they all helped to destroy one another."

O. The LORD Delivers Judah (20:24-34): The victory was complete:

1. Regarding the "great horde," ²⁴ "...none had escaped."
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1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

- Therefore, the LORD communicated this to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet: ¹⁴ "...behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.'" (ESV) Then enemies of Judah took his possessions, wives, and sons – *all but one*. (17) ¹⁹ "...at the end of two years, his bowels came out...and he died in great agony... ²⁰ with no one's regret."

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- The family tree: Jehoshaphat > Jehoram (who married Athaliah—daughter of Ahab, the king of Israel; 18:1) > Jehoahaz / Ahaziah.
- A summary: Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram & Athaliah, ♦reigned only one year, ♦walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, and ♦did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. Note how the foolish marriage alliance led to much evil for Jehoram—who killed all his brothers (21:4) and for Ahaziah—who went to war with Jehoram (*also the name of the king of Israel*) against Syria; events related to that war eventually ended his life.
- Jehoram / Joram: "When reading the Bible account, it is easy to be confused about Jehoram, for three reasons. One, he is also known as Joram, and the two names are used interchangeably and without explanation. Two, neighboring Judah also had a king named Jehoram, also known as Joram, who reigned at the same time. So both names are intermixed, sometimes referring to one king, sometimes to the other. Third, in 2 Kings 5:1 – 8:6, he is referred to namelessly, simply as "the king," leaving the casual reader in doubt of his identity."¹

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- How did the mother of Ahaziah begin to reign? ¹⁰ "Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah." Dictatorial, "cruel, and iron-willed, Athaliah did not shrink from killing her own grandsons, fearing they could challenge her usurpation of power." (TLSB, 696)
- A courageous act: ¹¹ "But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king [*also the brother of Ahaziah—the former king, and wife of Jehoiada the priest*], took Joash [*an infant*] the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be put to death..." How is the LORD calling us to be courageous brave / daring / bold / gutsy? _____

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
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 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
 - a. Whenever we are troubled or afraid, *let us seek the LORD!*
 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
 - b. What if Judah has to battle the "great horde"?
 - c. Imagine Peter stepping out onto the water – *to walk on it!* (Mt. 14:28-29)
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4. The LORD came through: ²³ "...they all helped to destroy one another."

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1. Regarding the "great horde," ²⁴ "...none had escaped."
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1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

2. Therefore, the LORD communicated this to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet: ¹⁴ "...behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.'" (ESV) Then enemies of Judah took his possessions, wives, and sons – *all but one*. (17) ¹⁹ "...at the end of two years, his bowels came out...and he died in great agony...." ²⁰ with no one's regret."

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1. The family tree: Jehoshaphat > Jehoram (who married Athaliah—daughter of Ahab, the king of Israel; 18:1) > Jehoahaz / Ahaziah.
2. A summary: Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram & Athaliah, ♦reigned only one year, ♦walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, and ♦did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. Note how the foolish marriage alliance led to much evil for Jehoram—who killed all his brothers (21:4) and for Ahaziah—who went to war with Jehoram (*also the name of the king of Israel*) against Syria; events related to that war eventually ended his life.
3. Jehoram / Joram: "When reading the Bible account, it is easy to be confused about Jehoram, for three reasons. One, he is also known as Joram, and the two names are used interchangeably and without explanation. Two, neighboring Judah also had a king named Jehoram, also known as Joram, who reigned at the same time. So both names are intermixed, sometimes referring to one king, sometimes to the other. Third, in 2 Kings 5:1 – 8:6, he is referred to namelessly, simply as "the king," leaving the casual reader in doubt of his identity."¹

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1. How did the mother of Ahaziah begin to reign? ¹⁰ "Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah." Dictatorial, "cruel, and iron-willed, Athaliah did not shrink from killing her own grandsons, fearing they could challenge her usurpation of power." (TLSB, 696)
2. A courageous act: ¹¹ "But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king [*also the brother of Ahaziah—the former king, and wife of Jehoiada the priest*], took Joash [*an infant*] the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be put to death..." How is the LORD calling us to be courageous brave / daring / bold / gutsy? _____

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1. Since Joash, *the new king*, was only seven, and since Jehoiada was so instrumental in him becoming king, it seems that Jehoiada was somewhat reigning through Joash – *especially in his younger years*.
2. ¹⁶ “...Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the LORD’s people.” Therefore, sorry for their sins and trusting in the LORD, what did they do?
 - a. They stopped what was sinful: ¹⁷ “Then all the people went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal...”
 - b. They began to honor the LORD by restarting all that David had put in place in regard to the temple.
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2. ^{18b} “And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.” *[So their sin brought God’s wrath!]* ¹⁹ Yet *[the LORD did not destroy them; instead,]* he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.” Even today, when God’s truth is proclaimed, God gives those who hear the ability to repent:
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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
 - a. Whenever we are troubled or afraid, *let us seek the LORD!*
 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
 - a. Whenever we are troubled or afraid, *let us seek the LORD!*
 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
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 - c. Imagine Peter stepping out onto the water – *to walk on it!* (Mt. 14:28-29)
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1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

- Therefore, the LORD communicated this to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet: ¹⁴ "...behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day." (ESV) Then enemies of Judah took his possessions, wives, and sons – *all but one*. (17) ¹⁹ "...at the end of two years, his bowels came out...and he died in great agony... ²⁰ with no one's regret."

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- The family tree: Jehoshaphat > Jehoram (who married Athaliah—daughter of Ahab, the king of Israel; 18:1) > Jehoahaz / Ahaziah.
- A summary: Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram & Athaliah, ♦reigned only one year, ♦walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, and ♦did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. Note how the foolish marriage alliance led to much evil for Jehoram—who killed all his brothers (21:4) and for Ahaziah—who went to war with Jehoram (*also the name of the king of Israel*) against Syria; events related to that war eventually ended his life.
- Jehoram / Joram: "When reading the Bible account, it is easy to be confused about Jehoram, for three reasons. One, he is also known as Joram, and the two names are used interchangeably and without explanation. Two, neighboring Judah also had a king named Jehoram, also known as Joram, who reigned at the same time. So both names are intermixed, sometimes referring to one king, sometimes to the other. Third, in 2 Kings 5:1 – 8:6, he is referred to namelessly, simply as "the king," leaving the casual reader in doubt of his identity."¹

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- How did the mother of Ahaziah begin to reign? ¹⁰ "Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah." Dictatorial, "cruel, and iron-willed, Athaliah did not shrink from killing her own grandsons, fearing they could challenge her usurpation of power." (TLSB, 696)
- A courageous act: ¹¹ "But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king [*also the brother of Ahaziah—the former king, and wife of Jehoiada the priest*], took Joash [*an infant*] the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be put to death..." How is the LORD calling us to be courageous brave / daring / bold / gutsy? _____

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
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2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
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1. Since Joash, *the new king*, was only seven, and since Jehoiada was so instrumental in him becoming king, it seems that Jehoiada was somewhat reigning through Joash – *especially in his younger years*.
2. ¹⁶ “...Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the LORD’s people.” Therefore, sorry for their sins and trusting in the LORD, what did they do?
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 - b. They began to honor the LORD by restarting all that David had put in place in regard to the temple.
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1. A good mentor is SO IMPORTANT: ² “And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.” Jehoiada led Joash to do many things to restore ¹³ “...the house of God to its proper condition...”
 - a. So with Jehoiada’s godly influence, *Joash honored the LORD!*
 - b. Who is your *godly* mentor? _____
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1. ¹⁷ “Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah [*thus the sons of Joash*] came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them 😊. ¹⁸ And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols...”
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2. ^{18b} “And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.” *[So their sin brought God’s wrath!]* ¹⁹ Yet *[the LORD did not destroy them; instead,]* he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.” Even today, when God’s truth is proclaimed, God gives those who hear the ability to repent:
 - a. Some do – *to God’s glory and their own great benefit!*
 - b. Most do not – *to God’s dishonor and their own great harm!*
3. ²⁰ “Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, ‘Thus says God, “Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.”’” ²¹ But they conspired *[united] against him, and by command of the king [thus Joash—who had been so blessed through Jehoiada, the father of Zechariah] they stoned him....* ²² *...And when he was dying, he said, ‘May the LORD see and avenge!’”*
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2 Chronicles 20:1 – 24:27

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III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

N. Jehoshaphat's Prayer (20:1-23):

1. Troubles – *may they always draw us closer to the LORD:* ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.... ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
 - a. Whenever we are troubled or afraid, *let us seek the LORD!*
 - b. Fasting reminds us of our bodily needs *and the LORD's faithful provision*; therefore, fasting should also move us to be sorry for our sins *and trust in LORD for His help in our current time of need!*
2. Jehoshaphat concluded his prayer with these words: ¹² "...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." *Good advice for us!*
3. Then, *in the midst of their despair*, the LORD sent this message through Jahaziel: "... ¹⁵ 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.'" *That doesn't make sense!*
 - a. What if God doesn't hold to His promise?
 - b. What if Judah has to battle the "great horde"?
 - c. Imagine Peter stepping out onto the water – *to walk on it!* (Mt. 14:28-29)
 - d. Is your faith simply belief in certain facts **OR** trust in the Almighty God?
4. The LORD came through: ²³ "...they all helped to destroy one another."

O. The LORD Delivers Judah (20:24-34): The victory was complete:

1. Regarding the "great horde," ²⁴ "...none had escaped."
2. Regarding the people of Judah, ²⁷ "...they returned, every man..."

P. The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign (20:35-37): Like his father Asa (16:7-12) his life had a sad ending: He joined with Ahaziah, *the wicked king of Israel*, to build ships, but the LORD was displeased so He destroyed those ships. As we grow older, *let us also grow wiser in knowing and following the ways of the LORD!*

Q. Jehoram Reigns in Judah (21:1-20): Jehoshaphat never should have made a marriage alliance with Ahab (18:1); *sin is never good!*

1. ⁴ "When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel [apparently his nephews].... ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."

- Therefore, the LORD communicated this to Jehoram through Elijah the prophet: ¹⁴ "...behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.'" (ESV) Then enemies of Judah took his possessions, wives, and sons – *all but one*. (17) ¹⁹ "...at the end of two years, his bowels came out...and he died in great agony... ²⁰ with no one's regret."

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