Jehoshaphat: A Good King with Bad Friends  
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”  
B. Lesser known facts about the days of the kings of Israel and Judah  
   1. The prophets of pagan kings were yes men. The prophets of the kings of Israel stood against their kings when they erred. 
      a. Amos and Jereboam - Amos 7:10-17  
      b. Micaiah and Ahab - 1Kings 22:14-28  
   2. The king must know the law of God - Deut. 17:18-20 
      a. He had no other responsibility as king that was greater than this  
C. Jehoshaphat was a good man who made bad alliances - 2Chron 17-20

I. JEHOSHAPHAT WAS A GOOD MAN  
A. Jehoshaphat was the best king Judah had since David - 2Chron. 17:3-6  
B. But Jehoshaphat kept making sinful alliances.  
   1. His reign in Judah coincided with the reigns of Ahab, Ahaziah and Jehoram in Israel.  
   2. Ahab was the worst king Israel ever had - 1Kings 16:30-33  
   3. His sons were also wicked idolaters. Several times Jehoshaphat made alliances with these wicked kings.  
   1. His son, Jehoram, married Ahab’s daughter, Athaliah, a woman who killed her own grandchildren in order to take the throne 
      a. 2Chron. 21:5-6, 22:2  
   2. 2Chron. 18:2-3 - Jehoshaphat allied with Ahab in war.  
   3. 2Chron. 20:35-37 - Jehoshaphat allied with Ahaziah in business.  
D. Jehoshaphat was a good man. He was a good king. He was a faithful servant. He delighted in God’s law.  
   1. Is it possible to delight in God’s word, but not trust His promises?  
   2. Jehoshaphat’s propensity for making alliances with evil men indicates that he did not have confidence in God’s promise to protect, provide, and deliver Judah  
   3. He may have learned that lesson, but it was too late in life to help him  
      a. 1Kings 22:49-50  
      b. His bad choices came back to haunt him.

II. BAD CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES  
A. The war alliance Jehoshaphat made with Ahab to go up to Ramoth-Gilead ended in defeat - 2Chron. 18:28-34  
   1. Jehoshaphat was rebuked by Jehu the son of Hanani the seer.  
B. In his business alliance with Ahaziah, Jehoshaphat lost his fleet  
   1. 2Chron. 20:35-37
C. Making a bad choice is like picking up a snake by the tail. You picked up the harmless end, but with it also comes the dangerous end.
   1. There is no point in blaming God for the consequences of our choices.
   2. He is not obligated to remove consequences because we are good in other areas or because we have learned our lesson.
   3. When faced with consequences of your actions, do not look around for someone to blame, look at your own choices.

III. BAD CHOICES IN FRIENDSHIP WILL AFFECT OUR FAMILIES
   A. Typically, our choices are not made in a vacuum and the consequences are not given in a vacuum either. Most of the time, our unwise choices will also affect our spouses and our children.
      1. We may complain that God allowed our family’s lives to be ruined. But in the end, it comes to our choices and their consequences.
   B. By marrying Jehoram to Athaliah, Jehoshaphat affected the spiritual state of not only his son, but even his grandson - 2Chron. 21:5-6
      1. 2Chron. 22:2-4 - Ahaziah, his grandson.
      2. Jehoshaphat’s choice brought on the deaths of the rest of his sons.
         a. 2Chron. 21:4
      3. It brought death to all but one of his great-grandchildren
         a. 2Chron. 22:10-12
   C. Jehoshaphat’s choices affected multitudes of people.
      1. The soldiers who died at Ramoth-Gilead - 2Chron. 18:28-34
      2. The sailors who died at Ezion Geber - 2Chron. 20:35-37
      3. And the families of both
   D. The nation of Judah suffered for 14 years during the reigns of Jehoram, Ahaziah and Athaliah, idolatrous, wicked rulers.
      1. By the end of this period a temple had been built to worship Baal
         a. 2Kings 11:18
      2. The temple of God had been defaced, disgraced and damaged
         a. 2Chron. 24:4, 7
      3. While the people made their own choices, we recognize they were greatly influenced by the example of their ruler.
      4. Though Jehoshaphat himself led the people to do right (2Chron. 17:6; 19:4), his bad choices ultimately led the people into idolatry.
   E. Is this fair?
      1. We consider it unfair that all these people suffer consequences because of one man’s bad choices.
      2. We are frightened to think that we may bear that level of responsibility for influencing others
      3. Dealing with the consequences of our choices is one of the inevitable and unbreakable laws of Creation.
         a. Deal with it by making better choices.
         b. Deal with it by repenting of and changing bad choices.
         c. Deal with it by working hard to mitigate the effects of bad choices
d. Deal with it by considering where your choices will lead and choose more wisely

e. Deal with it motivated by the knowledge that you will be held accountable for the bad effects of bad choices.

Conclusion:

A. Jehoshaphat put practical concerns for his nation above the spiritual concerns of his family.

1. Good people can avoid bad consequences of bad alliances if they put the spiritual before the practical

2. Trust that God will keep His promise of caring for the practical if you will keep your promise to choose the spiritual