

After narrowly escaping disaster in his alliance with Ahab, Jehoshaphat returned to Jerusalem. But God didn't let him off the hook. The Lord, in His grace, sent the prophet Jehu to confront the king—not to destroy him, but to correct him.

“Should you help the ungodly and love those who hate the Lord? Therefore the wrath of the Lord is upon you” (2 Chronicles 19:2).

That's a bold confrontation. Jehoshaphat had just survived a battle where he nearly lost his life. He had joined forces with a wicked man (Ahab), and even though his heart was right in many areas, his alliances were dangerous. This verse raises an important question for us today: Are we aligning ourselves with people or causes that oppose God, thinking we can somehow “help” or fix them by compromising?

We need to remember that friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4). Jehoshaphat's desire to form a partnership with someone who hated the Lord brought trouble—not only on him, but it also opened the door to future spiritual decline in his family.

Yet, God also saw the good in Jehoshaphat. The prophet adds:

“Nevertheless, good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God” (v. 3).

This is comforting. God corrects, but He also encourages. He disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6). Jehoshaphat's desire to seek God was real. He had torn down the idols, and now he was about to take action again.

Instead of growing bitter from the rebuke, Jehoshaphat responds with humility and courage. He goes throughout Judah and personally works to bring the people back to the Lord. He appoints judges in every city and gives them a powerful charge:

“Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment” (v. 6).

“Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes” (v. 7).

What an incredible reminder for anyone in leadership, especially those in positions of authority. Whether you're a boss, teacher, parent, pastor—or yes, even a judge—you're representing the Lord in how you treat people and the decisions you make.

Jehoshaphat also established a high court in Jerusalem and charged the Levites and elders:

“Act in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and with a loyal heart” (v. 9).

He's setting a tone of justice, integrity, and reverence for God across the land.

Personal Application

- **Don't ignore God's rebuke.** Like Jehoshaphat, you may have a good heart but still make poor choices in who you align with. When God sends correction—receive it. Let it humble you and sharpen you.
- **Evaluate your alliances.** Are you helping people who hate the Lord in a way that compromises your walk? Compassion is good. Compromise is dangerous.
- **Be bold in your leadership.** Whether you lead a home, ministry, or team, lead in the fear of the Lord. Jehoshaphat wasn't perfect, but he was teachable and willing to take steps to make things right.
- **Guard your influence.** One bad alliance can open doors for spiritual decline down the road. Jehoshaphat's decisions would eventually affect his children and the next generation.
- **Lead with justice and integrity.** In a culture that often promotes self-interest, God is still calling for people who will lead with loyalty, honesty, and reverence.

Let's be like Jehoshaphat—not in his missteps, but in his repentance and reform. Let's return from any compromise, refocus on the Lord, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion.