

When

- Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah for 25 years. His reign fits within the window of 920-890 B.C.

Key Characters

- **Jehoshaphat** - The son of King Asa of Judah. He took the throne of Judah after his father's death.

- **Levite Teachers** - Jehoshaphat sent Levites into the cities of Judah to teach the citizens about the laws of God.



Where

- Jehoshaphat ruled over Judah from Jerusalem.

Outline

- JEHOSHAPHAT'S REIGN IN JUDAH (17:1-19):

- + After the death of King Asa, Jehoshaphat became king of Judah.
- + God strengthened Jehoshaphat because he “walked in the earlier ways of his father David” (17:3).
- + He followed God’s commands and eschewed idols.
- + He removed the pagan places of worship from Judah.
- + “His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord” (17:5).
- + In the 3rd year of his reign, he sent officials and Levites into the cities of Judah to teach the people the law of God.
- + The fear of God fell on the surrounding nations so they wouldn’t attack Judah.
- + Nations like Philistia and Arabia brought gifts to Jehoshaphat and his kingdom grew wealthy.
- + He fortified the cities of Judah and filled them with “men of valor.”
- + The commanders and their companies are listed at this end of this chapter.
- + Adnah commanded 300,000 men.
- + Jehohanan commanded 280,000 men.
- + Amasiah commanded 200,000 men.
- + Eliada commanded 200,000 men.
- + Jehozabad commanded 180,000 men.

Application

- I like what the text says about Jehoshaphat’s character, it says, “His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord” (17:5).
- I’ve heard a lot of emphasis in recent years put on men having humble hearts, servant-like hearts, and gentle hearts, but not as much emphasis given to calling on men to develop courageous hearts.
- In the coming years, especially in areas of the world where Christianity is becoming less popular, the need for courage will be greater than ever.
- Practice gentleness and humility at all times, yes, but do not neglect the development of courage in your heart and in the hearts of your children.
- The Church needs courageous men. Reforms like those carried out by Jehoshaphat are only accomplished by courageous men.