

MAY 13

Read 2 Chronicles 18–20

CHAPTER 18

NOW Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

2 And after *certain* years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that *he had* with him, and persuaded him to go up *with him* to Ramothgilead.

3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, *I am* as thou *art*, and my people as thy people; and *we will be* with thee in the war.

4 ¶ And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

5 Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver *it* into the king's hand.

6 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

7 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same *is* Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

8 And the king of Israel called for one *of his* officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla.

9 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in *their* robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

10 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed.

11 And all the prophets prophe-

sied so, saying, Go up to Ramoth-gilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king.

12 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets *declare* good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good.

13 And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.

14 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.

15 And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?

16 Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return *therefore* every man to his house in peace.

17 And the king of Israel said to

Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee *that* he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?

18 Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and *on* his left.

19 And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner.

20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith?

21 And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And *the* LORD said, Thou shalt entice *him*, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do *even* so.

22 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.

23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

24 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

25 Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

26 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this *fellow* in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace.

27 And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, *then* hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people.

28. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.

29 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle.

30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that *were* with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel.

31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is

the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them *to depart* from him.

32 For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him.

33 And a *certain* man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed *himself* up in *his* chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.

CHAPTER 19

AND Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.

2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore *is* wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

5 ¶ And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,

6 And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who *is* with you in the judgment.

7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do *it*: for *there is* no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

8 ¶ Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

10 And what cause soever shall

come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass.

11 And, behold, Amariah the chief priest *is* over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites *shall be* officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

CHAPTER 20

IT came to pass after this also, *that* the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them *other* beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they *be* in Hazazontamar, which *is* Engedi.

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all

Judah.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask *help* of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 ¶ And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, *art* not thou God in heaven? and rulest *not* thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand *is there not* power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

7 *Art* not thou our God, *who* didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

9 If, *when* evil cometh upon us, *as* the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name *is* in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let

Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

11 Behold, *I say, how* they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes *are* upon thee.

13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 ¶ Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's.

16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find

them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you.

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

20 ¶ And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the

army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

22 ¶ And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them*: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

26 ¶ And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed

the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

31 ¶ And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: *he was* thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

32 And he walked in the way of

Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD.

33 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who *is* mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

35 ¶ And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:

36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Jehoshaphat reigned as king of Judah for some 25 years, from 874 to 850 B.C. He is an example of one who sought the Lord in all things and because of it was a very great king. He sent priests and Levites on regular circuits, teaching the Book of the Law to the people. He established courts of justice throughout the land and maintained a vast army. He made one serious mistake by allying himself with Ahab. We touched on this briefly yesterday. However, Jehoshaphat did not wilt under the rebuking of Jehu, but rather learned a lesson and became stronger than ever before in the Lord. He had faith in the power of prayer, as we can see in chapter 20:1-13. His prayer was that the Lord would deliver them from the Moab-Ammon invasion. God granted his request and Judah triumphed over the invading armies. Notice Jehoshaphat's confidence in chapter 20:20 as he spoke to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."

Throughout the history of Israel, when God's leaders led the people to follow the Word of the Lord, they always prospered. It is still true today! When Christians follow God's leadership, He will reward them, He will bless them, and He will prosper them. God says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Won't you join with me today in claiming this verse anew, committing every thought, word, and deed to God and His leadership? He promises to bless us, and He has never failed to keep His promise.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness" (Proverbs 11:5).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 15: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 11.

HYMN FOR TODAY

HAIL, THOU ONCE DESPISED JESUS by John Bakewell, 1721-1819

The author of this worshipful and strongly doctrinal hymn text presents a vivid contrast between the shame and suffering of Christ's earthly life and the greatness of His eternal glorification. We must never

forget that the infant Jesus has moved on to take His place as the reigning Lord. Often at Christmas we become very sentimental about His lowly birth, or at Easter saddened as we recall His suffering and death. Sometimes our emphasis upon Christ's earthly ministry causes us to lose sight of His eternal deity. The Bible reminds us that "this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:24-25).

John Bakewell was a zealous lay evangelist who was associated with the Wesleyan movement during the mid 1700's. Something of the character of this man is indicated by the tribute on his tombstone in a grave site located in the same area where John Wesley is buried in London, England:

"Sacred to the memory of John Bakewell, who departed this life March 18, 1819, age 98. He adorned the doctrine of God, our Saviour, and preached His glorious gospel about 70 years. The memory of the just is blessed."

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King!

Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.

Hail, Thou agonizing Saviour, bearer of our sin and shame!

By Thy merits we find favor; life is given through Thy name.

*Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there forever to abide;
All the heavenly hosts adore Thee, seated at Thy Father's side:*

*There for sinners Thou art pleading; there Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding till in glory we appear.*

Worship, honor pow'r and blessing Thou art worthy to receive;

Loudest praises, without ceasing, meet it is for us to give.

Help, ye bright angelic spirit, bring your sweetest, noblest lays;

Help to sing our Saviour's merits; help to chant Immanuel's praise!

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1607
JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA, WAS FOUNDED.

1846
THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR ON MEXICO.

1867
MOODY BEGAN HIS NOON-DAY PRAYER MEETINGS IN LONDON.

Moody began his noon-day prayer meetings in London at Aldersgate Street YMCA. What a place to begin! Aldersgate was the place where Wesley was converted. It is a very famous name to followers of John Wesley. Why not spend some time today praying during the noon hour.

1850
CHARLES SPURGEON WAS BAPTIZED IN THE RIVER.

Charles Spurgeon was baptized in the river on his mother's birthday by W.W. Cantlow, a returned missionary. Spurgeon said, "I lost a thousand fears and in keeping his commandment there is great reward." If you have not been baptized, do so immediately.

1924
THE BIRTHDAY OF WALT HANDFORD.

Walt Handford is now a successful pastor at the Southside Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina. The work that God has done there through him has been exceptional. He is the son-in-law of Evangelist John R. Rice, and has served as Assistant Editor of

the *Sword of the Lord* as well as Vice-President of the *Sword of the Lord Foundation*.

1918
THE POST OFFICE ISSUED THE FIRST AIR-MAIL STAMP.

May we thank God again today for our postal system.

1950
THE DATE OF THE DEATH OF WILLIS HYLES, FATHER OF JACK HYLES.

Dr. Hyles' father died while hanging dry-wall on the ceiling of a house in Grand Prairie, Texas. His death changed the ministry of his young son.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1865
TWO WHITE REGIMENTS AND A BLACK REGIMENT, THE SIXTY-SECOND U.S.C.T., FOUGHT LAST ACTION OF WAR AT WHITE'S RANCH, TEXAS.

1888
SLAVERY ABOLISHED IN BRAZIL.

1914
JOE LOUIS, WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION FROM (1937-1949), WAS BORN.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 40

AUTHOR: David

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM

The war with Absalom is over. Absalom, of course, has been killed. David has come back to the palace and is now sitting on the throne. From the throne he writes the 40th Psalm. Read with interest the first four verses and picture the king back on the throne after an absence. Ah, here is a beautiful picture. Jesus was crucified, and in this old sin-cursed world He is now the object of hatred, ridicule and animosity. But one day, bless God, He will be back on the throne.

One day a little boy was reading a book. He got to the middle of the book and the villain was winning the battle. The hero was just about to lose. At that very moment the boy's mother commissioned him to come and dry the dishes. He begged for a postponement so he could finish the book. The mother was not in the postponing mood, and she said, "Son, you come and do these dishes now!"

The boy said, "But Mama, the hero is getting defeated and the villain is winning. I've got to stay and see how it comes out." The mother was not in a mood to comply and she said, "Johnny, you come in here now and do these dishes!"

Johnny quickly turned over to the last chapter and read it, and running to the kitchen to do the dishes he shouted, "Ah, villain, you are having a good time in the middle of the book, but you're in for the surprise of your life when you get to the last chapter."

Yes, Satan is the god of this world, and he is having a good time now, but I turned over to the end of the Book and read the last chapter! I read where Satan will some day be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. I read where "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run. His kingdom shall spread from shore to shore, 'til moons shall wax and wane no more." I read about a New Jerusalem, the foundations of precious jewels, gates of pearl and streets of gold. I read the last chapter where it tells about the New Jerusalem coming down from God out of Heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I read the last chapter which tells us of a place where we shall live forever, where no crepe will darken the door, no palsy shall tremble the hand, no cancer shall remove the breast, and no grave will be like an open earthquake receiving its prey. Yes, I read the last chapter! Satan, old boy, you are in for the surprise of your life when you get there!

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE

This Psalm, as were many others, was used in singing after a great victory.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I MUST BECOME BETTER BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN"

(Assignment 15)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

() Luke 5:31

And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

() Luke 5:32

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

() Luke 18:10

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

() Luke 18:11

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

() Luke 18:12 (see Luke 18:13-14)

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.