



THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER

First and Second Kings for Groups

GROUP/FAMILY

Session 5

- Watch the sermon “King Asa Contra Mundum” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Feed your soul daily with the subsequent text through Devotions 1525-1530 (on [YouTube/podcast](#)) and share them with the one you are discipling.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 1 Kings 15

Devotions 1525-1530 exposit 1 Kings 16-17

For more resources, visit: jessecampbellministries.com

Context

Second Chronicles 17 opens during the early reign of Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, following the long and generally faithful reign of his father King Asa. The Chronicler wrote to a post-exilic audience seeking to understand how covenant faithfulness shaped national blessing or discipline. Politically, Judah lived under constant pressure from surrounding nations, including Israel to the north, the Philistines to the west, and Arabian groups to the south. Fortified cities, standing armies, and diplomatic relationships mattered greatly for survival.

Spiritually, the kingdom still battled lingering influences of Canaanite worship, especially the high places and Asherah poles that tempted Israel toward syncretism. Jehoshaphat's early reforms emphasized covenant renewal, rejecting Baal worship and calling the people back to obedience to Yahweh. A striking feature of this chapter is the organized teaching ministry: officials, Levites, and priests traveled throughout Judah instructing people from the Book of the Law. This reflects a core theological message of Chronicles: national strength flows from covenant obedience, not merely military preparation. God's blessing, peace, and even international respect followed Judah when its leadership prioritized worship, justice, and instruction in God's Word.

The Big Idea of the Text

Jehoshaphat strengthened Judah, removed idolatry influences, organized teaching, and enjoyed peace and honor as the people sought the LORD faithfully.

Connecting the Session to the Sermon

First Kings 15 records Asa as one of Judah's first truly godly kings after generations of compromise. Asa removed idols, confronted false worship, and called Judah back to dependence upon the LORD. Although Asa later stumbled by relying on political alliances instead of God, his early reforms created a spiritual foundation that deeply shaped his son Jehoshaphat.

Second Chronicles 17 shows Jehoshaphat continuing and expanding his father's earlier reforms. Rather than merely removing idols, he actively taught the people God's Law. Asa reopened the door to covenant faithfulness; Jehoshaphat walked further through it. This father-son connection demonstrates how godly leadership influences the next generation, showing the importance of spiritual legacy. Just as Asa marked a return to godly kingship, Jehoshaphat strengthened that renewal and stabilized the nation through faithful obedience.

Biblical Text (CSB) - 2 Chronicles 17

His son Jehoshaphat became king in his place and strengthened himself against Israel. ² He stationed troops in every fortified city of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured.

³ Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the former ways of his ancestor David. He did not seek the Baals ⁴ but sought the God of his father and walked by his commands, not according to the practices of Israel. ⁵ So the Lord established the kingdom in his hand. Then all Judah brought him tribute, and he had riches and honor in abundance. ⁶ He took great pride in the Lord's ways, and he again removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah.

⁷ In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent his officials—Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah—to teach in the cities of Judah. ⁸ The Levites with them were Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah; the priests, Elishama and Jehoram, were with these Levites. ⁹ They taught throughout Judah, having the book of the Lord's instruction with them. They went throughout the towns of Judah and taught the people.

¹⁰ The terror of the Lord was on all the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, so they didn't fight against Jehoshaphat. ¹¹ Some of the Philistines also brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat, and the Arabs brought him flocks: 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

¹² Jehoshaphat grew stronger and stronger. He built fortresses and storage cities in Judah ¹³ and carried out great works in the towns of Judah. He had fighting men, valiant warriors, in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ These are their numbers according to their ancestral families. For Judah, the commanders of thousands: Adnah the commander and three hundred thousand valiant warriors with him; ¹⁵ next to him, Jehohanan the commander and two hundred eighty thousand with him; ¹⁶ next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri, the volunteer of the Lord, and two hundred thousand valiant warriors with him;

¹⁷ from Benjamin, Eliada, a valiant warrior, and two hundred thousand with him armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸ next to him, Jehozabad and one hundred eighty thousand with him equipped for war.

¹⁹ These were the ones who served the king, besides those he stationed in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

Applying Our Lives to the Text

- In verses 1-3, how did Jehoshaphat secure Judah and what actions showed dependence upon the LORD rather than political alliances or inherited military strength alone?
- In verses 4-6, which specific reforms demonstrated covenant loyalty, and how did removing high places and Asherah poles reshape Judah's worship practices nationally for generations?
- In verses 7-9, why did Jehoshaphat send officials, Levites, and priests teaching the Law, and how might instruction have strengthened covenant faithfulness everywhere among people?
- In verses 10-11, how did surrounding nations respond to Judah, and what does their fear reveal about God's reputation protecting obedient covenant communities across regions?
- In verses 12-13, what evidence shows increasing strength, and how did fortresses and store cities contribute to stability, stewardship, and preparedness throughout Judah for defense?
- In verses 14-19, how do commander lists and troop numbers emphasize organized service, and what principles guide believers serving faithfully under godly leadership today worldwide?



The Takeaway: So What Church?

We will pursue spiritual strength before outward success, prioritizing obedience, teaching Scripture clearly, and removing influences drawing hearts away from faithful worship. We will invest in discipling others, just as Jehoshaphat spread instruction throughout Judah. This passage also points forward to Jesus, the greater Son of David, whose kingdom is built not through military force but through truth transforming hearts. Christ sends His followers to teach all nations, echoing Judah's teaching mission here. Lasting peace and security ultimately come not from armies or policies, but from the righteous reign of Jesus, the perfect King who establishes an unshakable kingdom for all who trust Him.

For Parents:

SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

Jehoshaphat's story shows how God protected His people when they followed Him, and it prepares us to see Jesus, the perfect King, who teaches God's truth and brings lasting peace beyond armies or treasures. One day Jesus would come from this royal family to save sinners and lead everyone trusting Him into God's forever kingdom, proving every faithful promise guiding history toward redemption, inviting our whole family to walk courageously in obedience while we wait for His return, trusting Scripture's hope shaping daily choices until He renews creation under righteous rule for all nations, including ours today.

FOLLOW ALONG

To cover the subsequent scripture in Daily Devotions 1525-1530, subscribe to Jesse Campbell Ministries on YouTube or on most podcast apps.

OTHER OFFERINGS

With an abundance of Bible Books to cover just like this study, there's plenty more to explore and learn from JCM, such as:

- The Seven Thunders: The Book of Revelation for Groups
- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
- And many more!



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ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.