**A cartoon of a book with a cross

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**Scripture References**

***Session 6***

**8-9 April 2024**

***Week 3, Digging Deeper – 2 Chronicles 19:4 – 20:33***

***19*** *4****Jehoshaphat*** *lived in Jerusalem, and once again* ***he went out among the people from Beer-sheba to the hill country of Ephraim and brought them back to Yahweh, the God of their ancestors.*** *5He appointed judges in all the fortified cities of the land of Judah, city by city. 6Then he said to the judges, “Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the matter of judgment. 7And now, may the terror of the Lord on you. Watch what you do, for there is no injustice or partiality or taking bribes with the Lord our God.*

*8Jehoshaphat also appointed in Jerusalem some of the Levites and priests and some of the heads of the Israelite families for deciding the Lord’s will and for settling disputes of the residents of Jerusalem. 9He commanded them, saying, “In the fear of the Lord, with integrity, and with a whole heart, you are to do the following: 10for every dispute that comes to you from your brothers who dwell in their cities—whether it regards differences of bloodguilt, law, commandment, statutes, or judgments—you are to warn them, so they will not incur guilt before the Lord and wrath will not come on you and your brothers. Do this and you will not incur guilt.*

*11Note that Amariah, the chief priest, is over you in all matters related to the Lord, and Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all matters related to the king, and the Levites are officers in your presence. Be strong; may the Lord be with those who do what is good.”*

***20*** *1After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some of the Meunites, came to fight against Jehoshaphat. 2People came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast number from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against you; they are already in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). 3****Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the Lord.*** *Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah, 4who gathered to seek the Lord. They even came from all the cities of Judah to seek Him.*

*5Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the Lord’s temple before the new courtyard. 6He said,*

*“Yahweh, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You. 7Are You not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and who gave it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend? 8They have lived in the land and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name and have said, 9“If disaster comes on us—sword or judgment, pestilence or famine—we will stand before this temple and before You, for Your name is in this temple. We will cry out to You because of our distress, and You will hear and deliver.”*

*10Now here are the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. You did not let Israel invade them when Israel came out of the land of Egypt, but Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11Look how they repay us by coming to drive us out of Your possession that You gave us as an inheritance. 12Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that come to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You.”*

*13All Judah was standing before the Lord with their infants, their wives, and their children. 14In the middle of the congregation, the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel…a Levite from Asaph’s descendants…15and he said, “Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says, ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not your, but God’s. 16Tomorrow, go down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for Yahweh is with you.’”*

*18Then Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord to worship Him. 19Then the Levites from the sons of the Kohathites and the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel shouting with a loud voice.*

*20In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in Yahweh your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed.” 21Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the Lord and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing:*

*“Give thanks to the Lord,*

*for His faithful love*

*endures forever.”*

*22The moment they began their shouts and praises, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated. 23The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other.*

*24When Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the large army, but there were only corpses lying on the ground; nobody had escaped. 25Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to gather the plunder. They found among them an abundance of good on the bodies and valuable items. So they stripped them until nobody could carry any more. 26They assembled in the Valley of Beracah (“blessing”) on the fourth day, for there they praised the Lord. Therefore, that place is still called the Valley of Beracah today.*

*27Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem turned back with Jehoshaphat their leader, returning joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord enabled them to rejoice over their enemies. 28So they came into Jerusalem to the Lord’s temple with harps, lyres, and trumpets.*

*29The terror of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that Yahweh had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30Then Jehoshaphat’s kingdom was quiet, for his God gave him rest on every side.*

*31Jehoshaphat became king over Judah. He was 35 years old when he became king and reigned 25 years in Jerusalem…32He walked in the way of Asa his father; he did not turn away from it but did what was right in the Lord’s sight. 33****However, the high places were not taken away****; the people had not yet set their hearts on the God of their ancestors.*

***Week 3, Day 4 – 2 Kings 11***

*1When Athaliah [daughter of Ahab and mother of Judah’s King Ahaziah] saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs. (Note: these would have been her own children and grandchildren!) 2Jehosheba, who was King* ***Jehoram’s*** *daughter and* ***Ahaziah’s*** *sister, secretly rescued Jehoash son of Ahaziah from the king’s sons who were being killed and put him and the one who nursed him in a bedroom. So he was hidden from Athaliah and was not killed. 3Jehoash was in hiding with Jehosheba in the Lord’s temple six years while Athaliah ruled over the land.*

*4Then, in the seventh year, Jehoiada [the priest and also the husband of Jehosheba—see 2 Chronicles 22:11] sent messengers and brought in the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, and the guards. He had them come to him in the Lord’s temple, where he made a covenant with them and put them under oath. He showed them the king’s son 5and commanded them, “This is what you are to do: a third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath are to provide protection for the king’s palace. 6A third are to be at the Sur gate and a third at the gate behind the guards. You are to take turns providing protection for the palace.*

*7Your two divisions that go off duty on the Sabbath are to provide protection for the Lord’s temple. 8You must completely surround the king with weapons in hand. Anyone who approaches the ranks is to be put to death. You must be with the king in all his daily tasks.”*

*9So the commanders of hundreds did everything Jehoiada the priest commanded. They each brought their men—those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty—and went to Jehoiada the priest. 10The priest gave to the commanders of hundreds King David’s spears and shields that were in the Lord’s temple. 11Then the guards stood with their weapons in hand surrounding the king—from the right side of the temple to the left side, by the altar and by the temple.*

*12He brought out the king’s son, put the crown on him, gave him the ‘testimony,’ and made him king. They anointed him and clapped their hands and cried, “Long live the king!*

*13When Athaliah heard the noise from the guard and the crowd, she went out to the people at the Lord’s temple. 14As she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar according to the custom. The commanders and the trumpeters were by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, “Treason! Treason!”*

*15Then Jehoiada the priest ordered the commanders of hundreds in charge of the army, “Take her out between the ranks, and put to death by the sword anyone who follows her,” for the priest had said, “She is not to be put to death in the Lord’s temple.” 16So they arrested her, and she went through the horse entrance to the king’s palace, where she was put to death.*

*17Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people that they would be the Lord’s people and another covenant between the king and the people. 18So all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They broke its altars and images into pieces, and they killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, at the altars.*

*Then Jehoiada the priest appointed guards for the Lord’s temple. 19He took the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, the guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king from the Lord’s temple. They entered the king’s palace by way of the guards’ gate. Then* ***Jehoash*** *sat on the throne of the kings. 20All the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet, for they had put Athaliah to death by the sword in the king’s palace. 21Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.*

***Week 3, Day 5 – 2 Kings 12***

*1In the seventh years of Jehu, Jehoash became king and reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Zibiah, who was from Beer-sheba. 2Throughout the Jehoiada the priest instructed him, Jehoash did what was right in the Lord’s sight. 3Yet the high places were not taken away; the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.*

*4Then Jehoash said to the priests, “All the dedicated money brought to the Lord’s temple, census money, money from vows, and all money voluntarily given for the Lord’s temple, 5each priest is to take from his assessor and repair whatever damage to the temple is found.”*

*6But by the twenty-third year of the reign of King Jehoash, the priests had not repaired the damage to the temple. 7So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and said, “Why haven’t you repaired the temple’s damage? Since you haven’t, don’t take any money from your assessors; instead, hand it over for the repair of the temple.” 8So the priests agreed they would not take money from the people, and they would not repair the temple’s damage.*

*9Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the right side as one enters the Lord’s temple; in it the priests who guarded the threshold put all the money brought into the Lord’s temple. 10Whenever they saw there was a large amount of money in the chest, the king’s secretary and the high priest would go to the Lord’s temple and count the money found there and tie it up in bags. 11Then they would put the counted money into the hands of those doing the work—those who oversaw the Lord’s temple. They in turn would pay it out to those working on the Lord’s temple—the carpenters, the builders, 12the masons, and the stonecutters—and would use it to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the damage to the Lord’s temple and for all spending for temple repairs.*

*13However, no silver bowls, wick trimmers, sprinkling basins, trumpets, or any articles of gold or silver were made for the Lord’s temple from the money brought into the temple. 14Instead, it was given to those doing the work, and they repaired the Lord’s temple with it. 15No accounting was required from the men who received the money to pay those doing the work, since they worked with integrity. 16The money from the restitution offering and the sin offering was not brought to the Lord’s temple since it belonged to the priests.*

*17At that time Hazael king of Aram marched up and fought against Gath and captured it. Then he planned to attack Jerusalem. 18So king Jehoash of Judah took all the consecrated items that his ancestors—Judah’s king Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah—had consecrated, along with his own consecrated items and all the gold found in the treasuries of the Lord’s temple and in the king’s palace, and he sent them to Hazael king of Aram. Then Hazael withdrew from Jerusalem.*

*19The rest of the events of Jehoash’s reign, along with all his accomplishments, are written in the Historical Record of Judah’s Kings. 20Jehoash’s servants conspired against him and killed him at Beth-millo on the road that goes down to Silla. 21His servants Jozabad son of Shimeath and Jehozabad son of Shomer struck him down, and he died. Then they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Amaziah became king in his place.*