

## **Jehoshaphat**

2 Chronicles 17

2 Chronicles 20:1 – 21:3

1 Kings 22:41-53

Psalms 83 and 33

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Jehoshaphat obeyed and worshiped the Lord. He sent representatives to every town in Judah to teach the Law of the Lord so the people of Judah would also obey and worship the Lord. The nations surrounding Judah feared the Lord and paid tribute to Jehoshaphat; the people of Judah brought gifts to him; Jehoshaphat became very rich and was highly respected.

After Ahab's death, his son Ahaziah became king of Israel. He worshiped Baal and disobeyed the Lord just as his father had done. Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah agreed to construct a fleet of trading ships. A prophet spoke out against this alliance, "The Lord will destroy these ships." And indeed, they were wrecked and never sailed.

One day a vast army came out of the east to attack Judah. Jehoshaphat told the people to fast and pray. Many from all over Judah gathered at the Temple in Jerusalem and joined their king in prayer, asking the Lord for help.

The Lord said through a prophet, "Don't be afraid. You will not need to fight this approaching army. Go out to face them tomorrow. But stand firm, and see what I do for you."

Early the next morning Jehoshaphat chose some men to march out ahead of the army singing to the Lord:

Let your enemies know that you, O Lord,  
are the Most High over all the earth.

Suddenly, the enemy soldiers began slaughtering each other. Soon every one of them was dead. For three days Jehoshaphat's men carried off load upon load of plunder. The people of Judah praised God with musical instruments, they shouted, and they sang, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we trust in you."