



# **ELIJAH & ELISHA**

## **Lessons In Faith**





**LESSON 4**

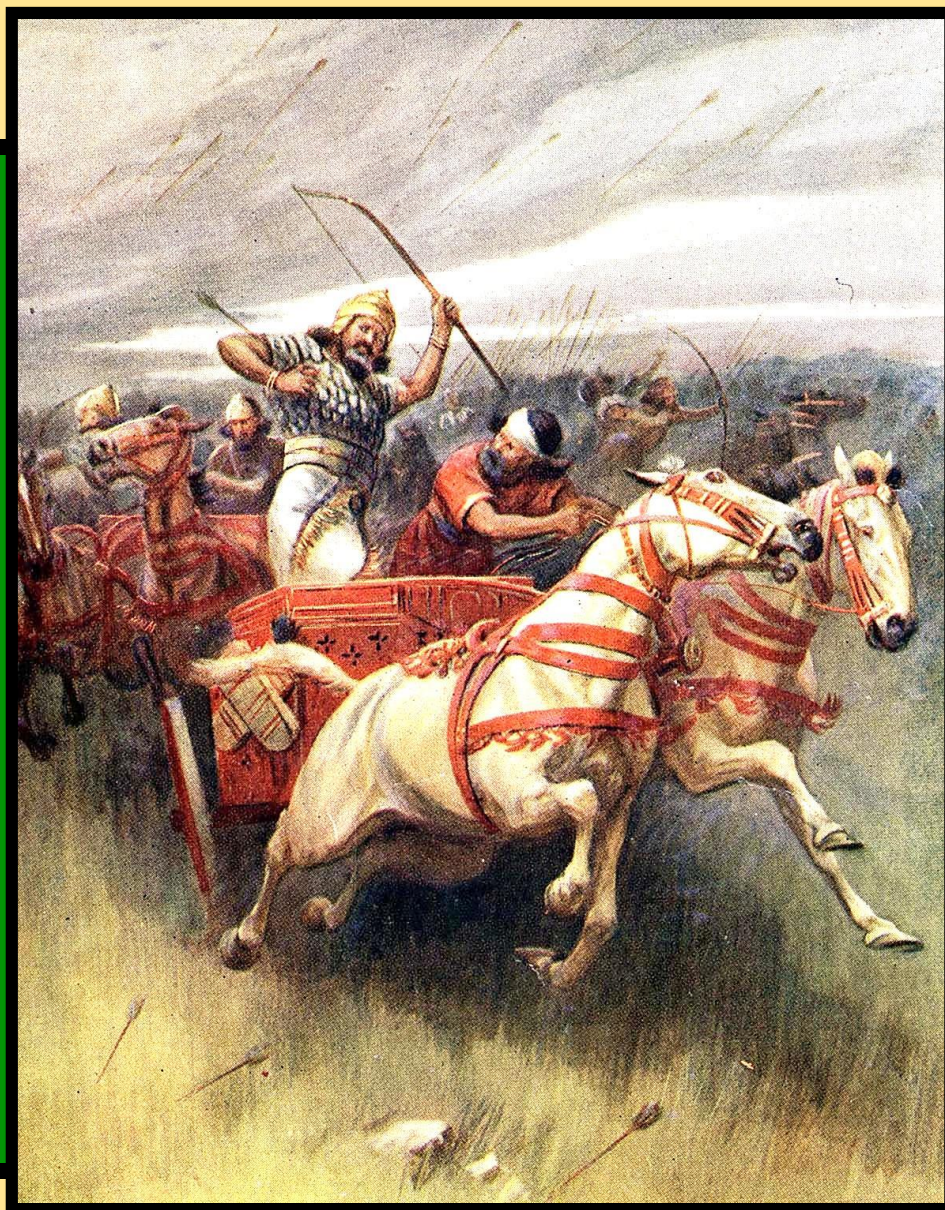




# II CHRONICLES 20



King Jehoshaphat was shaken by the death of King Ahab. He surely felt betrayed when he realized why Ahab had insisted he wear the kingly robes in battle and even humiliated when he realized Micaiah's prophecy had been right and Ahab's 400 prophets had been wrong.





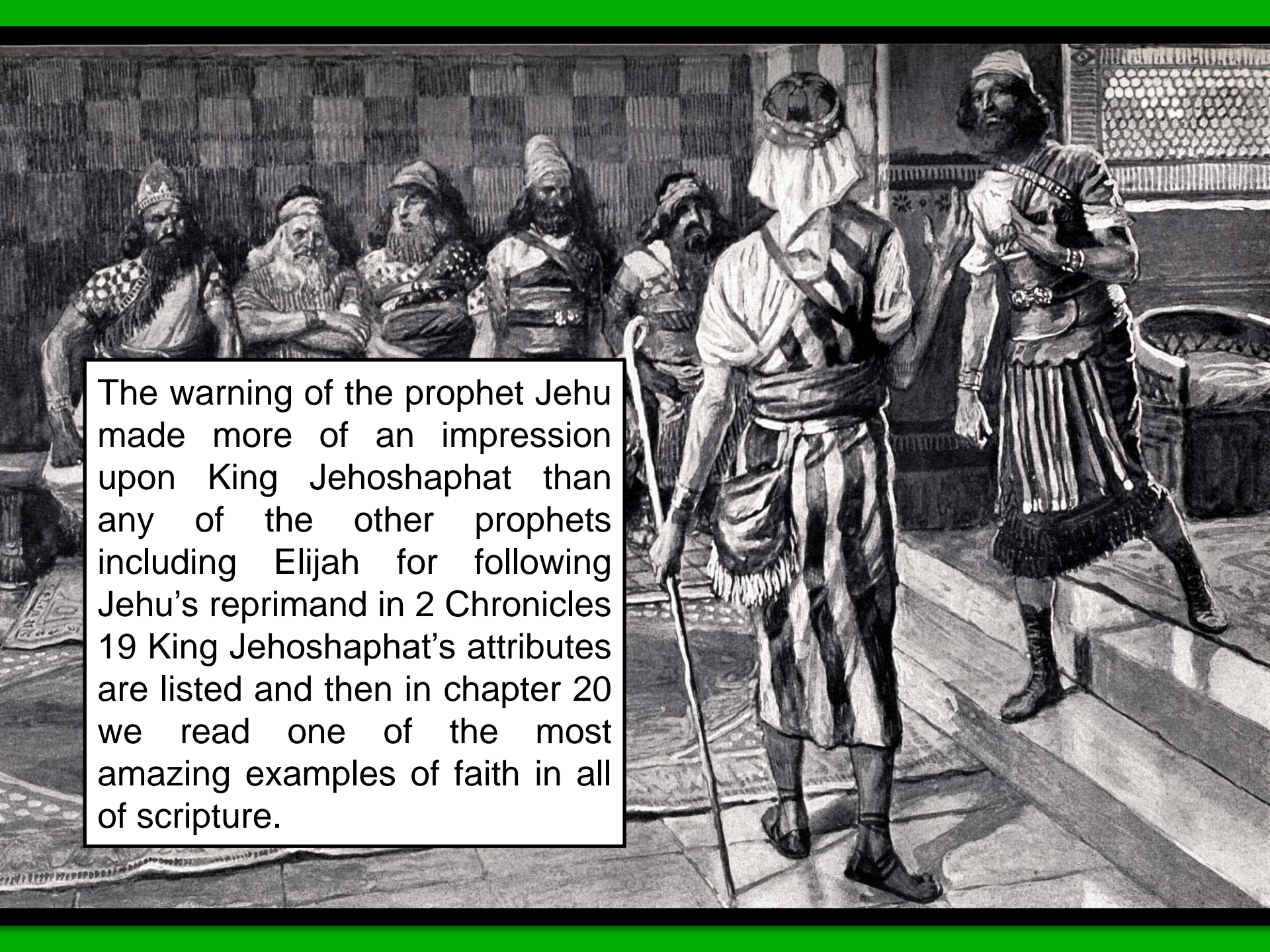
**The timing was perfect for a prophet of God to inspire Jehoshaphat to be loyal to God in all his ways.**

2 Chronicles 19

“2. . . Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.”







The warning of the prophet Jehu made more of an impression upon King Jehoshaphat than any of the other prophets including Elijah for following Jehu's reprimand in 2 Chronicles 19 King Jehoshaphat's attributes are listed and then in chapter 20 we read one of the most amazing examples of faith in all of scripture.

## King Jehoshaphat's Attributes From 2 Chronicles 19

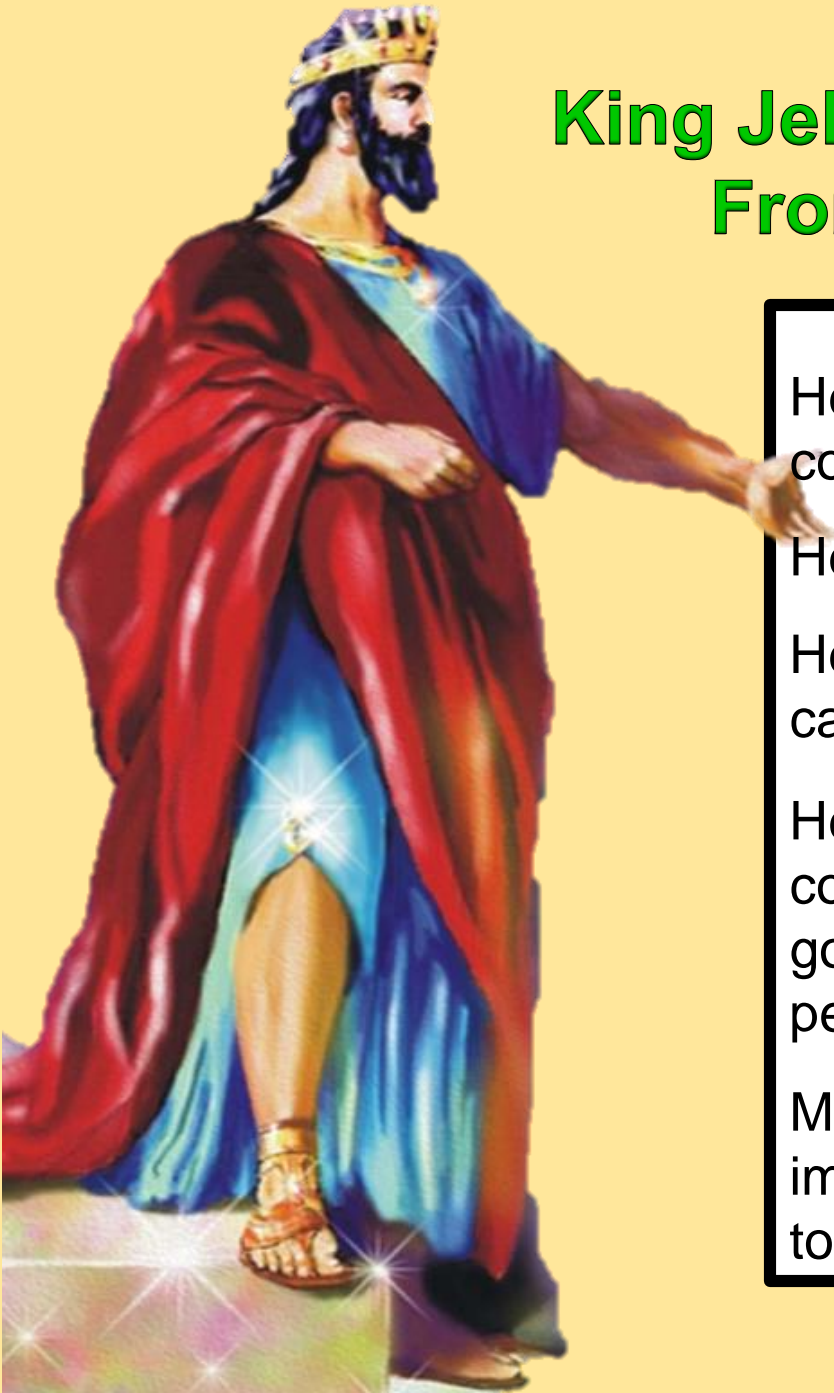
He appointed judges and local courts.

He built castles and cities of store.

He had a large army including a cavalry.

He even appointed a commission, composed of Levites and priests, to go from city to city to educate the people.

Most importantly he banished immorality from the land and sought to purify the national religion.







**King  
Jehoshaphat's  
faith is  
shown in  
2 Chronicles 20.**





## 2 Chronicles 20

Judah was threatened by invasion from the Moabites and Amonites. King Jehoshaphat for once did not look to idolatrous Israel for help but instead he took great care to obtain the favor of God.

He proclaimed a day of fasting and prayer, and he prayed for God to protect them.

While he was yet speaking God heard and gave assurance to Judah by Jahaziel a Levite and prophet.



## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>14</sup>Then upon Jahaziel . . . a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;  
<sup>15</sup>And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s . . . <sup>17</sup>Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.”





## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>18</sup>And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. <sup>19</sup>And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. <sup>20</sup>And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”



Never was an army drawn out to the field of battle as Jehoshaphat's army was. No notice was taken of swords or shields. Their faith was their armor. Instead of being called to wield their swords they were called on to believe in the Lord God. The singers lead them into battle.

## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>21</sup>And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, **Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.** <sup>22</sup>And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.”





Never was an army so unaccountably destroyed as that of their enemy; not by thunder, or hail, or the sword of an angel, but by the Lord.

## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>24</sup>And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.”



Never was spoil so cheerfully divided, for all had been done for them. The spoil was more than they could carry away at once, and they were three days in gathering it.

## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>25</sup>And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.”





## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>28</sup>And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.”

Never was victory celebrated with more solemn thanksgivings. They kept a day of praise in the camp before they drew their forces out of the field.

On the fourth day they assembled in a valley where they praised God so much the name of the valley was changed to *The Valley Of Blessing*.

Finally, they made a solemn procession to Jerusalem that ended in prayers and songs of thanksgiving in the Temple.



Never did victory bring upon a nation a better reputation. Jehoshaphat's kingdom was made to look very great abroad. It brought fear upon their neighbors of doing any injury to God's people.

## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>29</sup>And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel. <sup>30</sup>So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.”





**The last verses of this same chapter disappoint us for they show King Jehoshaphat returning to his philosophy of compromise.**

## 2 Chronicles 20

“<sup>35</sup>And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly.”

Ahaziah was the son of Ahab and Jezebel. He reigned only briefly. He worshipped Jeroboam's calves and his mother's idols Baal and Ashtoreth.

### KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam	975-954
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897-896
Jehoram	896-884
Jehu	884-856
Jehoahaz	856-841
Jehoash	841-825
Jeroboam II	825-784
Zedekiah	773
Shallum	772
Menahem	772-762
Samaria	762-760
Shallum	760-740
Hoshea	730-721

### KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-878
Joash	878-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	758-742
Ahaz	742-726
Hezekiah	726-698
Manasseh	698-643
Amon	643-641
Josiah	641-610
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-588



For some reason Jehoshaphat could not see a problem in associating with the evil kings of Israel no matter how many times the prophets warned against it. This makes us think of Christians today who visit denominational churches with friends or family. They give the impression that they have no problem with their error.





The background is a stained glass pattern. It features a central horizontal band of yellow glass. Above and below this band are sections of light brown or tan glass, each divided into diamond-shaped panes by dark, thick lead lines. Two horizontal bands of green glass separate the yellow band from the diamond-patterned sections. The overall effect is that of a decorative window or a stylized architectural element.

**THE END**