

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #26 | Ahab and Jehoshaphat Join Alliance Against Syria

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

2 Chronicles 18:1-3

1 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.

1. What was the alliance (or “affinity”) between Jehoshaphat (South) and Ahab (North)? The nature of their alliance is actually found in the descriptions of the later kings. Let us look ahead to 2 Kings 8:16ff. Tick the appropriate boxes which describe the alliance.

2 Kings 8:16-18, 25-27

16 And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. ...

18 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD. ...

25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign. ... And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

27 And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab.

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- ☐ Omri's son, Ahab, had a daughter called Athaliah. Athaliah is the daughter of Ahab and the grand daughter of Omri. In scripture, "the daughter of" can include grand daughter.
- ☐ Jehoshaphat had a son called Jehoram.
- ☐ Jehoshaphat and Ahab arranged for the marriage of their children together. So Jehoram and Athaliah were married. This was the alliance between the Jehoshaphat and Ahab.

2. In the table below

- (i) fill in the blanks to complete the names of the kings of Israel and Judah, and
- (ii) draw a line to show the affinity between Jehoshaphat and Ahab (Jehoram married Athaliah and their son was Ahaziah)

Kings of Israel	Kings of Judah
1. Jeroboam	1. Rehoboam
2. Nadab	2. Abijam
3. Baasha	3. Asa
4. Elah	4. Jehoshaphat
5. Zimri	5. J_____m
6. Omri	6. _____
7. Ahab (daughter: Athaliah)	
8. J___m	

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Joshua 20:7-9

7 And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjatharba, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah.

8 And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh.

9 These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them, that whosoever killeth any person at unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation.

3. During Joshua's leadership over Israel, six cities were appointed as cities of refuge. By looking at Joshua 20:7-9, fill in the blanks.

Ke _____, She _____, Kirja _____, Be _____, Ra _____, Go _____

4. What was a city of refuge?

☐ A person who accidentally killed someone else can escape and seek refuge in the city

☐ A person who is afraid of being killed can hide in the city of refuge

5. Jehoshaphat said to Ahab, "I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses." (1 Kings 22:4, 2 Chron 18:3). While it is true that the people of the northern and southern kingdoms are all descendents of Abraham, why was Jehoshaphat wrong in joining forces with Ahab to fight Syria?
