

KING JEHOSHAPHAT OF JUDAH

Old Testament Lesson #110

At the beginning of Jehoshaphat's (je-HOSH-a-fat) reign, he was careful to follow the LORD. He eliminated the worship places of other gods. He sent officials and priests to the towns of Judah to teach the people God's ways. The neighboring countries were at peace with Judah.

Eventually, the Moabites (mo-a-BITES), the Ammonites (AM-mon-ites) and the men of Mount Seir (SEE-ir) decided to attack Judah. Jehoshaphat had spent his resources educating the people about God's ways. When word came that the enemy was approaching, Jehoshaphat sought God's help. He called for a fast, and people came from all over Judah.

Jehoshaphat stood before the people and prayed, recounting how God had helped Israel in the past. Although Jehoshaphat had a large army, he acknowledged Judah's dependence on God and asked God's help.

Through the prophet Jahaziel (ja-HAZ-i-el), the LORD told them not to be afraid, because the battle was not theirs, but God's. God told them to take their positions, stand firm and see God's deliverance. The people began to praise the LORD.

In the morning, Jehoshaphat appointed singers to precede his army and praise God. As they began to sing, the LORD made the enemies who were coming to attack Judah attack each other. By the time the men of Judah got into place, the men of the enemy armies were all dead! There was so much plunder that it took Judah's army three days to collect it.

On the fourth day, they assembled in the Valley of Beracah (BER-a-ka) (which means "praise") to praise the LORD. They returned to Jerusalem with joy. All the other nations heard how the LORD had fought for them, and there was peace in the land.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- A "fast" is when someone abstains from eating; it was often done by people wishing to devote themselves to prayer.

King Jehoshaphat of Judah

- I. Jehoshaphat pleased the LORD and taught the people God's ways.
- II. Enemies marched against Judah.
- III. Jehoshaphat and the people prayed for God's help.
- IV. God caused the enemy troops to attack each other.
- V. Other nations heard of God's help and left Judah alone.

ANSWER KEY:

Joy
Me
Light
Come
Cross
Has
Grace
Happy
Church
Great
Little

Jehoshaphat

Jahaziel