

2 Chronicles 17

King James Version (KJV)

17 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel. (Jehoshaphat = Yahoveh has judged)

²And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. 2Chronicles-15:8 (Abijah, not Asa took those cities)

³And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; (He was a good king, loyal to God)

⁴But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. (Seek the Lord and He will be found of you)

⁵Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. (God rewarded him for keeping Judah on the right track. As the king goes, so goes the nation)

⁶And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah. (The remaining high places, that Asa didn't destroy. They kept being rebuilt by some of the people)

⁷Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (He sent them to teach the word of God- the Pentateuch <the 5 Books of Moses>, to the people)

⁸And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

⁹And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people. (You cannot expect the people to follow God's Law if they don't know it)

¹⁰ And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. (Even the heathen nations could see that God was protecting Judah)

¹¹ Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats. (They were staying on good terms with a very powerful neighbor. For the nomadic peoples <Arabians>, their flocks and herds were their wealth. The Philistines were centuries old enemies of Israel. For them to bring tribute, they must have been afraid of Judah and of God)

¹² And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store. (Because he followed God's laws, God rewarded him)

¹³ And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem. (Commerce with neighboring countries)

¹⁴ And these are the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand. (David got in trouble with God for numbering the army. It is not known if God asked Jehoshaphat to number this army or if he did that on his own)

¹⁵ And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.

¹⁶ And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour. (A volunteer army, willingly offered for God's service to Judah)

¹⁷ And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand. (The Benjamites were also marksmen with the bow and arrow)

¹⁸ And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war. (Judah – 780,000, Benjamin – 380,000 fighting men)

¹⁹ These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah. (These fenced cities were fortified garrisons, ready to defend Judah, if attacked on their border. This is more efficient than keeping one central army in the capital)